



Climate Cycle Solar School Program Application Packet

Due Date: **Tuesday, July 5th, 2011**

The Climate Cycle Solar School Program provides schools with the opportunity to begin meeting their energy needs with renewable sources of energy. Not only does this provide clean energy to school buildings, but is most importantly an opportunity to teach our next generation about the importance of sustainable living.

Your school may be chosen to receive either photovoltaic solar panels or a solar thermal energy unit to help meet your energy needs. The solar power units and installation will be done free of charge, using money from our Ride to Recharge participant pledges and state rebates and grants. If your school is chosen, your school will be asked to help complete the necessary paperwork that will secure these rebates and grants.

All Chicago and Chicagoland public schools serving grades K-12 are eligible to complete an application. Attached to this document you will find a summary of the roles and responsibilities for each partner school. Please read these carefully and evaluate if your school will be able to fulfill its obligations.

In order to be eligible for the program a staff member must complete all items on the application by **July 5, 2011** as well as submit the attached roles and responsibilities sheet signed by the school principal *and* the school engineer by July 5, 2011. The schools chosen to participate will be notified via email by August 2, 2011.

Climate Cycle will help evaluate whether solar thermal or solar photovoltaic best fits your school. Climate Cycle does not cover the cost of maintenance at this time. A 20 year warranty on the solar panels will come standard with all installations.

If you have any questions while completing any part of the application and associated documents, please contact Climate Cycle staff at info@climatecycle.org or call (773) 942-6845.



School Contact Information

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Principal Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Lead Collaborator Teacher Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____ Grade(s) Taught: _____

Additional Teacher Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____ Grade(s) Taught: _____

Additional Teacher Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____ Grade(s) Taught: _____

School Engineer Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

It may be advantageous (although not required) to have more than one teacher as the lead collaborator with Climate Cycle.



Benefits and Expectations

School Name: _____

Principal Name: _____

Principals: The teacher(s) presenting you with this form are interested in collaboration with Climate Cycle and are applying to receive solar energy systems paid for by Climate Cycle and desire to integrate the panels into your school's curriculum and/or extra-curricular activities.

Benefits

Each solar energy recipient will receive a photovoltaic solar array or a solar thermal energy system as well as installation of the units at no cost. Climate Cycle staff visits to your school may include curricular ideas for lesson plans and feedback on in class observations of the solar/sustainability related curriculum being implemented.

Expectations

Each recipient school will be expected to:

- Use the solar panels to increase your school's energy independence.
- Create an in-school-time or out-of-school-time program to educate at least 25% of the student body about solar energy and conservation for a minimum of the next 3 years following the installation.
- Create a community outreach plan involving at least 25 members of the community for at least 20 hours a school year for a minimum of the next 3 years following the installation.
- Complete brief reports of activities and submit them to Climate Cycle so we can evaluate best practices for future solar school recipients. These will be semi-annual reports approximately 3 pages in length outlining what is being done at your school and what types of resources are needed. Please read the following and sign to indicate your understanding and agreement.



Climate Cycle Solar School Program Application

Applicants may wish to meet with their school leaders and complete this application together.

Please address these items in a separate document and limit responses to no more than 5 pages.

The due date for applications is **Tuesday July 5th, 2011**.

Applications may be emailed to info@climatecycle.org or sent to 1415 West Devon, Chicago IL, 60660.

1. What is your school's vision for conservation and use of energy?
2. Why is your school interested in working with Climate Cycle?
3. How many of you staff, students, or family members participated in Climate Cycle's Ride to Recharge?
4. What initiatives (if any) already exist in your school to address the environment and/or conservation?
5. Please describe staff members who would be involved and their qualifications and/or relevant past experiences.
6. Describe other non-profit organizations your school has collaborated with in the past (such as Sierra Club, Easter Seals, etc). What type of role did your school have in these initiatives? What did you learn from the collaboration?
7. One of the main goals of Climate Cycle is educating the school community on climate change and solar energy. How this outreach plays out will vary by school community. Some schools may wish to integrate the solar panels directly into their curriculum, while others may wish to create extracurricular activities around this and other environmental programs. Whichever approach your school takes, we believe that schools which have well-designed plans to implement the instructional use of the solar energy sources will be more ready for support and better able to share their ideas with other schools sooner to promote our idea of a suite of best practices. Keeping this in mind, what is your plan on integrating these ideas into your school and how many students do you expect to target in this endeavor?

8. Disseminating your school's experiences with the solar energy sources is an important part of your collaboration with Climate Cycle. Some schools may choose to host open houses where the community is invited to learn more about solar energy or have students give presentations to their families and friends. Describe what plans you have to ensure that your surrounding community benefits from your school's experiences with the solar energy sources.
9. Climate Cycle endeavors to ensure that strategies which work in each of our partner schools can be shared throughout Chicago and the country. To this end, we are accumulating a suite of "best practices" from the collaborating schools. Additionally, we expect that some schools may share their experiences with other schools through other avenues such as informal networks with feeder schools (schools from which many students go to a specific secondary school). In what ways might your school share some of the successful practices for implementing the instructional use of the solar energy resources?
10. Successfully implementing the instructional use of solar energy sources and disseminating your school's experiences is no small task. However, recognizing potential challenges ahead of time will help Climate Cycle understand what kind of support we might be able to provide to help your school address these challenges. What are some of the biggest challenges that might arise during the implementation of the project?
11. How do you intend to meet these challenges? What type of support might you need from Climate Cycle to help meet these challenges?
12. As Climate Cycle decides with which schools to collaborate, is there anything else you think we should know?