

Illinois Clean Energy Champion Award Application

The landmark Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) and other public policy initiatives have created exciting opportunities to grow the clean energy economy in Illinois. The Illinois Clean Energy Champion Awards seek to celebrate job creation by private companies, nonprofit organizations, and governmental units from across Illinois that have seized the opportunity to make our state a leader in the clean energy future. These awards recognize what it takes to create or retain good-paying jobs, with a special eye toward creating and retaining equitable jobs in communities historically left behind.

Please fill out the application below, save as a PDF, and email to awards@chicagolandchamber.org. Deadline is November 8, 2024.

I. Basic Business Information

1. List name and full address of business as it appears on IL Secretary of State filing:
2. Contact person with email and phone number:
3. Describe ownership structure and list principals/leadership:
4. Number of Full-time employees_____ Part-time employees_____
5. Describe your organization's primary location and locations of other business operations elsewhere in Illinois:
6. Is your organization majority or partially woman-owned or woman-led? If yes, please describe.
7. Do any principals/leaders identify as Black, Ingenious or People of Color (BIPOC)? If yes, please describe.

II. Clean Energy Business Areas

Listed below are the clean jobs subcategories listed in the E2 Clean Jobs America report. Please check all that apply to your business:

- Solar
- Wind
- Geothermal
- Battery Development and Storage
- Bioenergy/CHP
- Low-Impact Hydro
- Clean Storage
- Micro Grid
- Other Grid Mod
- Energy STAR & Efficient Lighting
- Traditional HVAC
- High Efficiency HVAC & Renewable H&C
- Advanced Materials (Energy Efficiency)
- Other Energy Efficiency

- o E/Non-woody Biomass
- o Other Biofuels
- o Hybrid Electric Vehicles
- o Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles
- o Electric Vehicles
- o Natural Gas Vehicles
- o Hydrogen & Fuel-Cell vehicles

Other

If your organization made a decision to build a net-zero facility or other sustainable policies that created clean energy jobs but your business, nonprofit or governmental organization doesn't fit into one of the categories, please briefly describe above.

III. Categories for Application

Please check the category or categories that best describe your company or organization and for which you would like to apply. Applications are FREE and you may enter in more than one category:

- o Tech/Innovation
- o Small Business (Fewer than 50 employees)
- o Large Business or Corporate Affiliate (50+ employees)
- o Breakthrough Business (Woman- and/or BIPOC-owned or led)
- o Nonprofit Organization/Government

IV. Give us your best pitch.

In 250 words or less, please explain why your business or organization should win a Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce/Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition Illinois Clean Energy Champion Award in the category or categories chosen. Please note judges will award extra points for the following:

1. Number of jobs created or retained since the IL Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) was signed into law on September 15, 2021, and how the legislation benefited your company/organization/government body.
2. How your company or entity reached out to diverse talent pipelines.
3. How your company or its nonprofit and/or governmental partners implemented job training programs to fill your company's need for skilled workers.
4. How your project lowered energy costs for consumers or small businesses, benefited farmers by providing diversified income flow, and/or helped local municipalities, schools, counties or other entities expand their property tax base.
5. If your organization has a diversity, equity and inclusion policy, please share.
6. Does your company or entity hire union labor?
7. Attach any photos or videos that help tell your story. Please limit videos to 5 minutes or less. Please do not submit slide decks.

The Illinois Clean Energy Champion Awards are a joint project of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition, together with our media partner, Crain's Chicago Business and presenting sponsor Bank of America. Our goal is to celebrate the historic passage of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA), and to recognize the growing clean energy economy that is creating jobs, reducing energy costs and producing economic opportunities in every part of Illinois.

The awards luncheon is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 10 at Noon at Maggiano's Little Italy, 111 W Grand Ave, Chicago, IL 60654.**