

**Instructions for Small Group Discussion:
Green Economic Development
11:45 am – 1:15 pm**

- 11:45 Find a lunch and read through the discussion questions and mini case study
- 12:00 Start discussion
- 12:45 Start working on report back questions and final instant polling question for the larger group
- 1:15 Break and return to large group

Imagine if by 2020 all Chicagoland offices and homes met 21st century standards for energy efficiency? What would have had to happen to make this a reality?

Discussion Questions:

- What is already underway?
- What is working? And what can be expanded?
- What are the current dysfunctions/challenges to making progress?
- What are the biggest opportunities to leverage now, especially Recovery Act-related?
- How do the GO TO 2040 goals factor in as it related to workforce development needs?
 1. Coordinated workforce, education, and economic development planning and information systems across the region;
 2. An integrated and adaptive career and education pathway system driven by skill needs of employers and accessible to all workers in the region.
- What would a coordinated regional approach look like? Do collaborative opportunities exist already?
- What would the recommended action steps look like?

Framework for reporting back to the larger group (7-8 min)

1. Why should we care – what is the urgency argument? If you were in an elevator with an influential official, what would you say?
2. What is in place now – list the assets – no more than 3 – that can be leveraged?
3. What needs to change? No more than 3 recommended action steps
4. If changes were made to create a regional energy efficiency approach to the workforce, what are 3 potential outcomes?
5. Create an instant polling question for the larger group

Mini Case Study: Green Economic Development

In ninety minutes it would be impossible to discuss all of the possibilities to work on regional coordination of workforce issues in a clean energy economy. So for the purposes of this discussion the focus is on one of the immediate opportunities to coordinate regionally: energy efficiency and the workforce.

The Chicago Climate Action Plan calls for retrofitting 400,000 residential housing units as part of its commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by 2020. Current capacity can only retrofit 8,900 units a year. When you add in the surrounding counties the numbers grow substantially. And suburban capacity for weatherization is even more limited. Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning and several other organizations are working on this issue separately from the workforce strand.

But there is unprecedented opportunity in the Recovery Act. Millions of dollars are coming into Illinois community to tackle this energy efficiency challenge. In some cases, such as weatherization and the state energy efficiency programs, 20 times the typical funding levels. Although these funds are short-term, they have the potential to create many new jobs and hopefully to equip many workers with new, marketable clean energy economy-based skills. The need to create and maintain a highly trained workforce is urgent in this area.