



Industrial Concierge
Energy Resources Center



Illinois Industrial Concierge Kick-Off Workshop & Industrial Heat Pump Bootcamp

October 6-7
Elgin Community College

On October 6 and 7, the Energy Resources Center at the University of Illinois Chicago and the Industrial Heat Pump Alliance are hosting a joint in-person event for industry in Illinois:

- **Industrial Concierge Kick-Off Workshop:** Join the Energy Resources Center for a half-day kick-off workshop for the new Illinois Clean Industry Concierge. The Clean Industry Concierge was created to help Illinois industrial facilities navigate, coordinate and access funding opportunities, get support in designing and implementing decarbonization measures, and provide strong guidance on industry best practices in efficient and cost-effective low-carbon technologies and processes. The workshop will outline the various services and resources provided through the Clean Industry Concierge.
- **Industrial Heat Pump Bootcamp:** Building on the previous day's learnings, join the IHP Alliance for a full-day Bootcamp on Wednesday, October 7 to deepen your understanding of industrial heat pumps (IHPs). The IHP Bootcamp is designed to prepare industrial energy managers, efficiency implementers, engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) professionals, and other industry practitioners to navigate key considerations for IHP deployment. If your role involves evaluating and implementing energy efficiency and electrification projects at existing manufacturing plants or designing new industrial facilities, this Bootcamp is for you!

Brief Agenda

October 6

- 11:30-12:00pm – Attendee Registration, *Building E*
- 12:00-5:15pm – **Industrial Concierge Kick-Off Workshop**, *Building E*
- 5:30-6:30pm – Reception, *Building S*

October 7

- 8:30-9am – Attendee Registration & Light Breakfast, *Building S*
- 9am-4pm – **Industrial Heat Pump Bootcamp**, *Building S*

Participants may earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs). Certifications of attendance are available upon request for self-reporting.

Find additional details about the events below.

Illinois Clean Industry Concierge

The Clean Industry Concierge was created to help Illinois industrial facilities navigate, coordinate and access funding opportunities, get support in designing and implementing decarbonization measures, and provide strong guidance on industry best practices in efficient and cost-effective low-carbon technologies and processes. The Clean Industry Concierge will provide the following support:

- **Contractor and Supply Chain Connections and Education.** Establish networks between manufacturers, contractors, and suppliers working with lower-carbon materials and products.
- **Strategic Planning Support and In-Plant Assessments.** Acting as the main point of contact for manufacturers, the concierge will disseminate information about programs, incentives, and opportunities for decarbonization, ensuring that companies are well-informed and able to take full advantage of available resources. The concierge will provide in-plant assessments that determine the least cost pathway towards net-zero.
- **Workforce Training Liaison and Intern Placement.** Creating a feedback loop with workforce training programs to identify and address skill gaps, ensuring the workforce is equipped to support the transition to cleaner manufacturing processes and practices.
- **Clean Industry Planning and Stakeholder Engagement.** Facilitating communication between manufacturers and stakeholders, including communities and partnership organizations, to promote comprehensive support and engagement in decarbonization.

Kick-Off Workshop Agenda

Hosted by:

The Energy Resources Center at the University of Illinois Chicago
The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Location: Elgin Community College, Building E

Date: October 6, 2026

Start: 12:00 PM

11:30 – 12:00 – Attendee Registration

12:00 – 12:10 – Welcome & Opening Remarks

Speakers:

- Graeme Miller, University of Illinois Chicago
- John DeRosa, Illinois EPA

12:10 – 12:30 – Climate Pollution Reduction Grants - Illinois Overview and Importance

Speaker: JC Kibbey, Illinois Governor's Office

12:30 – 1:10 – Decarbonizing Illinois Manufacturing - Roadmap for the Future

Speaker: Allie Jobe, RMI

1:10 – 1:50 – Experience from the Industrial Sector

Speaker: TBD - Illinois Manufacturer Association [invited]

1:50 – 2:00 – Break

2:00 – 4:00 – Industrial Concierge Technical Assistance

Moderator: Todd Rusk, University of Illinois System EnergySense Resilience Center

Speakers:

- Faaran Bangash - Full Decarbonization Technical Assistance
- Marcello Pibiri - Technical Assistance for Biomethane Projects
- Ben Campbell - Technical Assistance for Fluorinated Gas Replacement Projects
- Johana Bedolla - Workforce Development Programs
- Carolina Pizzutto - Carbon Credit Assistance Program

4:00 – 5:00 – Available Financial Resources

Moderator: Jay Solomon, University of Illinois Extension

Speakers:

- Biomethane Incentives - Adena Rivas, Illinois EPA
- Fluorinated Gas Incentives - Emee Patton, Illinois EPA
- Utility Industrial Programs - Kit White, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance

5:00 – 5:15 – Conclusion and Next Steps

Speaker: Graeme Miller, University of Illinois Chicago

5:30 – 6:30 – Reception

Industrial Heat Pump Bootcamp

The Bootcamp will dive deep into techno-economic considerations for IHP deployment to help you refine the portfolio of technologies and resources you consider for your own operations or recommend to industrial end-users. The full-day interactive program will feature expert speakers and opportunities for peer learning and networking. From planning process integration to securing financing and navigating utility considerations, you will leave the Bootcamp with actionable insights to support the evaluation, planning, and execution of successful IHP projects.

