

# Community Energy Innovation Prize

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Clean Tech Innovation Network (CTIN)  
Resources for Public Dissemination:

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Community  
Energy

**#1- This document contains a draft version to be used as a template for community input meetings. When we hosted our community forum, we were able to collect feedback from community members. The feedback was taken into consideration when developing programs, events, and community partnerships. To ensure all voices were heard, our design session was filled with community partners, leaders, stakeholders, and business owners.**

**Group 1 aspirations:**

Who Will Use the Space?

- 1) Englewood residents / Auburn Gresham / Chicago Lawn / South Side Residents / Southwest Communities
- 2) Students / Youth / Teachers / Mentors / Entrepreneurs / Inventors / Community Members / Other Incubator Users / Engineers
- 3) Lodging? / Space for staycation
- 4) Space for dining
- 5) Tech industry / international members
- 6) Patent Attorney (Center for Ethical Concerns), cultural concerns
- 7) Community gardens/plant processing
- 8) Space for upgrade/furniture & more
- 9) Workforce development
- 10) How are we addressing adjacent assets
- 11) Control the narrative

Hurdles to Creating / Sustainability

- 1) Funding – philanthropic shifts, not having your own money
- 2) Underutilization
- 3) Coordination – partners/stakeholders/users
  - a. What are the resources needed to support the corridor?
  - b. Political shifts
- 4) Deals that take a long time (leadership issues/hurdles)
- 5) Lack of specificity
- 6) Operations

**Group 2 aspirations:**

- Multigenerational
- Support infrastructure needs for community gardens/sites with equipment
- Micro manufacturing supporting entrepreneurs
- Hydroponic gardening spaces
- Opportunities for young people
- Exposure to technologies and their opportunities
- Mentorship opportunities
- Community branding catalyst
- Glue for bonding collaborative efforts in the community
- Trade opportunities for career development
- Breakdown threshold intimidation

- Trade-focused adult summer camps
- Test and commit to opportunities about career trades (test before commitment!)
- Build confidence in individuals to pursue options (test kitchen)
- Highly visible

**Group 3 aspirations:**

- Multigenerational
- Self-sustaining
- Non-judgmental space – open and accessible to all
- Feel secure and comfortable when using the facility, safe transit to and from the facility,
  - Negative perception of security when entering vs need to be safe
- Change the perception of Englewood
- Serve artists & inventors of all ages
- Innovation in sports, entertainment, beauty/barbershop services (areas of interest to the community)
  - IP protection, “behind the scenes” business support
- Community competitions
- Clothing/fashion entrepreneurs
- Create unique items & products – small-scale production
- Cultivate talent that stays and impacts the community
- Kitchen to support culinary entrepreneurs
- Gaming – support to learn about game development
- IP security – safe space to discuss ideas & protect inventors and IP
  - Staff and resources for IP
  - Patents & Trademarks
- AI – use and integration of technology, forward-looking
- Financial support to inventors – access to grant writing & inventors
- Access to equipment that the community is interested in – draw people to the space
  - Embroidery/fashion
  - Laser cutting
- Need to prioritize programs and offerings to make the biggest impact – can’t be everything to everyone

### **Large Group Discussion of Aspirations:**

- Place to generate wealth
- Multigenerational, inviting environment / open to all
- Plant-based products/processing
- Find your niche – don’t overlap/duplicate too much with existing organizations and initiatives
  - For example, interface with and support existing community gardens instead of creating our community gardens.
- Larger target audience than just Englewood – located in Englewood but not just for Englewood residents
  - Attract talent from around the world to learn and share knowledge
- Sectors
  - Clean energy (high priority): includes solar, EV, and geothermal; could include a broad range of careers including auto mechanics and traditional trades
  - Fashion / soft goods (low priority): growing market in Chicago which is becoming known as a fashion city; fits with current trends
  - Healthcare (no priority): will new products be accepted? Is there a gap to address and an opportunity to build wealth? No
  - Small batch manufacturing (medium priority): can support collective
- Need to offer things that service the community – is there a pipeline?
- Should we target black men specifically? No, will target both men and women
- What skills does clean energy need? Electrician, mechanic, innovation
  - What skills do we want/need to prepare people with?
- Cultural concerns

