

# Faithful Citizen Workshop – Fact Sheet

## The Opportunity

In December 2016, the Illinois General Assembly passed the Future Energy Jobs Law (Public Act 99-0906).

This landmark legislation takes action on climate change by spurring investments in **renewable energy** and **energy efficiency**, and creates **opportunities for all in the emerging green economy**.



## The Illinois Solar for All Program

This program, created by the Future Energy Jobs Law, makes clean energy accessible to more communities throughout our state and creates job opportunities in solar installation. It includes:

- Incentives for on-premises (including rooftop) solar development in economically-challenged communities.
- Incentives for **community solar project development** in economically-challenged communities.
  - A community solar project is a larger-scale solar development of solar panels for people who don't have a roof or space on their property to install solar. People invest in the project to reap the benefits of lowered energy bills and potentially other financial benefits from energy produced by these panels on investors' behalf.
- Incentives for solar development on buildings owned by non-profits, **including houses of worship**, or the government.
- Additional incentives for projects to be carried out in Environmental Justice (EJ) communities, where pollution, contamination, and other negative environmental impacts have harmed community health. With solar development, EJ communities across the state can **reap the economic and health benefits of clean air, clean water, and job creation**.



- In addition to goals from the Solar for All program, the electric utility serving northern Illinois (Commonwealth Edison) must spend \$30 million through 2025 to train and apprentice new clean energy workers. Some of that money may be spent directly by ComEd, and some of it will flow to nonprofits. There is a **goal to train 2,000 persons with records and alumni of the foster care system**, who often face challenges to employment.

## The Call for Action: Protect the RERF

The Future Energy Jobs Law designates funding from the Renewable Energy Resources Fund (RERF) to enact the Illinois Solar for All Program (not tax dollars).



The Renewable Energy Resources Fund (RERF) was set up initially to invest in new renewable development and funded by alternative retail electric suppliers. Over the past several years, over \$200 million was collected but only \$30 million has been used for new renewable projects because of broken policy.

**RERF funds are at risk** for being “swept” away by the legislature for other purposes. These funds present an incredible opportunity to jumpstart renewable energy development for economically-challenged communities through the Illinois Solar for All Program, and should be used as they were intended for new renewable energy development.



**As a person of faith, your voice makes a difference in advocating for environmental justice and creating a healthier future for all communities.** We need you to help us advocate that the dollars in the Renewable Energy Resources Fund be spent on the Solar for All Program.

## The Future

**How will the Future Energy Jobs Law and Illinois Solar for All Program impact my house of worship? Can we get solar panels now?**

The Future Energy Jobs Law will take effect on June 1, 2017, and the details of the Illinois Solar for All Program will be finalized throughout the summer and fall of 2017. We don't know the specifics yet, but **opportunities may be available** for your house of worship to be the site for a **community solar project** or a **non-profit solar development**.

**If you are interested in solar panels at your house of worship, let us know!** By identifying potential solar projects now, we can help you take advantage of opportunities as they become available.



Also, training 2,000 persons with records and alumni of the foster care system are aspirational goals. Achieving them will rely in part on whether developers benefitting from Solar for All program incentives are held accountable by the customers and communities that welcome new development.

### Questions? Contact:

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