By attending this Bootcamp, you will:

- **Understand Industrial Heat Pumps:** Learn about the mechanisms, types, and applications of IHPs, as well as their environmental and operational benefits.
- **Integrate Heat Pumps into Existing Systems:** Understand best practices for integrating IHPs into industrial processes, including real-world case studies showcasing successful implementations.
- **Navigate Utility Considerations:** Learn how utility rate structures, infrastructure, and rebates impact project feasibility and how to engage utilities effectively.
- **Simplify Financial Planning:** Explore financing models, understand cost structures, and discover available grants and incentives to support the business case for IHPs.
- **Secure Buy-In:** Develop strategies to present a compelling financial and operational case to finance and facility teams.

If you have questions, see the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and reach out to Ruth Checknoff (ruth@dgardiner.com) and Fikayo Omotesho (fomotesho@aceee.org).

Bootcamp Agenda

Hosted by:

Industrial Heat Pump Alliance

The IHP Alliance is a collaborative initiative between ACEEE, NEMA, and RTC

Date: October 7, 2026

Location: Elgin Community College, Building S

Start: 9:00am

8:30 – 9:00 – Attendee Registration & Light Breakfast

9:00 – 9:20 – Welcome, Overview, and Introductions

Speaker: Ruth Checknoff, Renewable Thermal Collaborative

9:20 – 10:00 – Introduction to Industrial Heat Pumps

Speaker: Steve Koski, Cascade Energy

10:00 – 10:15 – Coffee Break

10:15 – 11:15 – Process Integration

Speaker: Rajkumar Gnanaraj, Armstrong International

11:15 – 11:45 – End User Perspectives: Technical Integration & Real World Case Studies

Speaker: Andy Lempera, PepsiCo

11:45 – 12:30 – Lunch Break (Provided)

12:30 – 1:00 – Utility Incentive Landscape

1:00 – 1:45 – Utility-Aware Project Design

Speaker: Skye Lawrence, Ampere

1:45 – 2:00 – Coffee Break

2:00 – 2:45 – Financing & Business Case Development

2:45 – 3:45 (60 min) – Developing Your IHP Project Plan

Speaker: Rick Wenger, atlas602

3:45 – 4:00 (15 min) – Closing Remarks & Next Steps

Speaker: Ruth Checknoff, Renewable Thermal Collaborative

Frequently Asked Questions

Please reach out to Ruth Checknoff (ruth@dgardiner.com) and Fikayo Omotesho (fomotesho@aceee.org) with any questions not answered below.

- *Is there a virtual option?*
 - The October 7 IHP Bootcamp will not include a virtual option. However, the IHP Alliance is hosting another in-person IHP Bootcamp in Michigan this fall, and a virtual IHP Bootcamp in Q1 2027.
- *I'm not an engineer. Can I register for this event?*
 - Yes! While an engineering background is helpful, it is not necessary to participate in the Bootcamp. If your work focuses on industrial facilities and you think the Bootcamp will help you better consider opportunities for IHP deployment, we encourage you to register.
- *I'm an IHP supplier. Can I register for this event?*
 - Yes, you may register for the Bootcamp. As a supplier, you may already be familiar with the content we will discuss during the Bootcamp, but it could also be a good opportunity to share insights from your experience on the supply side. Please note that this event will be run in compliance with anti-trust rules, so all discussions will be either pre-competitive or non-competitive.
- *How do you determine the content and speakers?*



- o The Bootcamp curriculum aims to walk participants through technical details, economic considerations, and project development steps that are critical to understand before pursuing an IHP project. The IHP Alliance team tailors the content of each Bootcamp to the audience, and welcomes input and questions from participants upon registration. We select speakers within the IHP Alliance's network who are well-positioned to share insights on these topics and address participant questions. If you would like to be considered for a speaking opportunity at future IHP Alliance Bootcamps, please reach out to Ruth Checknoff (ruth@dgardiner.com) and Fikayo Omotesho (fomotesho@aceee.org).
- *Are there any resources I should review to help me prepare for the Bootcamp?*
 - o Yes! The IHP Alliance and our partners have several resources you can review ahead of time. We highly recommend reviewing the following resources ahead of the Bootcamp:
 - [How to Get an Industrial Heat Pump for Your Facility: A Resource Guide](#)
 - [Industrial Heat Pump Procurement Toolkit](#)
 - [RTC Heat Pump Decision Support Tools](#)
 - See more: <https://industrialheatpumpalliance.org/resources/>