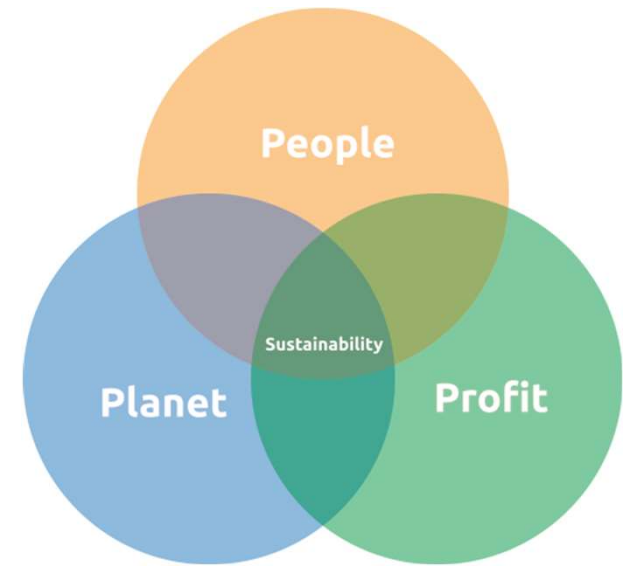


Advancing Environmental Initiatives Through Volunteerism and the Green Business Chamber



DuPage County – Environmental Committee

May 5, 2026

Overview

- Volunteer Work
- The Climate Reality Project
- Introducing the Chicagoland Green Chamber of Commerce (CGCC)
- Alignment with and Benefits for DuPage County Environmental Initiatives
- Membership

Volunteer Work

- Kris Murphy - water and environmental professional – Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM), Certified Climate Professional (CC-P) & Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP)
- Naperville Environment & Sustainability Task Force (NEST)
- Sustainable Aurora Advisory Board to the Mayor
- Aurora Public Transition Committee – Sustainability & Development
- **The Climate Reality Project – Chicago Metro Chapter**
 - At-large board member
 - Former team lead of Suburban Climate Action
 - Participant on multiple teams
- **Chicagoland Green Chamber of Commerce**

The Climate Reality Project

- International organization for climate change education and advocacy formed by Vice President Al Gore in 2006 (www.climaterealityproject.org)
- Regional chapters of volunteers → **Chicago Metro**
www.climaterealitychicago.com
- Teams: Chicago Buildings; Fossil Fuel Accountability; **Transportation Electrification; Legislative Action**; Public Education; Regenerative Agriculture; Solar Energy; **Suburban Clean Buildings**; Trees + Agroforestry; Youth Action; Zero Waste
- **20th Anniversary Training Event** on May 9th 1:30 – 4:30 PM
At Chicago Library - Near North Branch (310 W. Division)
https://luma.com/a2mkcbf4?lm_source=embed





Introducing the Chicagoland **Green** Chamber of Commerce

Chicagoland Green Chamber

- Chicagoland Green Chamber of Commerce (CGCC) is growing **greener** business in the Chicago region.
- Connecting existing green business leaders with businesses, public agencies, and chambers of commerce seeking to make their operations more sustainable.
- **CGCC** promotes closing the loop for the circular economy.

