



NEWS RELEASE

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Date: March 3, 2021
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Winnebago County Becomes Latest Illinois County to Launch a Commercial PACE Program *Winnebago County C-PACE Program provides financing for energy-efficiency improvements for commercial real estate owners*

Oak Brook, Ill. – The Illinois Energy Conservation Authority NFP (IECA) is pleased to announce that it has been selected by Winnebago County as the program administrator for the Winnebago County Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) financing program for commercial real estate owners. The passing of the C-PACE ordinance by the Winnebago County Board makes it the latest county to join the C-PACE program in Illinois.

“The Winnebago County C-PACE program will provide up to 100% financing for energy-efficient projects at a fixed rate that can be easily repaid through the property tax bill,” commented Joseph Chiarelli, Winnebago County Chairman. “Winnebago County is happy to partner with commercial property owners in providing the opportunity to make energy efficient improvements to their properties.”

Introduced in Illinois in 2019, C-PACE is an innovative financing tool that provides long-term, fixed-rate funding to private building owners for energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, electric vehicle charging and resiliency projects (“PACE projects”) to be installed in both existing or new commercial properties. C-PACE financing is currently available in 37 states, including the District of Columbia, and stimulates local economies by funding the upfront capital for PACE projects that may lower operating costs, generate clean energy, instill resiliency and promote water use conservation in commercial properties. From 2009 to 2020, C-PACE programs have funded more than 2,500 qualifying projects nationwide for a total of \$2 billion, while also creating over 22,400 jobs.*

“We are thrilled to welcome Winnebago County to the growing list of Counties the IECA is supporting to enhance local economic development through clean energy capital improvements,” commented Mark Pikus, president of the IECA. “This is a beneficial program for the vibrant Rockford region’s commercial real estate owners, and we intend to work with the local constituents to further promote C-PACE program incentives.”

The IECA is uniquely positioned to assist the region in establishing successful C-PACE programs that will support greater economic development activity, as well as facilitate developing high performing buildings through the installation of energy efficiency and clean energy technologies.

The IECA is an Illinois tax exempt 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization that was formed out of a commitment to bring C-PACE program administration to the Chicagoland area. For more information on IECA visit www.iecaPACE.org.

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About The Illinois Energy Conservation Authority

The Illinois Energy Conservation Authority NFP, IECA, is a not-for-profit organization that was formed out of a commitment to bring innovative PACE program administration to the Chicagoland area. The IECA has compiled a team of partners, advisors and consultants with deep ties to the region and nearly eight years of experience in PACE around the country. The IECA is uniquely positioned to assist the Chicagoland area in establishing successful commercial PACE programs that will support greater economic development activity, as well as contribute to developing high performing buildings through installation of energy efficiency and clean energy technologies.

*Source: PACE Nation