

A large green circle containing the text 'August 25th, 2022', 'CHICAGO WILDERNESS', 'Cafe', and '• DIVERSE VOICES • GREEN VISION • UNITED REGION'. The background of the slide is a photograph of a wetland area with yellow wildflowers in the foreground and a body of water reflecting the sky in the background.

August 25th, 2022

CHICAGO WILDERNESS

Cafe

• DIVERSE VOICES •
GREEN VISION • UNITED REGION

The Inflation Reduction Act and Climate Opportunities: What Do We Know So Far?

Agenda:

- I. Introduction
- II. Opening Poll
- III. Setting the stage: CW Climate Goals
- IV. Review of Inflation Reduction Act
- V. Identifying information gaps
- VI. Discussion/ Q&A
- VII. Closing

Presenters:

- **Ted Haffner (Chicago Wilderness Climate Goal Lead)**
- **Ellicia Sanchez (The Nature Conservancy in Illinois, Government Relations Associate)**
- **Mike Brunk (IDNR, Urban and Community Forestry Program Administrator)**



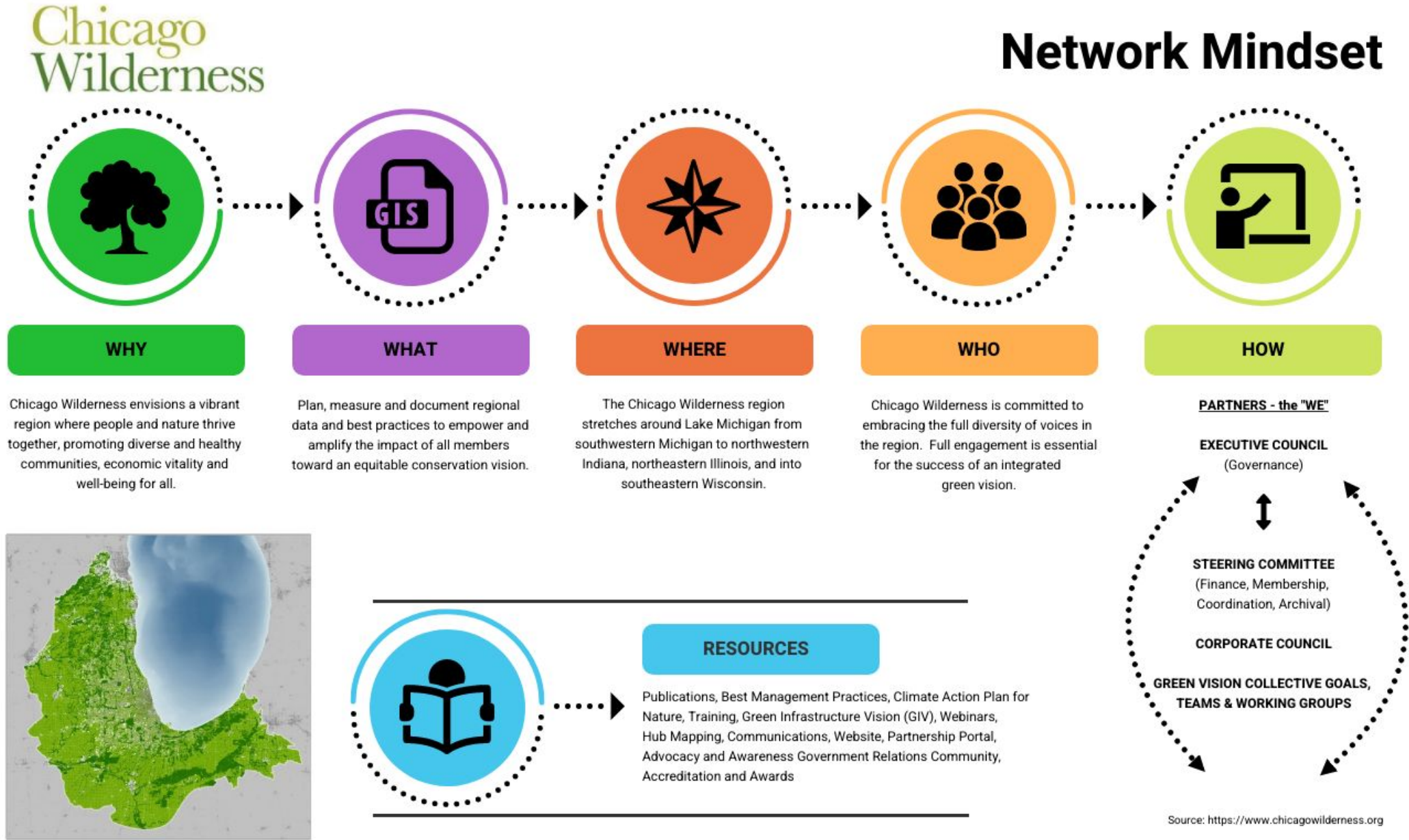
With Appreciation

Because trees are important to equity as well as to human health, this CW Cafe is supported by the [US Forest Service](#) and the [Illinois Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry Program](#).

