



September 23, 2019

The Honorable Lori Lightfoot
Office of the Mayor
City Hall
121 N. LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Mayor Lightfoot,

Congratulations on your historic election. We are writing to introduce ourselves and offer our assistance in meeting Chicago's climate goals.

We are a Task Force on Buildings and Grid Modernization developed out of Chicago Advanced Energy, a stakeholder group made up of high-impact energy leaders committed to Chicago's clean, equitable future. Chicago Advanced Energy is the founding city chapter of Advanced Energy Group (AEG). In conjunction with the Mayor's Office of each city, AEG facilitates quarterly, stakeholder meetings in Chicago, New York, Washington D.C., Boston and San Francisco. In a unique partnership of public and private sectors, volunteer Task Forces organize each quarter to collaborate on specific 12 month solutions based on identified priority challenges to the city's clean energy and resiliency goals.

The City of Chicago has committed to the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement, including a 26-28% reduction of 2005 greenhouse gas levels by 2025. As of 2017, the city was 40% of the way toward meeting this goal, but substantial progress is still necessary. Energy use in buildings represents over 70% of the city's current greenhouse gas emissions. Although various efforts have been made over the past decade, *the City will need to expand and intensify its focus on building energy efficiency improvements to meet our 2025 climate goals.* Initial carbon reductions have typically been "low hanging fruit" and have focused mainly upon large buildings. Fully meeting the Paris Climate Agreement will take a concerted effort of the city's stakeholders, including public and private property owners.

The Chicago Energy Benchmarking Ordinance, applicable to most buildings over 50,000 square feet, was updated late 2017. A new four-star scoring system for large buildings has gone into effect this year. Our Chicago Advanced Energy Task Force would like to support the City of Chicago to engage our largest building owners and operators to help identify the challenges to faster emission reductions. Our Task Force is willing to collaborate with the City and our stakeholder network to identify scalable solutions per these challenges. Our volunteer efforts will build upon the best practices and progress to date of Retrofit Chicago. Together, the City of Chicago and our Chicago Advanced Energy Task Force could drive further carbon emission reductions through the delivery of targeted policy, technical, financial and/or other solutions. We hope to demonstrate measurable, carbon reduction benefits of a transparent, volunteer collaboration to other property owners and cities. In the process, Chicago will move closer to achieving its noble and needed climate goals.

Cities have been called the new laboratories of democracy, where various stakeholders experiment with policies and partnerships until they find something that works. Chicago Advanced Energy is working in this tradition. New York City recently passed the landmark Climate Mobilization Act, laying the groundwork for New York's own Green New Deal. We have been encouraged that a major global city can tackle such an aspirational goal. We hope to help advance Chicago's own goals through our grassroots efforts with this Task Force on Buildings and Grid Modernization.

We would very much appreciate the opportunity to meet and discuss how our Task Force and Chicago Advanced Energy can support your administration's efforts to reach Chicago's climate goals. Please let us know what would work.

Sincerely,

Chicago Advanced Energy 19Q2 Task Force - Buildings and Grid Modernization including:

H.G. Chissell, Founder & CEO, Advanced Energy Group, Exec. Director, Chicago Advanced Energy
Tim Condon, Principal, Verde Advisors, Board Advisor, Advanced Energy Group
Jenny Carney, Vice President of Sustainability, Energy, and Climate Change, WSP
Jessica Huseman, Sustainability Specialist, United Airlines
Jon Horek, Professional Engineer
Chris Saltz, Managing Principal, FIX Consulting