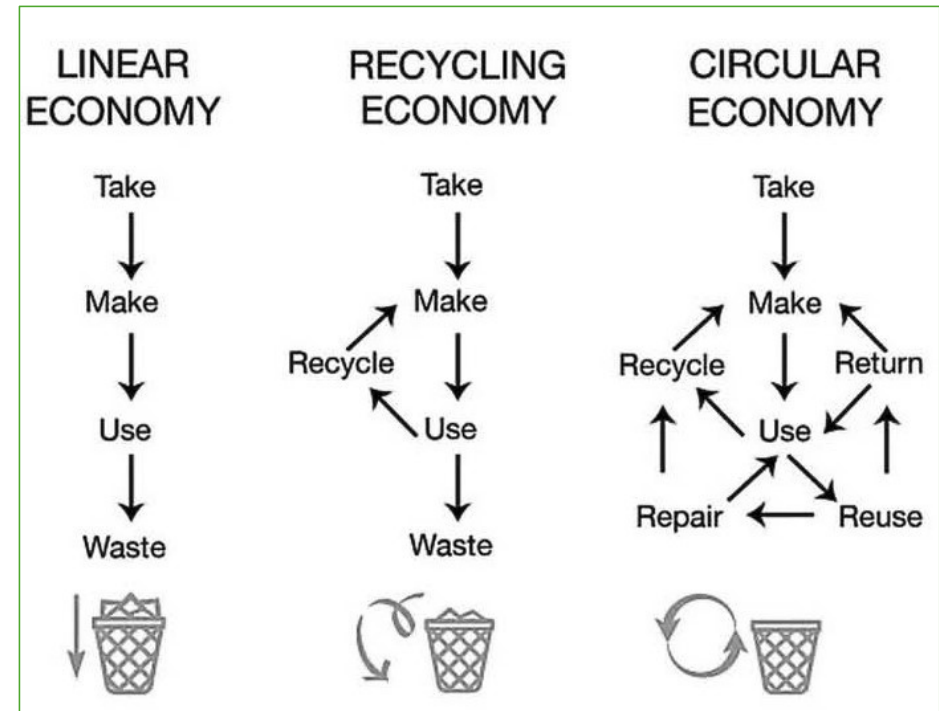
EVERY business can be a **GREEN** business – **CGCC** is here to support!

Chicagoland Green Chamber

- CGCC founded in 2025
- Specialized regional chamber for greener business practices, products, and service providers
- Serving Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties in Illinois
- A chapter of the U.S. Green Chamber of Commerce (<https://usgreenchamber.com/>)
- www.ChicagolandGreenChamber.org

Chicagoland Green Chamber

- Reduce waste to landfills
- Reduce electricity and water usage
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Increase renewable energy
- Increase use of electric equipment
- Preserve the natural environment
- Close gaps in the circular economy



Chicagoland

GREEN

Chamber of Commerce

Chicagoland Green Chamber

Each year we throw away:



300 million tons
of plastic



50 million tons
of electronic waste



1/3 of all
food produced.

Creating a circular economy offers a
\$4.5 TRILLION ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY by:



avoiding
waste



stimulating
business growth



creating job
opportunities

Source: UN Environment (plastic & e-waste), FAO (food),
Accenture (economic opportunity)

20.08.04



WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

**A circular economy is a trillion dollars
opportunity that would create jobs while reducing
waste and greenhouse gas emissions.**

Creating a circular economy for **5 KEY SECTORS**



CEMENT



ALUMINUM



STEEL



PLASTICS



FOOD

could cut CO2 emissions by **3.7 BILLION TONS IN 2050**

Source: The Ellen MacArthur Foundation
20.08.04



WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

Chicagoland

GREEN

Chamber of Commerce

Chicagoland Green Chamber

- Support businesses to identify and overcome the barriers to changing to sustainable practices and products, through training, procurement, new products and services, and resource guides.
- Administer a green business recognition program with a business directory, including one specifically aimed at food establishments.
- Share events, resources, and news in a monthly newsletter

Chicagoland Green Chamber

- Network includes workforce organizations
- Connect all to sustainable funding, rebates, grants, and no cost energy assessments
- Assist schools with finding alternative vendors for food ware and compost waste collection
- Work with local governments across to promote alternatives
 - Heat pump contractor workshops to support the adoption of the Stretch Codes

Chicagoland Green Chamber

Beyond business-to-business promotion

- Support public agencies with sustainable product vendors and service contractors
 - Schools
 - Parks and libraries
 - Local governments
- Connect with environmental education / advocacy nonprofits
- Resources for all (businesses, public agencies, and individuals)

