



2019

ENVIRONMENTAL MAYOR REPORT

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NEXT CHICAGO MAYOR



An effective Mayor's Office and City Council prioritizes environmental and environmental justice issues as brought forward by organizations and individuals who are invested in making Chicago a cleaner, healthier and more livable city. IEC and our affiliates aim to build our power so that no issue concerning the environment or environmental justice moves forward without the consent or support of our community.



INTRODUCTION

The Illinois Environmental Council (IEC) has over 80 affiliate member organizations from across Illinois. In this document, IEC and our affiliates propose recommendations for the next mayoral administration. Our community expects that an *Environmental Mayor* will help to pass and sign supported ordinances into law, and use their office to promote environmental initiatives more broadly.

IEC and our affiliates look forward to working with the winner of the February 2019 election to implement each of these priorities in a timely manner.

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KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❑ ***Climate Action Strategy.*** The next Mayor of Chicago should develop and enact an equitable, city-wide climate action strategy that includes emission reduction targets, zero waste, sustainability measures, and a plan to transition to clean renewable energy.
- ❑ ***Environmental representation.*** The Mayor should re-establish the Department of Environment, appoint qualified department heads to all agencies, and ensure adequate levels of staffing in order to effectively implement and enforce environmental programs.
- ❑ ***Transparency and process.*** The next Mayor's office should be run in a manner that is transparent to the public, with open data policies and a clear and accountable process.
- ❑ ***Green investment policies.*** The City of Chicago should promote sustainability through green investment policies.



Brown Line crossing the Chicago River



CLEAN ENERGY

1. **Plan for 100% renewable energy by 2035** for the residential and commercial electric sector through an inclusive and equitable process that seeks input from all communities, and especially those in environmental justice and economically disadvantaged neighborhoods.
2. **Take advantage of programs under the Future Energy Jobs Act** to maximize clean energy, consumer savings (especially low-income households) and energy efficiency for both electricity and natural gas. Prioritize the use of the property assessed clean energy (PACE) program in order to further advance clean energy development.
3. **Adopt a zero net energy code** for new buildings, and a solar-ready construction standard.
4. **Support expansion of energy efficiency programs**, comprehensive natural gas system planning – including yearly cost-benefit analyses of electrification - and other efforts to address rising gas bills among City residents.

CLEAN WATER & INFRASTRUCTURE

1. **Adopt a zero tolerance policy for combined sewer overflows (CSOs)** and work with the MWRD to set a CSO sunset date to end raw sewage discharges into the Chicago River system and Lake Michigan.
2. **Establish targeted goals for stormwater reduction**, with an emphasis on meeting the needs of historically disinvested communities, as well as funding for natural elements and ‘green infrastructure’ at significant scale.
3. **Develop adequate flood mitigation assistance for Chicago residents**, especially low-income communities and communities of color that suffer a disproportionate burden of flooding.
4. **Develop a comprehensive inventory of lead service lines and a plan that will identify and replace 100% of lead service lines by 2040**, prioritizing communities that are at high risk of lead exposure, and include funding sources/mechanisms that do not disproportionately burden low-income communities.
5. **Continue making needed improvements to water infrastructure** to improve system performance, reduce leakage, and improve the accuracy of metering data.
6. **Coordinate with MWRD to monitor and track contaminants and pollutants**, especially phosphorus and nitrogen, pharmaceuticals, PFAS, and microplastics.
7. **Support construction of protections at Brandon Road Lock and Dam** to prevent Asian carp from reaching Lake Michigan. This includes continuing to work with



Michigan and other Great Lakes states to support funding and construction of these protections.

