

# Chicago Solar

## Renewable Energy Generation on City-Owned Land



U.S. EPA Solar Site Selection Webinar

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# Chicago Solar Background



- June 2017 - [Future Energy Jobs Act \(“FEJA”\)](#) created new opportunities and funding to promote solar projects in Illinois.



- April 2017 - Mayor Emanuel Announces [City Buildings to be Powered by 100 Percent Renewable Energy by 2025](#).



- October 2018 - [Chicago Solar Ground-Mount RFP](#) to promote solar industry & create economic opportunities in Chicago.

# Research Partners



# Stakeholder Engagement

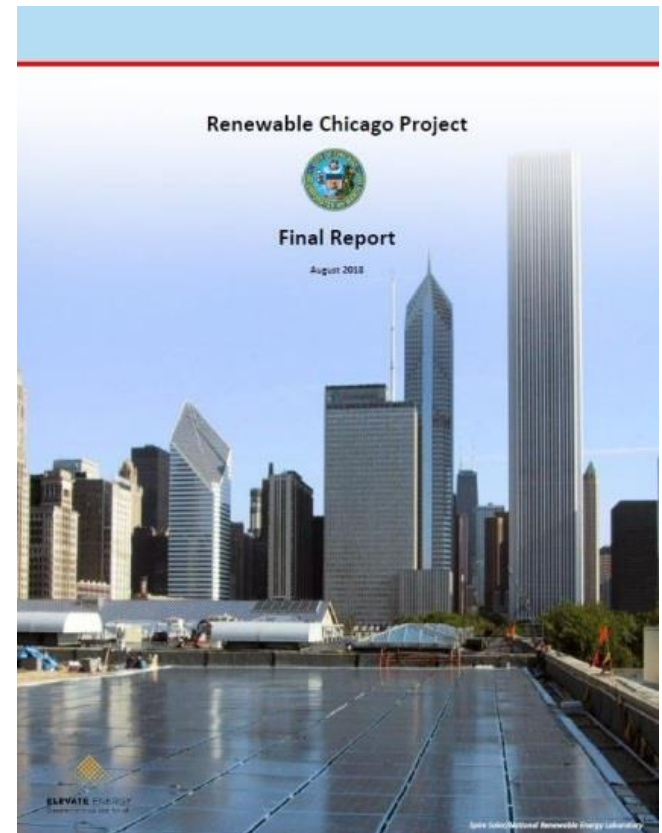
## Convened Renewable Chicago Working Group

- Mayors Office
- City of Chicago
- Sister Agencies
- Community and Industry Leaders



**ELEVATE ENERGY**  
Smarter energy use for all

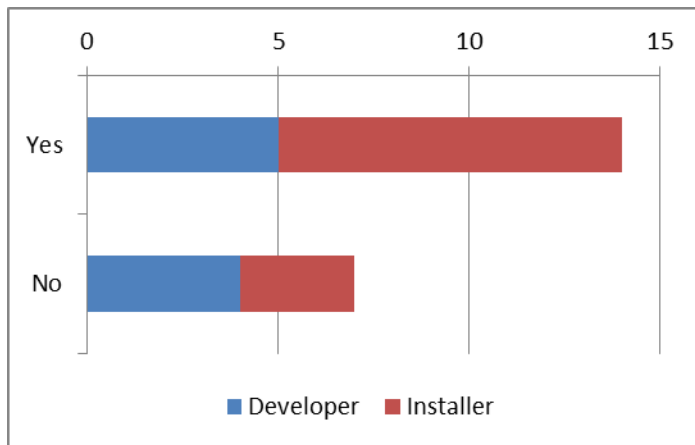
- Facilitated Work Sessions
- Permitting & Business Process Survey
- Site & Portfolio Planner Tool