Chicagoland Green Chamber

- **Work with business chambers** across the region to offer specialized assistance to their members
- **Assist** businesses in complying with or planning for **new laws**
 - **Clean Lighting – HB 2363**
 - **Bring Your Own Container – HB 2086**
 - **Battery Recycling - SB 3686**
 - Polystyrene Foam (Styrofoam) Ban (food ware) – SB 1531
 - Food Waste Diversion – SB 2852
 - Appliance Standards – HB 5366
 - Single-use Plastic Bag Reduction – SB 1872, SB 3742, HB 1146, HB 5112
 - Skip the Stuff – HB 1600
 - Instant Solar Permitting – SB 2395, HB 3265

Chicagoland Green Chamber

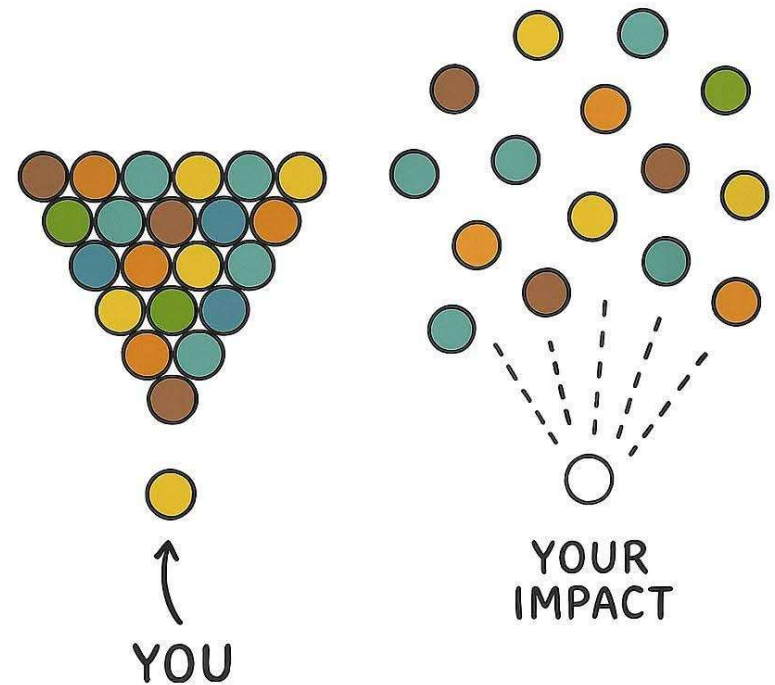
Compostable food ware product examples



Don't forget the compost waste collection bins!

Chicagoland
GREEN
Chamber of Commerce

Alignment with and Benefits for DuPage County Environmental Initiatives



Alignment with DuPage County Initiatives



- Reduce
 - Emissions
 - Waste
 - Water usage



- Increase
 - Renewable energy
 - Efficient, electric equipment



- Educate public on environmental practices



- Promote events such as recycling and collections
 - Share in [CGCC](#)'s newsletter and on website

Benefits for DuPage County

- **Vendor lists** can assist the County when requesting alternative products and services for facilities operations and management
 - Plastic-free vending machines
 - Cool Seal for parking lots
 - Single-use food ware and food waste diversion for cafeterias
 - Waste upcycling collection boxes
 - Concrete with an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)
- **Incentives** to save on building equipment
- **Discounts** for services and products

Benefits for DuPage County

- **Cafeterias**

- Foam food ware, plastic utensils, and straws → switch to compostables for visitors
- Bring Your Own education for employees
- Compost collection bins & Zero Waste Boxes
- Education / signage
- List of vendors and products for bidding



- **Construction Materials**

- Sustainable concrete with Environmental Production Declarations (EPDs)
- Education on EPDs
- Upcycling waste materials (concrete)
<https://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/trnews/trnews308rpo.pdf>
- Pilot project, then practice or policy

Benefits for DuPage County

Connection to Rebates for Public Facilities

- [Fact Sheets | ComEd - An Exelon Company](#)
- [ComEd Business Incentives Applications & Worksheets | ComEd - An Exelon Company](#)
- [ComEd Energy Efficiency Outreach Team & Contacts | ComEd - An Exelon Company](#)

