



energyillinois.org and SIU ECO

A Brief Introduction



Background and current climate in CO

- ❖ Let's be honest - the world's not doing great right now.
 - COVID-19, Economic Troubles, Uncertain Future
 - The Southern Illinois region may be particularly affected by this downturn
- ❖ Businesses are struggling. What can we do to help them out?
 - More than 80% of small business owners are concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on their business
- ❖ Students are struggling right now, too
 - Many students feel purposeless and directionless in the new climate
 - What can we do to help them make up for lost time?
 - “Pass on what you have learned” - Yoda

Business Needs

- ❖ There are a lot of resources available to larger businesses and industrial facilities who have the assets and time to devote to energy audit and efficiency projects, however:
 - DS2 and some DS3 businesses, as well as larger residential buildings, have similar needs but either:
 - Are not aware of the alternative options available to them.
 - Are not fully utilizing these resources

- ❖ How can we make these educational and practical resources available to them?
 - We can compile various energy fund and incentive applications and use customer data to fill out forms and send incentive requests.
 - DCEO Programs, Ameren Programs, ComEd programs, AIEC incentives, IMEA incentives, and more
 - We can even use this demographic and usage data to suggest changes outside the scope of incentive programs.

Energyillinois.org energy resource repository

- ❖ The website will have **three groups** of users, each of which will receive their own summary in this presentation.
- ❖ You can login as an **“Energy Client”** and get information/ask questions.
- ❖ You can register as a **“Student Advisor”** and be placed in one of a few teams based on your interests and location.
- ❖ You can register as an **“Energy Expert”** (APEC member, professor, etc) and be either placed as a team lead or an adjacent position.
- ❖ Some clients will be **randomly selected** for detailed energy audits performed by student consultant/energy expert **teams** .



EnergyIllinois.org

We are energy professionals and students who want to help you save money on energy.

LOG IN

First Time Here?



Take Our Free Questionnaire



Schedule a Free Consultation



Popular forum posts today:

Your first category	Topics	Posts	Last post
Your first forum Description of your first forum.	4	9	by lutvia → Wed Apr 09, 2014 2:28 pm
Your second forum Description of your second forum	2	2	by PixelGoose → Mon Apr 15, 2013 7:31 pm

See what our clients have said!

Shelly H. - Marion, IL



"Great Resource!"



Bobby G. - Marion, IL



"Friendly Students!"



Jeff D. - Pinckneyville, IL



"I saved \$50 / Month for my business!"



Energy Client Options

❖ Energy Clients can:

- Fill out **forms** and **questionnaires** to get more info on what they can do to be efficient
- Provide **data** for the experts and student consultants to help them build an energy plan
- Receive **energy reports** based on form data and interview consultants
 - Auto-generated **Summary Reports** which estimate how each appliance contributes to their overall energy use
 - Detailed **Full Reports** which gives info on what routes they can take to mitigate energy use. (This is a service based on need/random selection).
- Post questions and receive timely answers within the **forum**



Welcome, Jean Luc! You have 4 notifications.

Chat with an Energy Consultant:

< **William Riker**
Active Now

Hello! I am installing a Nest thermostat I received from the Ameren incentive program and I have a question about the C wire attachment.

Sure thing! What can I help you with?



You Have a New Information Request!

[Click Here to View!](#)



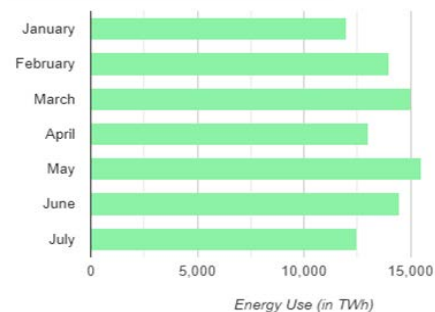
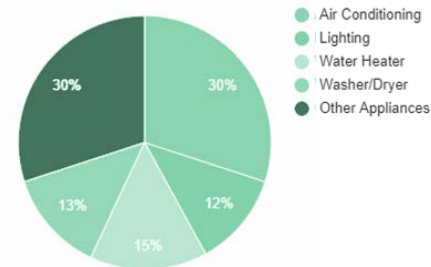
Your Full Energy Report is Available!

[Click Here to View!](#)

[Ask a Question on the Forum](#)



Energy Report Summary





Home ▾

Forum ▾

Services ▾

Forms ▾

About ▾



Welcome, Jean Luc! You have **3** forum threads with new replies.

TOPICS

Solar Panels

HVAC Systems

Insulation

Lighting

Appliances

Program Questions

FAQ

Solar Panels



Your first forum

Description of your first forum.

