

Illinois Clean Energy for All

Conversations with community organizations and leaders are intended to:

- Ensure that your campaign goals and leadership reflect the diverse needs and interests of the community.
- Engage potential leaders, partners, and allies from the beginning.
- Understand power within the community, including your own power.
- Develop your organizing strategy.
- Build relationships in the community that share power and resources.¹
- Understand who in the community this campaign needs to follow for leadership.

These conversations are about mutual information sharing + relationship building. They will be most successful if your goals are focused on that and have flexible expectations beyond that.

Get to know the person (if you don't already know them):

Can you share with me how you got involved in this work?

Are you from here originally?

What's the most rewarding part of your involvement with this work? What's the most frustrating?

Share similar things about yourself!

Get to know the organization + your community better:

Especially with these, ask the questions that seem most appropriate (each org is so different).

Ask any other questions you're curious about.

If you already know the organization, use the questions to help you think about what you don't yet know, or anything you want updates on. (Ex/ "I know last time we talked, you all were prioritizing a youth jobs program. Are you still doing that? What else are you working on now?)

Can you share some information about the main projects that <<organization>> is working on now?

What do you anticipate <<community>> looking like in 20 years? What makes you hopeful? What makes you discouraged?

What are the primary issues that your base cares about/impacts their lives?

Do you have relationships with local political decision makers? What are they like? How do you see political power working in <<community>>.

¹ [Sierra Club Movement Organizing Manual](#) (2016)

Illinois Clean Energy for All

Do you collaborate with other groups? What does that collaboration look like? Are there specific things you're looking for in partnerships? Are there projects that you're looking for partnership on?

Are there main values that undergird the work you do?

Share similar things about your own org. Prep this beforehand to make sure it's accurate but brief.

FEJA + RF100

Sharing + feedback

<<For organizations not currently familiar with FEJA>> Run through Future Energy Jobs Act factsheets (5 min)

-[Sierra Club FEJA summary](#)

-[Illinois Solar for All](#)

-These resources + others (including info about current energy efficiency benefits available) go to illinoiscleanjobs.org/resources/

Are there specific elements of the Future Energy Jobs Act that you'd like to learn more about, or feel would be of interest to your group/community?

- Residential Solar
- Solar for small businesses
- Community Solar
- Commercial Solar
- Energy Efficiency
- Illinois Solar for All--Jobs Programs
- Illinois Solar for All--Solar panel installation
- General Clean Energy Job Opportunities (separate from Solar for All)
- Wind energy
- Other:

How does idea of <<your community>> setting a goal of 100% clean energy make you feel?

Are there specific issues that you'd want to see prioritized in a campaign around 100% clean energy? (Feel free to get into specifics here)

- Local development
- Solar (community/residential/business/commercial)
- Energy efficiency
- Job training for (youth, economically disadvantaged, people of color, women, environmental justice communities, workers from fossil fuel industry etc)

Illinois Clean Energy for All

- Hiring standards to ensure equity
- Clean energy being accessible to many income levels
- Ambitious deadline
- Electric cars/buses
- More robust public transit
- Bike lanes
- Clean-up of residual pollution from previous industries
- Retirement + clean-up of current polluting industry
- Other:

Are there ways (if any) that you see a campaign around 100% clean energy speaking to the issues you're working on?

Are there any concerns you have about this work or this campaign? What are they?

Share some about how you're launching this campaign...if there are any timelines or events they should be aware of. Ask them for feedback!

Would your group be interested in being part of this campaign on any level (leadership, participant, sign-on etc.)? If so, are there barriers to your involvement?

Are there other groups you think we should be speaking with about this?

Closing:

Identify any "next steps" you all have identified (ex/ "I'm going to send you that fact sheet about ComEd Energy Efficiency", etc).

Share any invitations you think *might* be appropriate: (ex/ Ask if they're interested in co-sponsoring and/or tabling at a Clean Energy Forum...if you have one planned).

THANK THEM for their time.

Ask if there are any things they'd request of us? (groups to connect them to, events they want us to participate in, etc).