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# CGE NEWS

September 2020

## Gov. Pritzker Lays Out Eight Principles for a Clean and Renewable Illinois Economy

With a commitment to “put the State of Illinois on a path toward 100% clean energy by 2050,” Governor Pritzker issued a public report that begins to map out that path. Among the eight principles: expanding consumer affordability protections; implementing a market-based solution that supports clean power and air; and electrifying and decarbonizing Illinois transportation. [Read the full report.](#)

## Environmental Justice in Evanston

An Environmental Justice Resolution in Evanston will help achieve a more sustainable and equitable future for all Evanston residents. The City recently took another next step in that direction when a draft of the Environmental Justice Resolution was approved with minor modifications by both the Evanston Environmental Board and the Equity and Empowerment Commission. Environmental Justice Evanston (EJE) played a key role in moving this forward and will continue to do so. The resolution will next be reviewed and approved by the City Council’s Planning and Development Committee. If you or your organization want to review and endorse the resolution, please email EJE at

Members of EJE also published an editorial in the Evanston RoundTable responding to the City's recently released Air Quality Study related to the Waste Transfer Station on Church St. Entitled "[Final Air Quality Study Only a Beginning](#)," the article assesses the study's benefits and limitations.

## Moving Towards Safer Biking and Walking on Oakton, Church and Chicago

Three street infrastructure projects are currently in play in Evanston and are in different phases. While the Church St. and Chicago Ave. projects are farther along, the Oakton St. project is still in the first phase and the City wants your input in its [Oakton Street Corridor Survey](#). If you walk, bike, or drive this corridor, let the City benefit from your views. (Home Depot, Pet Smart, Aldi and GFS Food Service are at its western end; if you shop there, you use this corridor.) [The deadline for the survey has been extended to October 31.](#)

## What Is Community Solar? Join One of These Webinars and Find Out

If your roof doesn't get year-round sun or you live in an apartment building, you can still help create clean energy by subscribing to community solar, banding together with other Evanston community members and subscribing to a solar farm. How can you do that? Find out by joining one of the upcoming free webinars this month on [Tuesday, Sept. 15](#) or [Thursday, Sept. 24](#), both from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. In the meantime, you can learn more about community solar [here](#).

## Illinois is Offering Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

During this difficult time, do you know anyone who needs home energy assistance? Let them know that the state has launched a new initiative to help eligible low-income households pay for home energy services. This includes assistance with heating, gas, propane and electricity. Those

[application here.](#)

## Food Matters

If you're growing more beans than you can pick or are surprised just how productive chard, kale and basil can be, share some with those in need of fresh, healthy food! [Edible Evanston's produce sharing program](#) continues through mid-October, and has been delivering about 10 coolers full of produce each week to Hillside Food Pantry. Just drop your extra produce in the coolers at McCormick or Twiggs Community Garden on Friday evening-Saturday morning, or Tuesday evening through mid-day Wednesday at Ridgeville Community House gardens.

Edible Evanston is also seeking volunteers to help maintain the Eggleston Park Food Forest on Tuesday or Thursday evenings through September, or the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. [Get details and registration here.](#)

## Evanston Recertified as a Community Wildlife Habitat

It was a great milestone when Evanston achieved certification as a community wildlife habitat last year. But the work didn't stop there – the [National Wildlife Federation](#) recently re-certified the City in recognition of its community outreach, habitat acres restored and maintained, litter picked up around Evanston, and the number of people taking the [pollinator pledge](#). Thanks to [Natural Habitat Evanston \(NHE\)](#) for helping coordinate the efforts.

## Volunteer to Help Evanston Maintain Its Green Spaces

There are opportunities throughout Evanston where you can roll up your sleeves and pitch in by helping to cut back invasive species, watering plants and trees, and more. Below are locations, times (as available) and contacts to help you plan your volunteer time.

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- Clark Street Beach Bird Sanctuary - Thursdays at 9:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 9 a.m. Contact [Joan Linsenmeier](#).
- Harbert Park - Fridays at 10:00 a.m. Contact [Allison Sloan](#). Harbert Park will also have a workday on Saturday, September 26th, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- Twiggs Park - Workdays as needed. Contact [Wendy Pollock](#).
- Civic Center Bird Garden - Thursdays 4:30 p.m. Contact [Doug Macdonald](#).
- Canal Shores Golf Course - Monthly, second Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Contact [Steve Neumann](#).
- Lighthouse Beach - Workdays as needed. Contact [Charles Smith](#).
- Lovelace Park - Workdays as needed. Contact [Sigrid Pilgrim](#).

## GreenTown: Climate Crisis Virtual Conference

Want to learn more about sustainable development in communities? Attend the 22nd Annual [GreenTown Conference](#) to explore a variety of topics ranging from renewable energy to resilient regional food systems. This event will include webinars, film screenings, panel discussions, and a keynote by Jacqueline Patterson, Director of the [NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program](#).

**When:** Wednesday, September 23 and Wednesday, September 30.

[Register here.](#)

## Welcome to Emily Hartnell and Haerim Hong!

CGE is delighted to welcome Emily Hartnell and Haerim Hong, who will both be working with us over the next year. In her role as CGE Program and Development Officer, Emily will be working with the board to help CGE with its strategic objectives and long-term growth. Haerim is a Kellogg MBA serving for the year as a non-voting board member; she is focused on helping CGE with membership development.



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