The funding supports workshops and trainings so Chicago Wilderness can help more communities improve urban tree canopy forests across the region, including through participation in [Tree City USA](#).

These institutions are an equal opportunity provider.

Chicago Wilderness Alliance and Structure

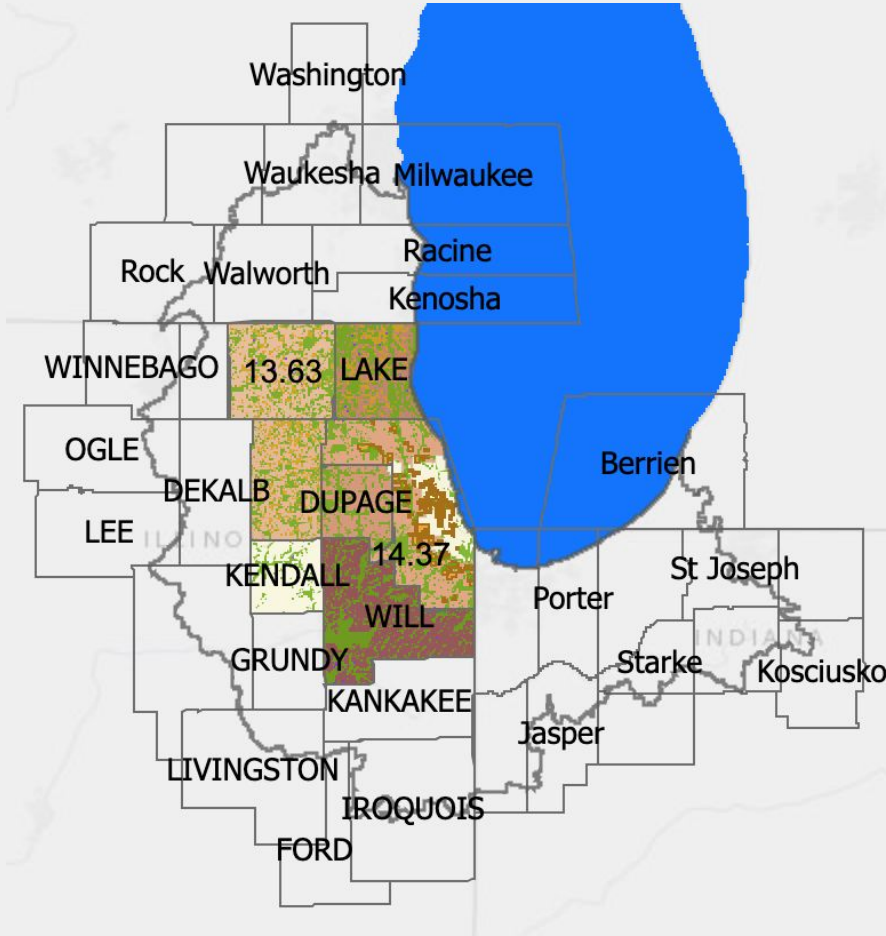


Chicago Wilderness Alliance, Structure & Climate Work

GREEN VISION - 2025

chicago wilderness

HUB



THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT: SETTING THE STAGE

THE BASICS

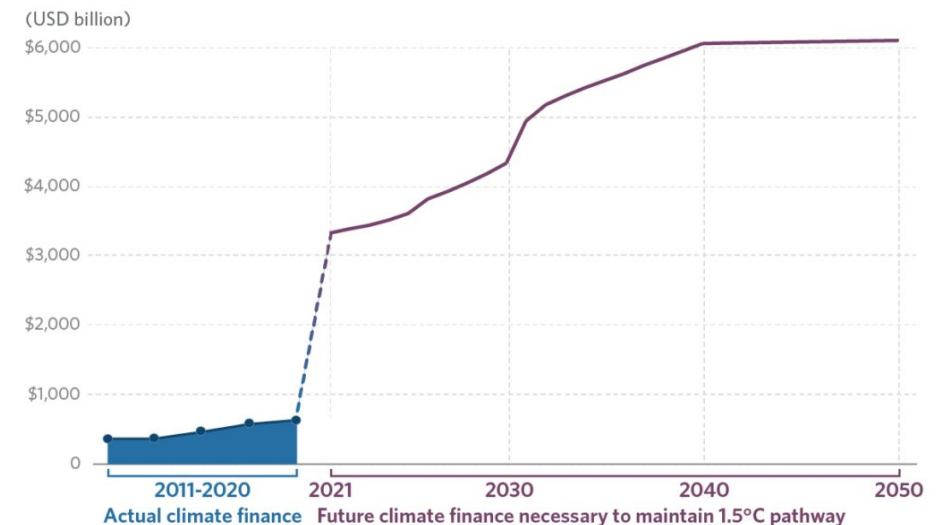
- Signed by President Biden on August 16th
- Approximately \$369 billion in climate and clean energy investments
- 40% emissions reductions by 2030
- 730 pages, new funding and new programs
- Rollout: over next ten years

TITLES OF INTEREST

- Air quality/ emissions reductions
- Climate-smart agriculture
- Environmental justice and connected communities
- Forestry and resiliency



Figure 3: Global tracked climate finance flows and the average estimated annual climate investment need through 2050