8. **Develop a litter management protocol** that reduces litter reaching the river system and removes it when it is there.
9. **Establish a point person in the Mayor's Office for interdepartmental and intergovernmental coordination on Lakes and Rivers.**

WASTE

1. **Develop restrictions on the use of plastic and polystyrene service ware.**
2. **Prohibit City facilities from purchasing plastic and polystyrene service ware**, plastic bags and bottles converting to sustainable alternatives
3. **Reduce single use plastics by at least 35% in the city.** Purchasing, use, end-of-life recycling.
4. **Achieve a waste diversion goal of 43%** by the end of a four year term for residential recycling.
5. **Finalize audits of units served by DSS and other state agencies**, and ensure effective and transparent process to evaluate and improve the managed competition program's recycling contracts.
6. **Support the use of end-use compost** for landscape activities at all City properties.
7. **Expand the CPS Commercial Composting Pilot Program.**

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING/ZONING

1. **Prioritize inclusive community input** in the visions for Fisk and Crawford redevelopment, as well as the Industrial Corridor Modernization process as a whole.
2. **Reform zoning and planning processes** for industrial areas such that public health and cumulative environmental impacts are evaluated for sites and communities have robust opportunities for public input into decisions at the Department of Planning and the Plan Commission early and often.
3. **Increase city inspection and enforcement training and staffing** capacity for environmental violations at industrial sites in Chicago, including fully staffing inspectors authorized in Department of Public Health budget.
4. **Ensure any clean energy transition focuses on frontline communities**, incorporating equity measures as well as job training and placement.
5. **Provide equitable access** to natural open spaces and the river system all throughout the city.



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6. **Implement a plan to remove the cumulative threats of petcoke, manganese, diesel exhaust, and other toxins from environmental justice communities.**

LOCAL FOOD

1. **Adopt an appropriate business license for urban farm enterprises** that allows them to execute their business and production plan to sell whole, unprocessed fruits and vegetables to their target markets, whether on-site or off-site to wholesale and retail customers.
2. **Restrict the definition of “weeds”** to an accepted list of invasive and/or noxious plants.
3. **Increase land access for urban farmers**, and create Urban Agricultural Areas.
4. **Implement the Good Food Purchasing Program.**
5. **Ensure urban farmers have affordable, reliable access to water infrastructure.**

OPEN SPACE, WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS

1. **Support the Chicago Region Trees Initiative (CRTI)** through a commitment to expanding forestry throughout the city with dedicated funding.
2. **Expand equitable access to parks for all Chicago residents.**
3. **Commit to the goals of the River Ecology and Governance Group** to protect and enhance the river as a living, natural resource.
4. **Support a bird-friendly design ordinance.**
5. **Prioritize increased open space and natural infrastructure** within development and commit to increase Open Space and Natural Areas zoned areas.
6. **Update Chicago's Nature & Wildlife Plan** and prioritize Nature Areas identified in the new plan for protection, restoration, and public access.
7. **Support the development of an interconnected network of natural, open space that supports the movement of people and wildlife.**

TOXICS

1. **Support a coal tar ban ordinance**, and cease use of coal tar in all municipal projects--prioritizing schools and areas with vulnerable populations.
2. **Support a ban on neonic pesticides**, and cease use of neonics in all municipal projects.
3. **Implement standards for clean diesel construction.**



TRANSPORTATION

1. **Establish policies to encourage use of sustainable transportation modes** (bike, walk, transit) and discourage single occupant vehicle use.
2. **Upgrade Chicago's rail and bus network** to ensure high-quality, reliable, and equitable service.
3. **Provide dedicated and sustainable funding for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure** through the establishment of a Chicago Bike and Walk Fund.
4. **Develop and implement a plan for achieving a zero-emissions public transit and city vehicle fleet by 2030.**
5. **Adopt a building code that requires EV-ready construction.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This platform was developed with the following organizations:

Active Transportation Alliance	Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club
Alliance for the Great Lakes	Illinois Green Alliance
Bird Conservation Network	John G. Shedd Aquarium
Center for Neighborhood Technology	Little Village Environmental Justice Organization
Chicago Recycling Coalition	Metropolitan Planning Council
Citizens Utility Board	Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
Delta Institute	Natural Resources Defense Council
Elevate Energy	Openlands
Environmental Law and Policy Center	Respiratory Health Association
Faith in Place	Ride Illinois
Friends of the Chicago River	