Topics

4

Posts

9

Last post

by [lutvia](#) →
Wed Apr 09, 2014 2:28 pm



Your second forum

Description of your second forum

2

2

by [PixelGoose](#) →
Mon Apr 15, 2013 7:31 pm



Your third forum

Description of your third forum

2

3

by [PixelGoose](#) →
Fri Sep 12, 2014 5:31 pm

Student Consultant Options

- ❖ When a student signs up to be a consultant, they will be required to take a brief course which will:
 - Provide them with the basic information they need about the program.
 - Assist them in navigating the site and operating as a team.
 - Give them the requisite knowledge to fulfill simple client requests.
 - End with a quiz with a score threshold, the passing of which will place them on a list of potential candidates to be reviewed by program administrators
- ❖ Students will be tasked with the following:
 - Working on group projects with energy experts to build their own skills
 - Answering client questions/aiding discussions in the Forum
 - If willing, live chat with clients to help them find information
 - Assist in data collection and processing
- ❖ For the time being, these will largely be SIUC engineering students



Welcome, Jean Luc! You have 4 notifications.

Chat with Clients:

<  **William Riker**
Active Now

Hello! I am installing a Nest thermostat I received from the Ameren incentive program and I have a question about the C wire attachment.

Sure thing! What can I help you with?



There Are New Client
Forum Posts!

[Click Here to View!](#)



"Solar in Jackson County"
Project has new tasks!

[Click Here to View!](#)

Current Project Summary

Name:

Solar in Jackson County

Project Lead:

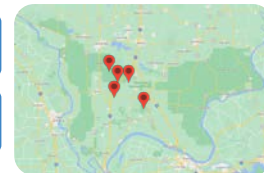
Geordi LaForge

Current Tasks:

- **Assess Solar Availability in Local Markets**
- **Vet Client Data for Missing Information**
- **Build Cost Model Based On Client Data**

[Client List](#)

[View Data](#)



Energy Expert Options

- ❖ Energy Experts will have administrative access to the site. They can:
 - Construct custom projects and build student “teams” to perform tasks
 - Have full access to the forum (delete and edit posts, etc)
 - Use simple form builder feature to construct custom questionnaires for clients to fill out
 - Access any and all client data via in-site display or CSV or other format exports.
 - Give permissions and privileges to student volunteers (chat, forum posting, etc)
- ❖ Energy Experts will also aid in developing the Student Curriculum
 - Their specific experience and industry knowledge is essential to the wider applicability of the knowledge students gain in the program.
 - Projects should reflect experts’ specific interests and areas of expertise. Experts can build groups with students who have generally similar interests (e.g. heating/cooling, residential vs business, etc)
- ❖ Energy Experts will have access to the client data they collect.
 - This data will help them to build projects and assess the different needs of the community
 - It may also help them in their own energy audit work



Home ▾

Forum ▾

Services ▾

Forms ▾

About ▾



Welcome, Geordi! You have 3 notifications

Current Project Summary

Name:

Solar in Jackson County

Project Lead:

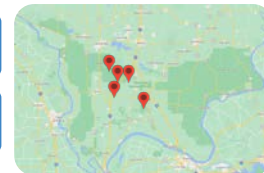
Geordi LaForge

Current Tasks:

- **Assess Solar Availability in Local Markets**
- **Vet Client Data for Missing Information**
- **Build Cost Model Based On Client Data**

Client List

View Data



Build a Custom Client Form



Answer Questions on Forum



Edit Existing Custom Project



Create New Custom Project



Chat with Clients:

<  **William Riker**
Active Now

Hello! I am installing a Nest thermostat I received from the Ameren incentive program and I have a question about the C wire attachment.

Sure thing! What can I help you with?



We are looking for Energy Expert Volunteers

❖ Practical Knowledge is the Key to this Program!

- We can only go so far with our skills; we will need your help advising us as program developers and instructing future students
- Skill and experience can be applied to help bring up a new generation of energy efficiency advocates
- Where allowed, students will benefit immensely from even workplace observation

❖ We'll be looking for volunteers to assist us in leading longer-term projects and audits.

- Students will be placed in larger cohorts based on location, skill, and interests for one or more hands-on projects per semester
- We'll need highly knowledgeable instructors to help guide them through these learning experiences and use the data at hand to help put together custom projects that will develop student skills and pique their interests.
- That being said, the form builder and common interest/skill features which will be implemented will make these decisions and designs easier by streamlining the data collection and client/student selection processes.

Resources Available to Us

- ❖ This effort is so far entirely self-funded
 - I am hosting the web server myself at present and developing the website by hand.
 - I am building this project in such a way that it initially requires as few resources as possible to get started, other than students and expertise.
- ❖ SIUC will also be providing resources, the specifics of which are currently in the works.
 - We will likely be working with **ACERC, the Advanced Coal and Energy Research Center** .
 - Also we will be assisted by the **SIU Sustainability Office**
- ❖ In the future (probably post-COVID), we will be looking for more educational grants and other funding sources for the students of the program.
- ❖ Some projects may need funding of some kind. We would like to put money together for possible Energy Expert projects as well.

Thank You So Much for Attending!

- ❖ Please let me know if you have any questions!
 - I would appreciate and value any feedback or thoughts on this project!
- ❖ Next steps: Recruit a few Energy Experts, Build website front/back end; tweak/develop curriculum for students.
 - First draft of website could be ready by the end of the year, depending on interest in the project.
 - We will also be building some initial forms and questionnaires based on the information required to apply for various incentive programs.