Local
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Membership

- **Public Agencies \$100 - \$350**

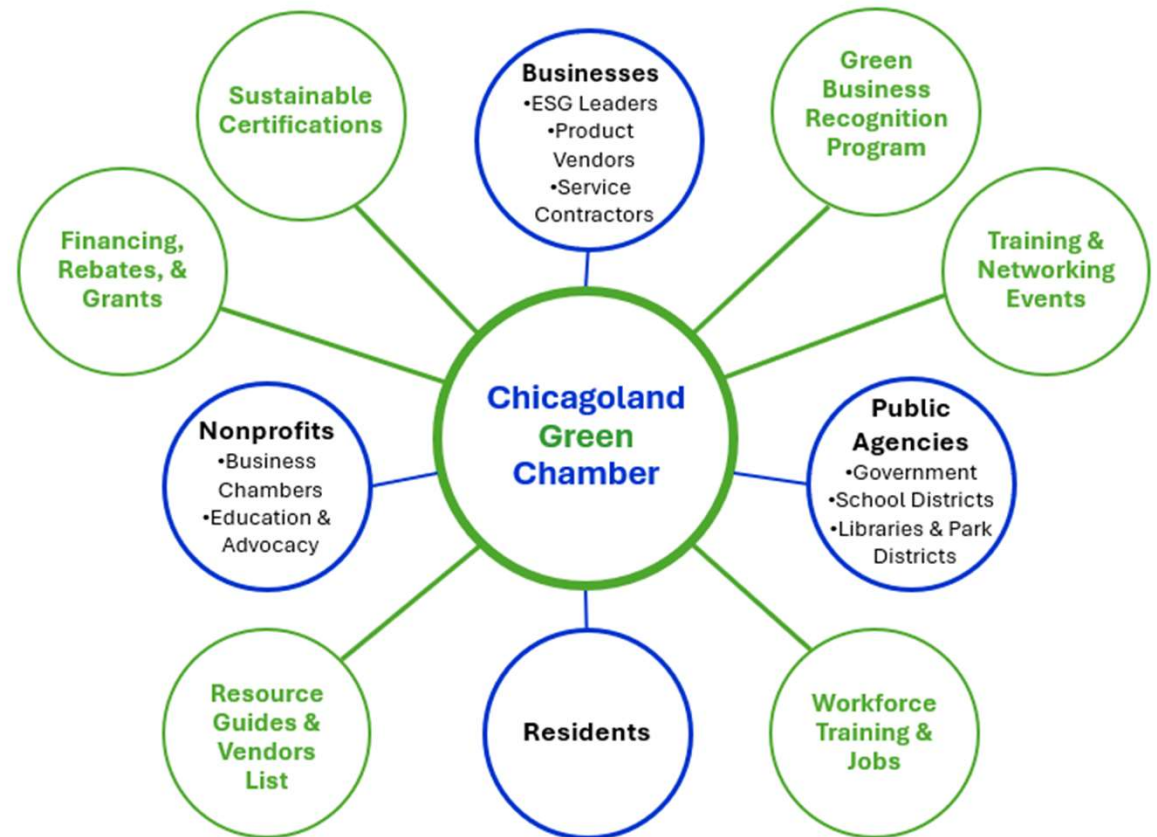
- Allows a flexible number staff and/or elected officials to join as one organization
- First person \$100, \$50 each additional person, up to 6 total, annually
- Includes member-only resource guides and trainings

Let Us Know

- What topics are important to you?
- What can **CGCC** do to support the County's sustainability initiatives?
- Know of an organization we should include on our vendor list or invite to join?

Contact Us

- Subscribe to our newsletter via www.ChicagolandGreenChamber.org
- Follow **CGCC** on LinkedIn and Facebook
- Email us at ChicagoGreenChamber@outlook.com



EVERY business can be a **GREEN** business – **CGCC** is here to support!

Chicagoland
GREEN
Chamber of Commerce