



Office of the Mayor
Richard M. Daley
Mayor

News Release

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MAYOR DALEY ANNOUNCES NEW "GREEN JOBS FOR ALL" INITIATIVE
*Plan Outlines City's Strategy For Investing in Green Businesses and
Clean Energy, Training Chicagoans for Jobs of the Future*

Mayor Richard M. Daley today announced the City's "Green Jobs For All" initiative, a comprehensive strategy that aims to ensure that Chicagoans are trained for the jobs of the future, including those in energy efficiency, clean energy and waste reduction.

As part of the plan, Daley also released a report that describes all the green jobs activities underway in Chicago, showcases some of the businesses and organizations that are leading the way and outlines Chicago's priorities for the future.

"Since I have been mayor, we've worked day by day to make Chicago the most environmentally-friendly city in the nation and as a result, a better place for every resident to live, work and raise a family," Daley said in a news conference held at the Growing Home Wood Street Farm, 5814 S. Wood St., which provides job training for ex-offenders and other disadvantaged job seekers by growing organic produce in the Englewood neighborhood.

"I believe that our city's future is directly linked with our efforts to be a national leader in protecting and enhancing our natural resources. Especially in this difficult economy it is critical that we work to create and retain good jobs for today and lay the foundation for the jobs of tomorrow," the Mayor said.

Daley said the City is strongly committed to investing in green businesses and industries, because clean energy and green technology will be a major part of the "new economy" that emerges from the current recession

"Our challenge now is to seize the future and the opportunities it offers," he said.

Last week in his annual "City of Chicago" address, Daley said the City is now working with business, civic and neighborhood groups to develop its plan to create jobs, grow the economy and rejuvenate the City's revenue flow in the years ahead. "Green Jobs for All" is an important part of that plan.

The Mayor said the City and its partners are actively supporting existing businesses that want to green their products and services, working to attract new green businesses to Chicago, and providing key training opportunities so that all Chicagoans have the opportunity to access green jobs.

In addition, he said that under “Green Jobs For All” the City will combine its efforts to help formerly incarcerated persons find jobs with its efforts to enhance the environment.

“We are committed to ensuring that these opportunities are connected to those Chicagoans who need a second chance,” Daley said.

To ensure this initiative is successful, the city will:

- Use over \$16 million in Community Development Block Grants from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to create 650 green jobs for the formerly incarcerated in the green jobs area.

These funds will help provide jobs in such areas as deconstructing dilapidated buildings and putting the materials to re-use, weatherizing homes, horticulture, planting trees, landscaping, recycling electronics, and neighborhood clean-up.

- Issue today the first Requests for Proposals seeking delegate agencies who can work with the City to provide jobs in neighborhood clean-ups. Over the next several weeks additional RFPs for the other green jobs projects will be issued.
- Place a priority on green jobs in using \$17 million in federal economic stimulus funds to expand the WorkNet Chicago System, which provides job search and training assistance.
- Use a \$250,000 grant from Living Cities to train Chicago Housing Authority residents in jobs retrofitting homes for energy efficiency.

In addition, the Mayor announced that the City was recently selected by the U.S. Conference of Mayors to receive a grant of \$700,000 from the Wal-Mart Foundation for its green job initiatives and that money will be used to support and expand the number of green jobs for ex-offenders in our City’s Greencorps program.

And World Business Chicago, the City’s not-for-profit economic development corporation, has developed a green technology attraction strategy, which has already helped bring about the decision by numerous businesses such as Veolia Environment, the world’s largest environmental services company, to locate Headquarters in Chicago.

Daley said the key to moving forward in greening Chicago is cooperation.

“Our progress on environmental issues could not have been achieved without the partnerships we sought and created at every level of our community – from block clubs to the biggest corporations,” the mayor said.

“I want to thank them, and all the other partners who have helped us to achieve a more environmentally-friendly city and one that supports a diverse and thriving economy. Working hard and working together, we will succeed in bringing new businesses, new industries and new opportunities to Chicago to create new jobs for our hard-working residents,” he said.

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