

Illinois EPA's 2018 Annual Report on Executive Order 17-03

Background

On July 1, 2017, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Office of Energy and Recycling was transferred to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) as a result of Executive Order 2017-03.

The Illinois EPA's mission is to protect, restore, and enhance the quality of air, land, and water resources to benefit current and future generations. It is responsible for safeguarding environmental quality, consistent with the social and economic needs of the State, and to protect health, welfare, property, and the quality of life for all Illinoisans. The Illinois EPA is responsible for safeguarding the State's natural resources from pollution and providing a healthy environment for its citizens.

The Illinois EPA Office of Energy strives to achieve energy equity by investing in projects that focus on energy efficiency and new clean energy technologies to reduce the energy burden for Illinois consumers. As the Office of Energy matures at Illinois EPA, it continues to grow energy programming with the environment and natural resources in mind.

Effects

The functions, employees, property, and funds of the Office of Energy and Recycling were ordered to transfer from DCEO to Illinois EPA as of July 1, 2017. The Office of Energy is better equipped at the Illinois EPA, where the purpose, missions, and activities complement energy policy. The transfer of programs and functions continues to provide many benefits to Illinoisans, and offers the opportunity to eliminate redundancy, simplify the organizational structure of the Executive Branch, improve accessibility and accountability, provide more efficient use of specialized expertise and facilities, realize savings in administrative costs, promote more effective sharing of best practices and state-of-the-art technology, and realize overall cost savings.

Under Executive Order 2017-03, all functions and funds of the Office of Energy and Recycling were supposed to transfer to Illinois EPA. However, no existing Office of Energy and Recycling personnel transferred and limited files transferred. The Office of Energy is operating with a full-time manager and one full-time staff person. Illinois EPA is seeking additional Office of Energy staff.

In FY19, the Office of Energy will be closing out the only non-mandated programming that moved to Illinois EPA as a result of Executive Order 2017-03. The USDA Biofuel Infrastructure Partnership (BIP) was designed to increase consumption of biofuel in the form of ethanol. As a result of BIP, grantees across the State of Illinois added ethanol storage tanks and dispensing pumps making it easier for Illinois drivers to access renewable fuels. After an extension, BIP formally closes on December 31, 2018. Illinois EPA is actively working with USDA to close out the program.

Moving into FY2019 and FY2020, the Office of Energy is investing in Illinois's public universities to carry out dynamic energy programming. In fact, 100% of the external funding obligated by the Office of Energy for FY2018 (and thus far in FY2019) has been dedicated to state university

partners. These partners include the Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC) and the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC) both at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Illinois EPA is also seeking appropriation from the Renewable Energy Resources Trust Fund (State Fund 564) for additional programming in collaboration with the Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN)—expanding the Office of Energy’s reach with energy programming at Illinois Community Colleges.

With only federal SEP funding, the Office of Energy continues to operate all mandated programs that were transferred from DCEO. In addition to fulfilling mandated activities, the Office of Energy is an active participant in the ongoing public policy dialogue regarding Illinois and the nation’s energy future.

Office of Energy Programing

At Illinois EPA the Office of Energy strives to achieve energy equity by investing in projects that focus on energy efficiency and new clean energy technologies to reduce the energy burden for Illinois consumers. Three Office of Energy programs highlight how our partnerships are working for Illinois consumers.

Energy Efficiency at the Energy/Water Nexus

Together with SEDAC and ISTC, the Office of Energy is providing energy efficiency assessments to publicly-owned wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) throughout Illinois. As an example of how the Office of Energy is well-placed at Illinois EPA, these assessments identify efficiency opportunities for energy, cost, and emission savings, while also striving to improve water quality. Since March 2018, the Office of Energy:

- has issued more than a dozen energy efficiency assessment reports to Illinois municipalities;
- has collected information for the production of several additional reports;
- has recruited many additional municipalities to receive energy efficiency assessments for their WWTPs; and
- is preparing a grant opportunity for publicly-owned WWTPs to implement recommendations identified by the assessments.

The Illinois EPA Bureau of Water contributes technical and outreach support to this program. The Office of Energy has capitalized on the close, established relationship that the Illinois EPA Marian Regional Office has with Southern Illinois wastewater operators to increase interest in the assessment opportunity at an October 2018 energy efficiency workshop at Southern Illinois University.

Energy Code Support for Local Governments and Building Trades

The Office of Energy and SEDAC have established an Energy Code Training and Technical Support Program leveraging State of Illinois institutional expertise to benefit Illinois code officials and construction industry professionals. The Illinois Energy Conservation Code (the Code) sets a

standard for all commercial and residential buildings. The Code protects the environment by reducing energy consumption, reducing air pollution, and stabilizing energy costs for buildings. The Energy Code and Technical Support program is focused on expanding energy code training to all parts of Illinois—rural and urban—regardless of income base. In 2018, the Energy Code Training and Technical Support program reached construction industry professional with workshops in places like Vandalia and Rock Island in addition to web-based programming available 24 hours a day.

Investment in New, Clean Energy Technologies

The Illinois Clean Energy Innovation Fund makes direct investments in high-potential, early-stage, Illinois-based cleantech companies in order to support innovative entrepreneurship and to create jobs in the Illinois cleantech sector. Created in 2016 with financial support from SEP, the Fund is administered by the Clean Energy Trust (CET) in collaboration with the Office of Energy. As an Illinois nonprofit, CET is an important and worthy exception to the Office of Energy's public partners. The Office of Energy re-asserted the State's role in administration of the Fund during FY2018. The Office of Energy works closely with CET to evolve and align the Fund with the clean energy economy in Illinois and the Midwest.

Legislation

At this time Illinois EPA does not recommend new legislation related to the reorganization.