Chicago Wilderness Quick Analysis and IRA Notes

Calendar Year

~ 1/3 of Bill

~ 1/2 of Bill

Remainder of Bill

2022

2023

2024

2025

2026

2027

2028

2029

2030

2031

2032

2033

2034

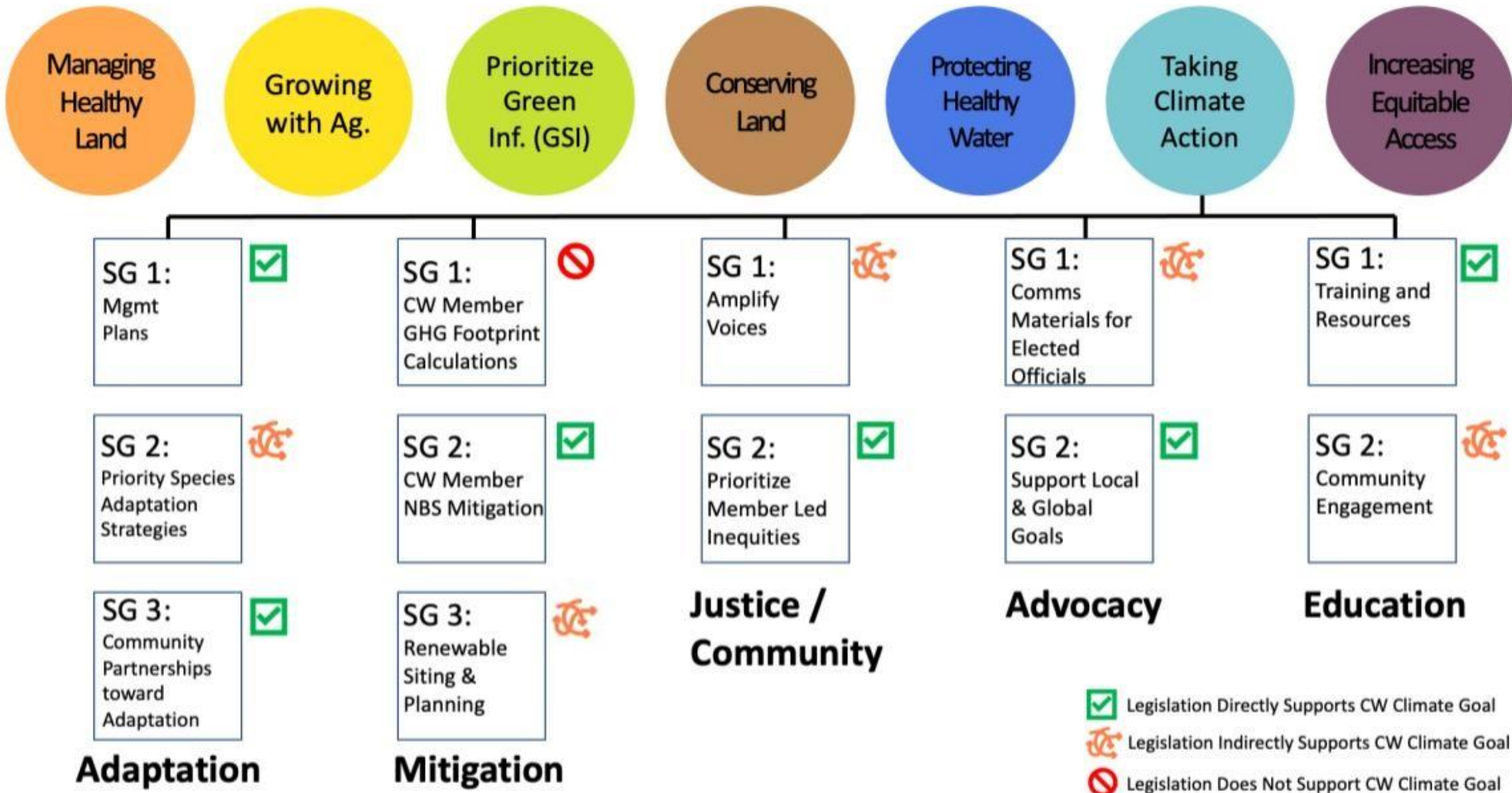
Prescription Drug
Pricing

Tax Incentives and
credits for Renewables,
Evs and EV
Infrastructure as well as
Hydrogen, C Capture,
etc...

Incentives for NBS,
Community Related
Resilience,
Environmental Justice
