

Retrofit Chicago • Summary August 2014

Overview

Retrofit Chicago is a cross-sector effort to drive energy efficiency in municipal, commercial, and residential buildings across the city, saving money, reducing carbon emissions, and creating jobs.



Commercial

The Commercial Buildings Initiative of Retrofit Chicago is a voluntary leadership program for large commercial buildings that commit to **increase energy efficiency by 20%** over five years. To date, 48 buildings have signed on with a **total of 37 million square feet** of space. The initiative includes a variety of building types including office, hotel, multi-family residential, university, and cultural institutions; buildings date from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. The City has created a 5 day permit for buildings in the program, partners have provided operational and financial roadmaps, and full page ads have been placed in the Chicago Tribune and Sun-Times with photos of the buildings when they join. The NRDC recently released a best practices report on the program.

Impact (to date): \$2.5 million in savings, 7% reduction in energy usage overall

Residential

The Residential Partnership unites non-profit groups and utility companies to connect residents to energy retrofit contractors, free energy upgrades, and equipment rebates. The City has nearly **doubled its original 2-year goal** of 7,750 retrofitted homes since starting the program with **over 13,000 retrofits** completed as of July 2014, and **over 100,000 homes** receiving free upgrades. Outreach for the program is targeted in 12 energy efficiency zones or areas of the city with high relative energy use and low-to-moderate income levels. The City released the data used to identify the energy efficiency zones publicly, and launched the Energy Map project, an initiative that helps residents more easily understand their energy use at home. By going to www.cityofchicago.org/energymap, Chicagoans enter their address and see how their energy usage compares to other blocks in the neighborhood or citywide.

Impact (to date): \$5.9 million in savings, 15% energy reduction in retrofitted homes



Municipal

60 municipal buildings are being retrofit through Retrofit 1, a self-funding comprehensive energy efficiency program that will reduce utility and operating costs. Buildings include libraries, police stations, community centers and unique City properties such as City hall, the 911 center, the Fire training Academy and the Cultural Center. Specialized energy service companies (ESCOs) will design, install, and guarantee the performance of 114 energy related building modernization projects. The Chicago Infrastructure Trust, on behalf of the Department of Fleet and Facility Management, secured **off-book, off-credit financing** of \$12.8 million to **retrofit 60 buildings** covering 4.9 million square feet.

Impact (upon completion): ~\$1.4 million in savings, 18% energy reduction

Key Links:

- Retrofit Chicago website: retrofit.cityofchicago.org
- Best Practice Report: <http://bit.ly/retrofitChicagoBPR>
- Energy Map: www.cityofchicago.org/energymap



R. Emanuel