# Working Group – Solar Development Industry Survey

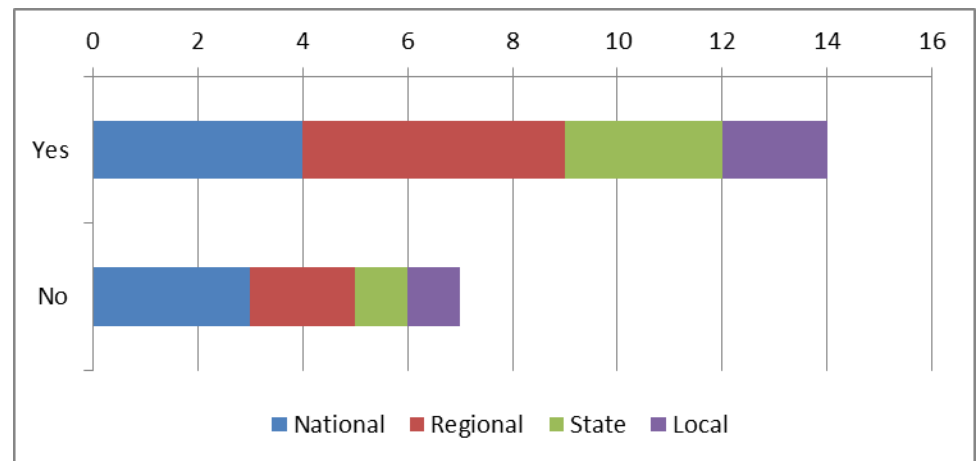
## Q10: Have you developed solar projects within the City of Chicago?

Chicago Experience by Organization Type



[n=21]

Chicago Experience by Geographic Scope



[n=21]

- *There are more Installers with experience in the City of Chicago than Developers*
- *Lack of experience in the City of Chicago is similar regardless of Geographic Scope of the organization*

# Solar PV Procurement Training

## Monthly Webinar Training Modules

1. Goal Setting & Clarification
2. Screening & Identifying PV Projects
3. Detailed Site Evaluation, Project Validation, & Permitting
4. Project Financing, Policy, & Incentives
5. Deciding on a Financing Approach & Beginning PV Procurement