Initiatives, Technical
Assistance and
Direct/Indirect Grants

- Good: credits for wind/solar and increased credits above baseline for EJ Communities
- Mixed: Nuclear, Carbon Capture, and Biofuels
- Interesting: Hydrogen, Aviation Fuels, Much of the funding allocations include the phrase “Out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated”

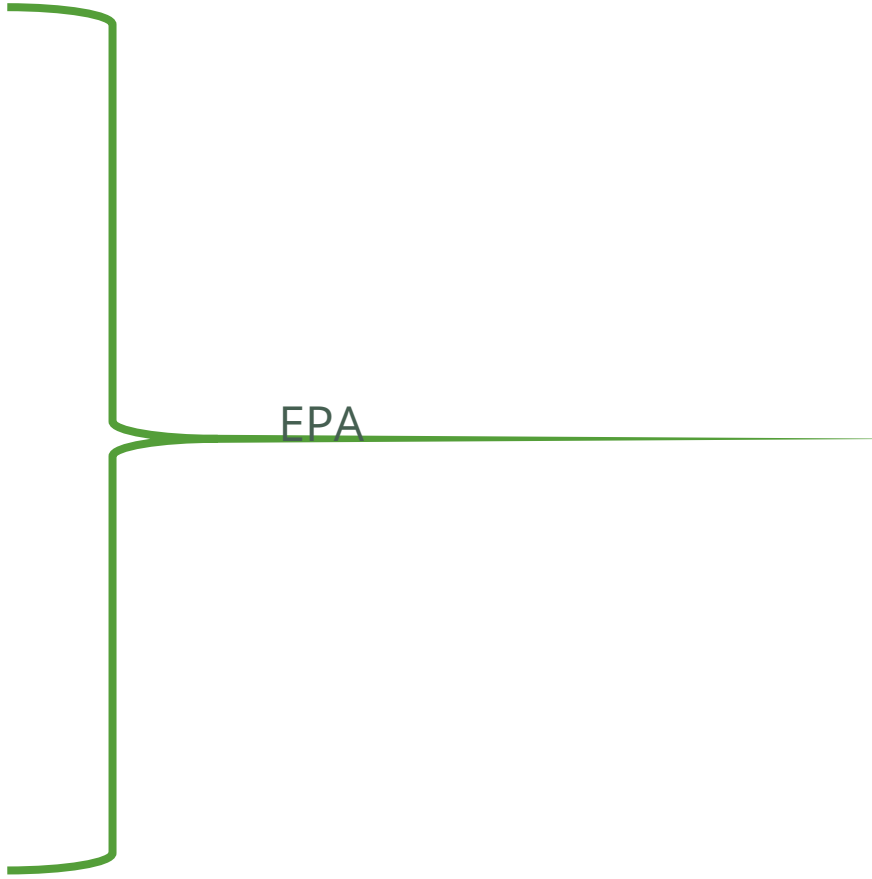
Chicago Wilderness Climate Goal Relationships to IRA



