Chicago Solar
Renewable Energy Generation on City-Owned Land

U.S. EPA Solar Site Selection Webinar
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Mandy La Brier, Director of Energy Management
Department of Fleet and Facility Management (2FM)
Bureau of Energy Procurement and Management (EPM)
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.
Stakeholder Engagement

Convened **Renewable Chicago Working Group**

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

- Facilitated Work Sessions
- Permitting & Business Process Survey
- Site & Portfolio Planner Tool
Q10: Have you developed solar projects within the City of Chicago?

- 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
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

DPD
- Parcel Size
- Ownership

DOB
- Permitting
- Installations

EHS
- Site Issues
- Clean up

EPM
- Energy Use
- Energy Cost

MO
- City Council
- Community
City-Owned Vacant Land Site Assessment Parameters

Multi-Department/Bureau Cross-Functional analysis

- Minimum Acreage
- Environmental Constraints
- Environmental Justice Community
- No Planned Development (or interest)
- Outside Industrial Growth Zones
- City Owned Land Inventory
- Bonus criteria
  - Good project visibility
Chicago Solar – Ground Mount Procurement

City–Owned Vacant
≥ 1.5 Acres → Commercial Zoned
Brownfields → No IGZ Development

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

➢  Clean energy generation
➢  Green workforce development

CIT Issue RFP
3rd Party Developers submit proposals to design, finance, construct, own and operate ground-mounted solar panel generation systems on underutilized City-owned vacant land.
Chicago Solar Prospective Sites
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

- 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
Mandy La Brier | Director of Energy Management
City of Chicago | Department of Fleet and Facility Management (2FM)
Bureau of Energy Procurement and Management
30 N. LaSalle, 16th Floor, Suite 1610 | Chicago, IL. 60602
Office: (312) 744-5352
Amanda.LaBrier@cityofchicago.org