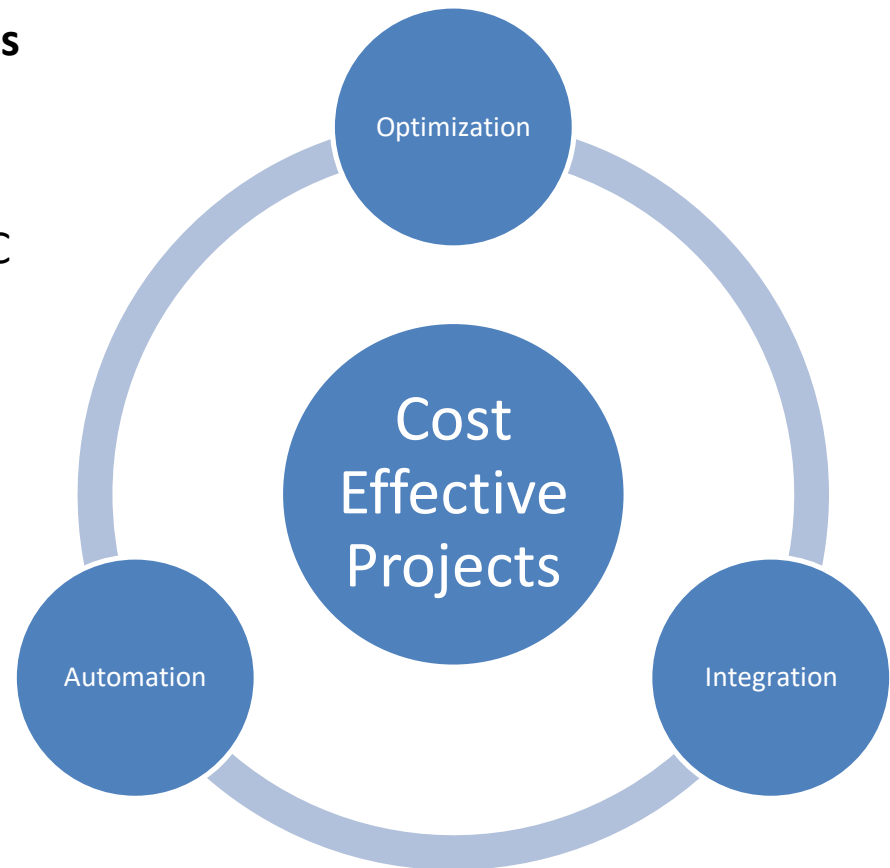
## Bonus Training

- ❖ Using Solar for Resilience
- ❖ System Advisor Model (SAM) Intro and Demo

# Portfolio Technical Assistance

## REopt Solar PV Building and Site Analysis

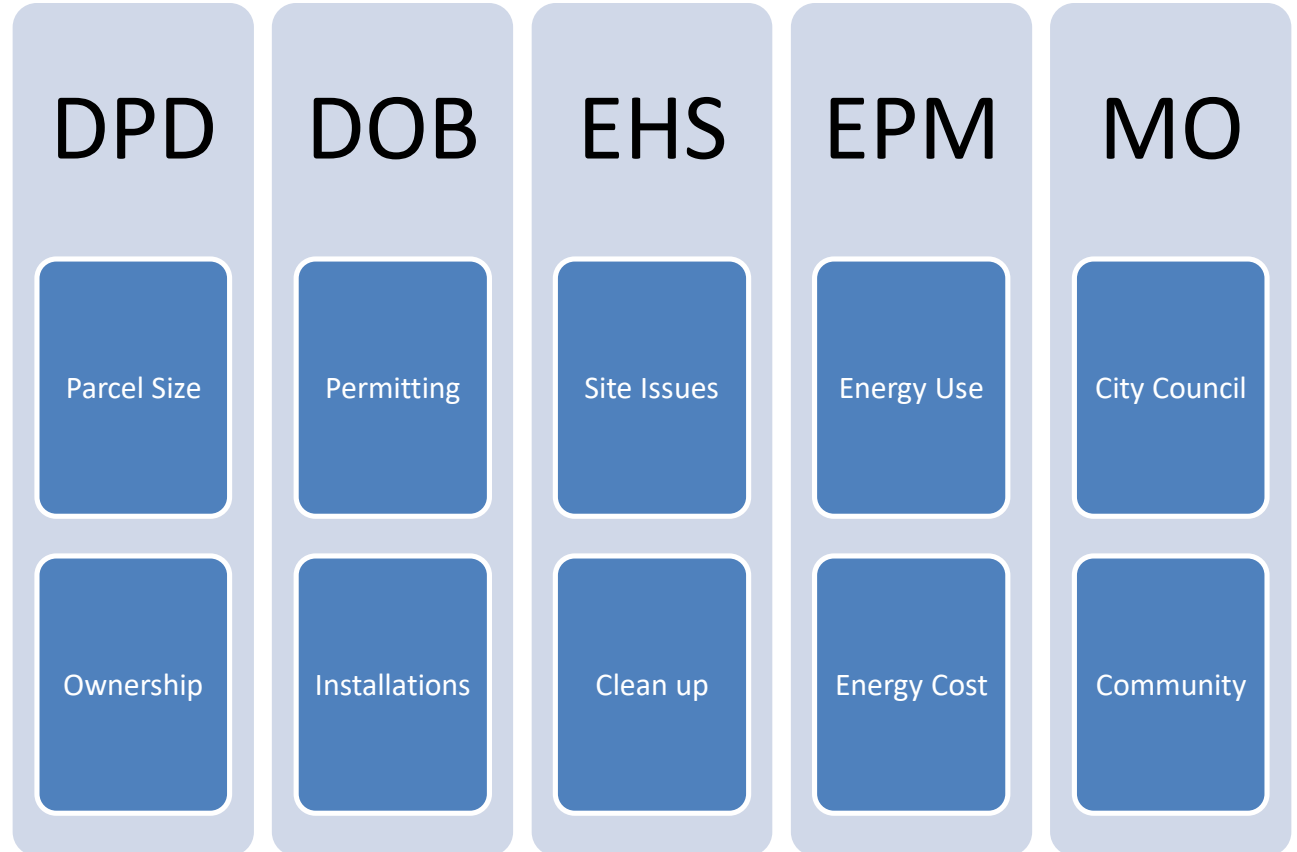
- 12 vacant lots for solar + wind
- On-site PV: With SREC or Without SREC
- Calculate the potential contribution of renewable energy towards 100% goal



