DUPAGE COUNTY

ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

630-407-6767

www.dupagecounty.gov/environmental

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sheila Rutledge, Chair
Environmental Committee Members

FROM: Joy Hinz, Environmental & Sustainability Programs Manager

DATE: July 30, 2025

RE: Green Energy Justice Cooperative & GrowGeo Chicagoland

The Environmental Division has been asked to partner again with the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) and Geothermal Alliance of Illinois on the GrowGeo Chicagoland. The program is similar to the solar Switch Together program with CUB providing education to residents about geothermal without the group buy aspect. At the end of the sessions, attendees will be directed to the Geothermal Alliance of Illinois' contractor list if/when attendees are interested in obtaining a quote. The County's role is to assist with the outreach and participate in the educational sessions. The Division will push out the opportunity using the Cool DuPage outreach platforms.

CUB is also partnering with the Green Energy Justice Cooperative on a community solar opportunity. The cooperative facilitates community-based solar projects as part of the State's Illinois Shines program also known as the Adjustable Block program. The Illinois Power Agency's contractor, Energy Solutions, provides solar renewable energy credit incentives to solar vendors to develop projects within the State that support the State's renewable energy portfolio goals. The project targets participation in Winfield and Naperville Townships but is open to others in DuPage and Will County. The Division will also push out the opportunity using the Cool DuPage outreach platforms.

GREEN ENERGY JUSTICE
COOPERATIVE

INTERESTED IN SAVING MONEY ON YOUR ENERGY BILL?

THE GREEN ENERGY JUSTICE COOPERATIVE CAN HELP!

CONTACT US:

Email: info@gejc.org

Phone: (773) 948-8870

WELCOME TO THE GREEN ENERGY JUSTICE COOPERATIVE (GEJC)!

Founded in 2023 by Blacks in Green, GEJC represents a groundbreaking approach to community-owned clean energy. As a multi-race, multi-class, intergenerational, and Black/Brown-led cooperative, we're building more than just solar panels -- we're creating pathways to economic independence and environmental justice.

Our nine megawatts of solar power in Winfield and Naperville Townships stand as a testament to what communities can achieve when they come together.

It's more than clean energy -- it's about taking control of our energy future!

WHY SIGN UP?

- Save up to 20% on the energy you use.
- Never pay more than ComEd's residential rate.
- Own your energy!

HOW TO SIGN UP:

1. Sign Up
   - Become a member by paying a one-time membership fee
   - Anyone can be a member and help support clean energy!
2. Subscribe
   - Verify you live in our service area and that ComEd is your current utility provider
   - Our agents can help you verify this, or you can check online at gejc.org
3. Save
   - You could save up to 20% on the energy you use each month
   - You pay nothing to subscribe!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: DO I PAY AN EXTRA FEE TO SUBSCRIBE?

No, you only pay for the energy you use at a discounted rate. The only fee is a one-time, lifetime membership fee to join the cooperative.

Q: HOW DO I SAVE MONEY ON MY ELECTRIC BILL?

Members purchase the electricity from their subscription at up to 20% savings over ComEd's rate. GEJC can't guarantee savings but we *do* guarantee that you'll never be charged higher rates than ComEd.

Q: CAN I JOIN IF I'M NOT A LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLD?

Yes! We offer different membership tiers to ensure everyone can participate while maintaining our focus on serving low to moderate-income communities.

Q: I'M A RENTER OR LIVE IN AN APARTMENT, CAN I STILL QUALIFY?

Yes! No solar panels have to be installed on your home, so anyone can sign up.