Climate Framework and Laws The 2016 Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA) is Illinois’s defining comprehensive climate legislation. The Act updated the state’s renewable portfolio standard (RPS), net energy metering, and energy-efficiency standards, as well as established a new zero-emissions credits plan. FEJA requires the state’s two biggest electric utilities to expand their energy-efficiency programs and reduce electricity waste, creates a community solar program, devotes $750 million to programs that provide training for new energy jobs, and requires a minimum of 3,000 megawatts (MW) of new solar power and 1,300 MW of new wind power to be built in the state by 2030.

Power Generation The Energy Infrastructure Modernization Act of 2011 (PA 097-0616) authorized the implementation of a 10-year, $2.6 billion investment program to strengthen the existing electric system through adoption of smart meters, real-time pricing programs, and other smart-grid enabled programs. Under the direction of FEJA, the Illinois Power Agency created the state’s long-term renewable resources procurement plan, which outlines the procurement of 666 MW of community and distributed solar by the end of 2021. In addition, FEJA sets up Illinois Solar for All, a low-income solar deployment and job-training program that provides increased access to clean energy for low-income households.
communities through incentives that help make solar installations more affordable.

**Energy Efficiency** FEJA mandates that the state’s two biggest electric utilities cut electricity waste by 21.5% and 16% cumulative persisting annual savings by 2030, respectively. FEJA also dedicates $25 million per year to energy-efficiency programs for low-income households through 2030. The Energy Efficient Building Act (20 ILCS 3125/) requires all new commercial and residential construction for which a building permit application is received by a municipality or county to follow a comprehensive statewide energy conservation code.

**Transportation** Illinois EPA is establishing the Driving a Cleaner Illinois program to administer Environmental Mitigation Trust funds from the Volkswagen Settlement. The program has funded compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles and electric public transit buses, and current funding is available through the program to replace old diesel school buses with new all-electric school buses. Rebuild Illinois, the state’s $45 billion, 6-year capital plan, includes $70 million for transportation electrification efforts and $70 million for solar on state facilities.

**Climate Finance** The Renewable Energy Resource Fund, which was initially funded with compliance payments made by retail electric suppliers as part of their RPS obligations, is being used to fund the Illinois Solar for All program, which provides incentives for low-income distributed generation, community solar projects, and solar job training programs.

**Natural and Working Lands** The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has several conservation programs, including the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), the Coastal Management Program, Green Infrastructure Grants, and flood mitigation efforts. Illinois’ forests have sequestered 343 million tons of carbon, and the state’s 2018 Forest Action Plan includes considerations of climate change on its forests.