



coolcities

Solving Global Warming One City at a Time

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Volunteers are working with their communities all over America to respond to the threat of global warming with smart energy solutions. These Cool Cities are taking decisive action to reduce heat-trapping emissions, lower energy bills, and protect our environment.

At a time when the federal government is failing to act, volunteer activists, mayors and other local leaders are taking the lead to curb climate disruption. Cool Cities are working to meet this goal with practical and innovative energy solutions that reduce energy waste and pollution, reduce our dependence on oil, benefit public health and save money.

The Cool Cities program is a volunteer led effort to help communities and their elected leaders set goals and find local solutions to cut greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide (CO₂).

Scientists have concluded that burning fossil fuels – like oil, coal, and natural gas – is causing global temperatures to rise. This heating of the earth poses a serious threat to our health, economy and environment. The good news is that we have the tools today to reduce climate change and cities of all sizes are pursuing innovative energy solutions.



The city of Joliet celebrates becoming Illinois' 50th Cool City with local, state, and federal officials.



For the latest news and photos visit the Cool Cities Illinois Facebook page



Cool Cities Move Illinois Forward

There are more than 1000 mayors spanning all 50 states that have signed the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and made a commitment to reduce global warming CO₂ pollution in their cities to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012. **Dedicated local volunteers have collaborated with town officials and there are now 54 Cool Cities in Illinois that are working to inventory emissions, improve energy efficiency in houses and buildings, encourage local food and increase low carbon transportation options.**

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|--------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Algonquin | Elgin | Normal | Rock Falls |
| Alton | Elmhurst | Northbrook | Rock Island |
| Aurora | Evanston | Oak Lawn | Rolling Meadows |
| Belleville | Hazel Crest | Oak Park | Schaumburg |
| Blue Island | Highland Park | Olympia Fields | South Roxana |
| Bolingbrook | Hoffman Estates | Orland Park | Spring Valley |
| Berwyn | Homewood | Oswego | Springfield |
| Carbondale | Joliet | Palatine | Urbana |
| Carol Stream | Lake Forest | Park Forest | Villa Park |
| Chicago | Lake in the Hills | Park Ridge | Waukegan |
| Collinsville | Lombard | Pecatonica | Westmont |
| Des Plaines | Manhattan | Plainfield | Wilmette |
| East Peoria | Minooka | Peru | |
| Edwardsville | Moline | Rockford | |

IS YOUR CITY A COOL CITY?

Get going! There has never been a better time to help your town cut pollution and energy bills by becoming a Cool City. Volunteers around Illinois make their communities healthier and stronger through Cool Cities initiatives.

Visit coolcities-il.appspot.com to find out how your city can become a Cool City and to learn more about the great projects Cool Cities are creating in Illinois



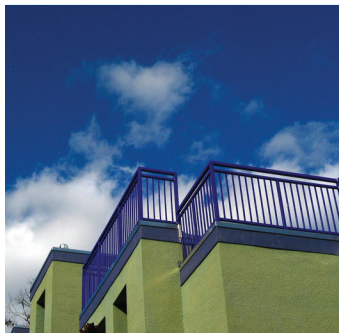
MOLINE - Green Fleets

A green fleet is one of the ways a municipality can reduce their carbon foot print and become more sustainable. The City of Moline has instituted several practices to reduce the pollution and energy consumption of their city vehicles. Moline's efforts have earned national recognition as well as a special designation from the Illinois EPA. The city has instituted several cost and energy saving measures including purchasing 12 hybrid vehicles for police use, an electric vehicle for trash collection along the river and ensuring proper recycling during maintenance.



URBANA - Bike Friendly Transportation

Urbana is the first city in downstate Illinois to be designated a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists. The mayor, city council, city planners and residents worked together to create a master plan that make biking safer and more accessible. The master plan took into account Urbana's infrastructure and traffic patterns to smartly craft new bike paths and lanes that reduce the need for cars and create a healthier community.



EVANSTON - Green Buildings

In 2009 Evanston passed a city ordinance for large new commercial buildings to meet the LEED Silver standard of green building. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a building rating and certification system maintained by the United States Green Building Council that takes into account materials and design to maximize sustainability and minimize impact. Evanston's Climate Action plan estimates 58% of the city's greenhouse gas emissions come from commercial buildings so the green building ordinance is a significant step forward in meeting their Cool Cities goals.



AURORA - A Green Power Community

EPA issued a challenge to go green, and Aurora answered. In early 2011 Aurora became the first city in Illinois to become an EPA Green Power Community, making a commitment to purchase at least 3% of its electricity consumption with renewable energy. Residents, local government, and businesses worked together to meet EPA's challenge and in six months over 2,600 households opted to switch their energy to green generation. Learn more about the challenge at GoGreenAurora.com



NORTHBROOK - A Commitment to Renewables

Since 2004, Northbrook has purchased 4,500 mega watt hours of wind energy annually. The village was the first municipal organization in Illinois to purchase renewable energy credits and make a commitment to sustainable and local energy. An Illinois based wind farm in Mendota Hills supplies enough wind-energy to Northbrook to power the entire water utility. Northbrook's green energy purchase offsets the burning of 1.915 million pounds of coal per year.