AIR QUALITY & EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS PROVISIONS

Chicago Wilderness Green Vision Goal: Taking Climate Action

- Methane emissions reduction program
 - **1.55 billion** in grants, rebates, loans to oil and gas sector
 - To reduce emissions from petroleum and natural gas systems
 - Requires EPA to update Greenhouse Gas Registry
- Climate pollution plans
 - **5 billion** in competitive grants to states, territories, tribes, municipalities
 - Empower local units of gov't to implement comprehensive emissions reductions plans
 - Defers to local perspective
- Clean Ports
 - **3 billion** investment
 - Reduce air pollution and carbon emissions in transportation sector
 - Decrease dependence on diesel and foreign fuels
- Cleaner medium and heavy-duty vehicles
 - **1 billion** investment
 - Address emissions from transportation sector
 - Cover cost of replacing medium & heavy duty vehicles with zero-emitting vehicles



EPA

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROVISIONS

Chicago Wilderness Green Vision Goal: Taking Climate Action

- **3 billion** for Climate Justice Block Grants
 - Provides states, tribes, municipalities and nonprofits with technical and financial assistance to address air pollution in frontline communities
 - Competitive, 3 year grants
 - Flexible uses
- **476 million** for air quality monitoring
 - Provides financial assistance for states, schools, and businesses to update air quality monitoring technology
 - Encourages exploration of new technology to reclaim and destroy toxins such as HFCs
- **33 million** for EJ mapping
 - To better track which communities face disproportionate burden
 - Administered by Council on Environmental Quality



AGRICULTURE PROVISIONS

Chicago Wilderness Green Vision Goal: Growing with Agriculture, Managing Healthy Landscapes

- **19.5 billion** for climate smart agriculture programs
 - Cover crop incentives (thru 2026 season)
 - 8.45 billion for the **Environmental Quality Incentives Program** (EQIP)
 - 6.75 billion for the **Regional Conservation Partnership Program** (RCPP)
 - 3.25 billion for the **Conservation Stewardship Program** (CSP)
 - 1.4 billion for the **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program** (ACEP)
 - 1 billion to boost USDA conservation technical assistance
 - USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service gets **\$300 million** to **measure carbon sequestration and emissions** on farmland
- **Rural energy:** 9.7 billion
 - 1.72 billion for Rural Energy for America Program
 - 500 million for biofuels
 - Extends the \$1 per gallon biodiesel tax credit to 2024, restarting at the beginning of 2022



USDA/NRCS

FORESTRY PROVISIONS

Chicago Wilderness Green Vision Goal: Managing Healthy Landscapes, Increasing Equitable Access

- 1.5 billion via Urban and Community Forestry Program
 - Multiyear grants to State agencies, local governments, tribes, and nonprofits
 - For tree plantings and related activities in underserved communities
 - Non-federal cost share requirements may be waived
 - For FY22-31
 - **166.6 million/yr** over nine years on top of 40± million presently provided
 - Build Urban Forest Capacity



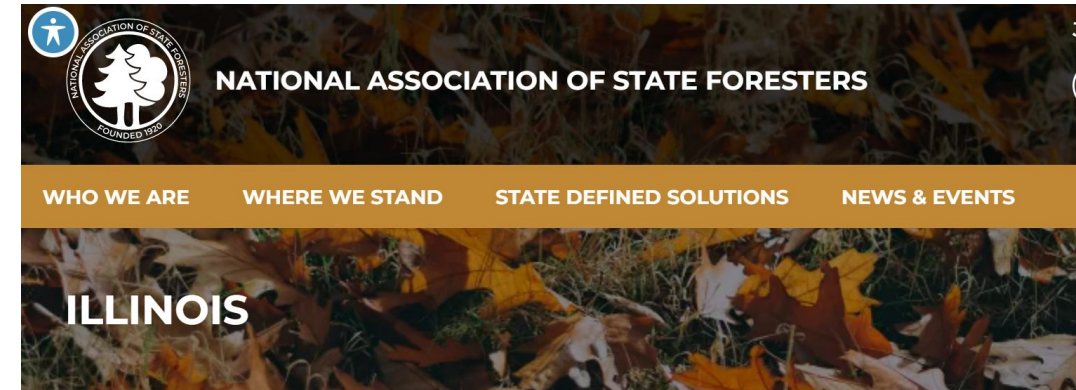
USDA/ FOREST SERVICE

DISCERNING NEXT STEPS

- Many agencies still analyzing bill
- Capacity restraints
- Leveraging partnerships, many agencies working thru lead
- Build outreach for forest preserve communities and townships (Education, Leadership, Guidance, and Resources)
- Think: MACRO-scale, community outreach, 3-5 year awards, multiple grant opportunities