# City-Owned Vacant Land Site Assessment Team



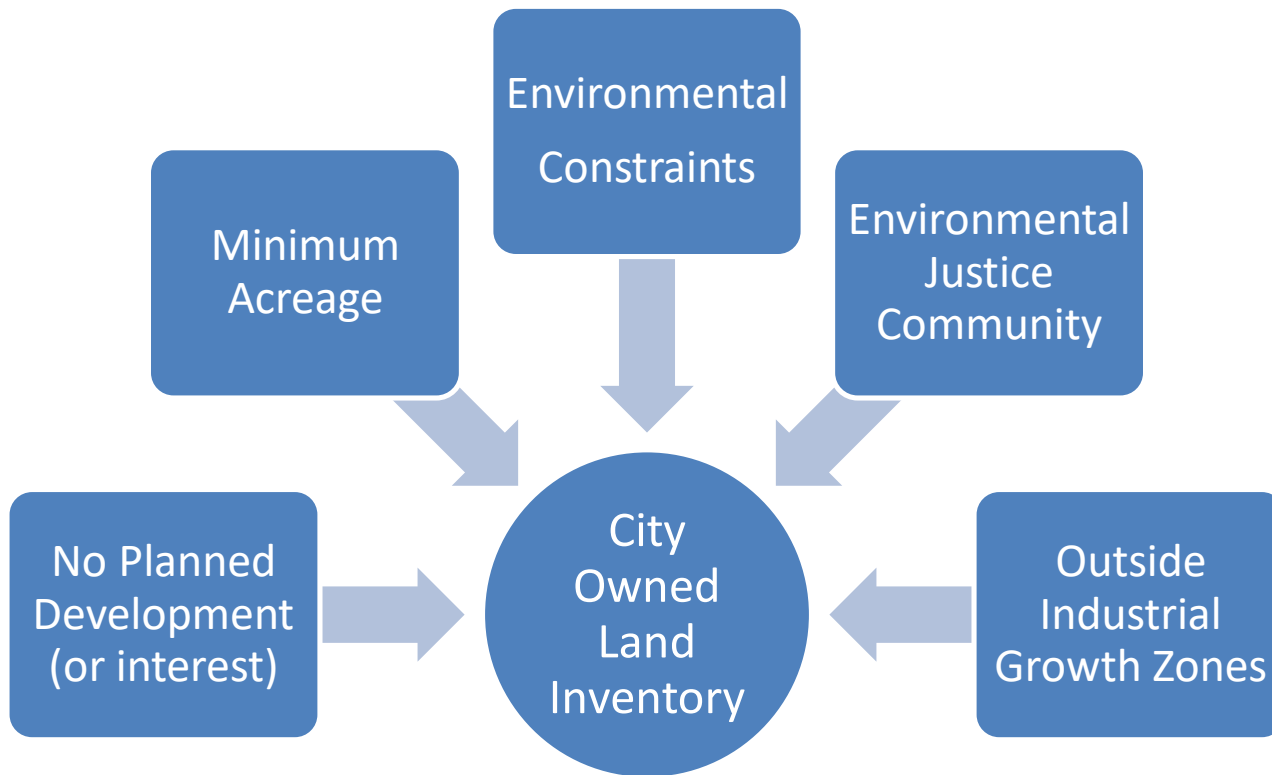
Multi – Department  
Multi – Bureau





# City-Owned Vacant Land Site Assessment Parameters

## Multi-Department/Bureau Cross-Functional analysis

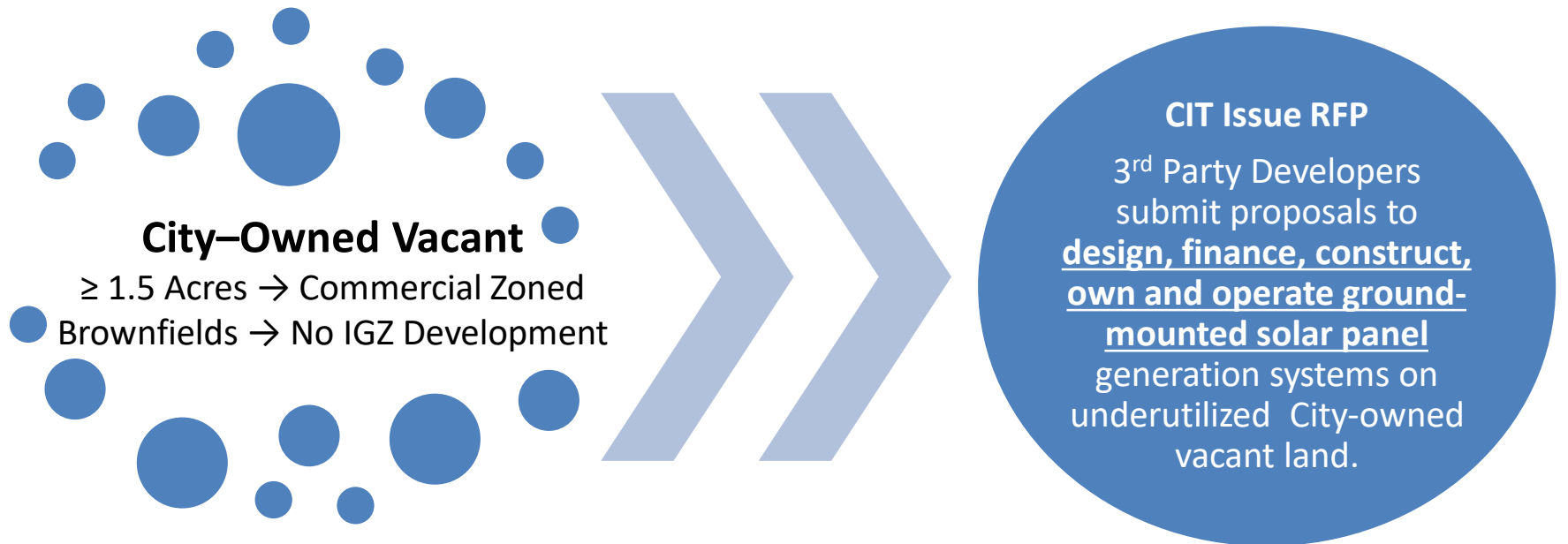


Bonus criteria



Good project visibility

# Chicago Solar – Ground Mount Procurement



- 5-7 Sites = 15-30 Acres
- Progressive Leadership

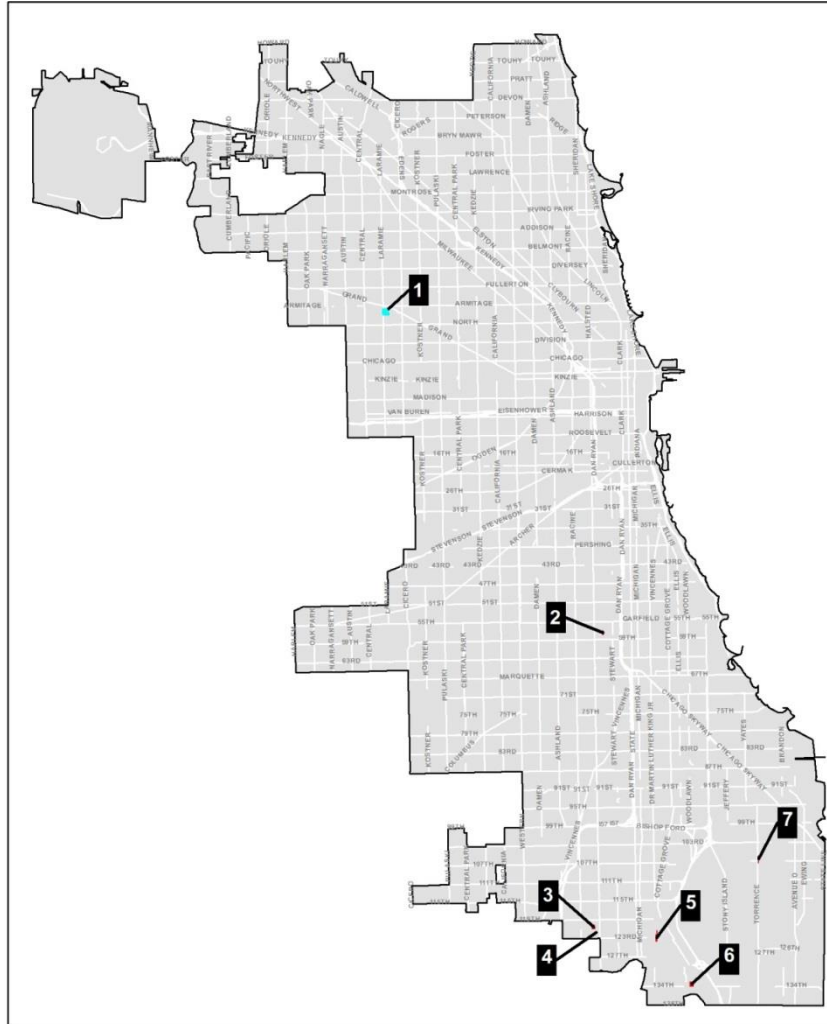


- Clean energy generation
- Green workforce development



# Chicago Solar Prospective Sites

## Solar RFP Locations



# Lessons learned

1. Pick your partners carefully, and don't go it alone



2. Engage internal departments early and often



3. Talk to the people who will be impacted



# Resources

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- [NREL Resources for State, Local, and Tribal Governments](#)
- [NREL YouTube Learning Channel](#)
- [System Advisor Model](#)
- [Renewable Energy Optimization \(REopt\)](#) and [REopt Lite](#)
- [State and Local Energy Data](#)
- [Urban Renewable Building and Neighborhood optimization \(URBANopt\)](#)
- [SolSmart Assistance](#)
- [Elevate Energy Advancing Solar Energy Programs](#)
- [Cadmus Energy Services](#)

# Contact Information

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