Review [Illinois' Forest Action Plan](#) (Urban Forest Strategy on pgs. 59-67 for program/project direction)

**will be circulated in follow-up email*



FOREST ACTION PLAN

THE VALUE OF PROFESSIONAL FOREST STEWARDSHIP IN ILLINOIS

Trained forestry professionals and technical staff are responsible for providing information and assistance to private forest landowners, to cities and communities managing urban forests, and for continued tree nursery operations. As awareness of forest stewardship and incentive programs grow, the demand for a professional state support system will be greater than ever. The critical issue at hand is that the state of Illinois lacks a sufficient number of qualified personnel to meet the forest management needs of its citizens.

IDENTIFYING GAPS IN INFORMATION

To be determined...

- Timelines
 - Agency rollout of additional details
 - Some funds kick in immediately, and for various lengths
 - Application cycles
- Eligibility criteria
 - Which entities are eligible for what?
 - Timing constraints
 - Additional reporting, cost-share requirements, etc.
- Online resources
 - State-specific allocations
 - Agency guidebooks
 - [White House fact sheets](#)
 - [Climate and Equity summary](#)
 - [Agriculture summary](#)
 - [BW Research/ The Nature Conservancy economic analysis](#)
 - [Urban and Community Forestry Program](#)

THE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL

The Nature Conservancy commissioned BW Research to conduct a study identifying the estimated economic impacts of the climate policies included in the Inflation Reduction Act.

- Projected to support 537,000 jobs annually over next ten years
- Every year for next 10 years, **Illinois will see**
 - 21,900 jobs
 - \$343 million in state, local, and federal tax revenue
 - \$1.2 billion in employee compensation
 - \$2.4 billion added to the state economy

\$1 OF FEDERAL INVESTMENTS → \$1.42 IN ECONOMIC OUTPUT

NATIONAL NUMBERS

537,000
jobs

\$6.8B
local, state,
federal tax
revenue

\$25.9B
employee
compensation

\$50.9B
value added to
the economy

How can Chicago Wilderness be most helpful in educating partners about new public funding opportunities, such as those found in IRA?

E-Alerts on deadlines/etc

Keep us informed.

webinars, email updates

Webinars like this

As non-profits, is there any we can benefit from the new tax credits for electric cars and trucks?

Additional future webinars like this

provide periodic updates and ways to apply for funding

Small trainings, and then small discussion groups

Creating Partnerships that bring nbs resources to CW communities most in need.

Are there specific IRA grant programs/funding streams your organization has already identified as relevant to your work?

urban forestry management
forestry funds
community planning
usda-reap
eqip
ej mapping
community sustainability
urban forestry

What additional program details are needed for partners to leverage new resources from the Inflation Reduction Act?

How this fits with state and local plans. We need coordination.

Do you picture this funding going towards already established programs or looking to be seed money for new ones?

How do we reach out to organizations not typically considered environments? i.e. Chambers of commerce, Economic Development councils etc.

ONLINE RESOURCES

[White House fact sheets](#)

[Climate and Equity Summary](#)

[Agriculture summary](#)

[BW Research/ The Nature Conservancy economic analysis](#)

[Illinois BW Research/TNC economic analysis](#)

[Urban and Community Forestry Program](#)

*online resources will be circulated to all registrants via email after the webinar

Questions?

Laura Reilly, Chicago Wilderness Coordinator

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SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE CAFES

Are you a Chicago Wilderness partner with a conservation success story you'd like to share or a topic to introduce and discuss with your peers? We'd love to have you create a Cafe session!

Cafes are conducted via Zoom and typically last 1 hour. Your session should relate to one or more of the [Chicago Wilderness Green Vision goals](#).

We'll help you decide on a format for your session and can provide template slides or other assistance as needed. We'll also promote your session on social media and in our monthly newsletter.

Download our [Cafe template](#) for guidelines on how to create and hold your session.

Or contact [Laura Reilly](#) to talk through your Cafe session idea. Thanks for sharing your expertise with the Chicago Wilderness network!

Questions?

Laura Reilly, Chicago Wilderness Coordinator

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