- 69<sup>th</sup> St – could it be considered a tech zone corridor?
- Utilize 3D printers and traditional maker space equipment to build skills

#### **Large Group Discussion of Barriers / Constraints:**

- Funding/shifts in priorities (politically, ideologically)
- Coordination with existing organizations, facilities, and programs – not duplicative or competitive with existing efforts
- Underutilization of the space
- Poor long-term leadership – continuity in planning and operations
- Lack of specificity – too general
- Accessibility of the space – including people with disabilities
- Sustainability – investing in the right things at the right times (agile)
- Being too rigid/inflexible

#### **What does success look like?**

- Full of people using the space
- Well-coordinated with partners – local/regional
- Clean energy – clear pathways to jobs & new businesses (entrepreneurs)
- Strong operations – good staff to manage space
- Funded / sustainable
  - Follows trends & needs in clean energy jobs
- Investing in technology being developed in the space

## **Grouping of Aspirations by Themes**

- 1. Multigenerational / Open to All: The Englewood Innovation Hub aims to create a multigenerational, inclusive space where artists, inventors, and young people feel secure and comfortable. It strives to break down barriers and provide a non-judgmental, accessible environment that encourages active participation and supports individuals of all abilities.**
  - a. Multigenerational
  - b. Feel secure and comfortable when using the facility, safe transit to and from the facility,
  - c. Serve artists & inventors of all ages
  - d. Opportunities for young people
  - e. Breakdown threshold intimidation
  - f. Non-judgmental space – open and accessible to all
  - g. Multigenerational, inviting environment / open to all
  - h. Accessibility of the space – including people with disabilities
  - i. Full of people using the space
  
- 2. Green Energy: The Englewood Innovation Hub should prioritize clean energy solutions such as solar, EV, and geothermal, offering clear pathways to careers in related fields like auto mechanics, traditional trades, and innovation while equipping individuals with essential skills for jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities in the clean energy sector.**
  - a. Clean energy (high priority): includes solar, EV, and geothermal; could include a broad range of careers including auto mechanics and traditional trades
  - b. What skills does clean energy need? Electrician, mechanic, innovation
    - i. What skills do we want/need to prepare people with?
  - c. Clean energy – clear pathways to jobs & new businesses (entrepreneurs)
  
- 3. Support Entrepreneurs with Tools, Resources, and Training: The Englewood Innovation Hub should support entrepreneurs by providing comprehensive tools, resources, and training, including access to patent attorneys and IP protection, financial support and grant writing, and exposure to new technologies. It should foster a secure environment for discussing and protecting intellectual property, while also facilitating micromanufacturing and small-scale production to create unique items and products. Investing in the technology developed within the space, the Hub should ensure robust behind-the-scenes business support and development for new enterprises.**
  - a. Patent Attorney (Center for Ethical Concerns), cultural concerns
  - b. Micromanufacturing
  - c. Exposure to technologies and their opportunities
  - d. IP protection, “behind the scenes” business support
  - e. Create unique items & products – small-scale production
  - f. IP security – safe space to discuss ideas & protect inventors and IP
  - g. Staff and resources for IP
  - h. Patents & Trademarks
  - i. Financial support to inventors – access to grant writing & inventors
  - j. Small batch manufacturing (medium priority): can support collective
  - k. Investing in technology being developed in the space
  
- 4. Career exploration and training: The Englewood Innovation Hub should offer dynamic career exploration and training through mentorship opportunities, trade-focused adult summer camps, and hands-on experiences that allow individuals to test and commit to career trades before fully committing. By utilizing 3D printers and traditional maker space**

**equipment, the Hub will build confidence in individuals to pursue various career options and develop essential skills.**

- a. Mentorship opportunities
  - b. Trade-focused adult summer camps
  - c. Test and commit to opportunities about career trades (test before commitment!)
  - d. Build confidence in individuals to pursue options (test kitchen)
  - e. Utilize 3D printers and traditional maker space equipment to build skills
- 5. Flexible: The Englewood Innovation Hub should maintain a flexible physical layout and adaptable programs that can evolve with technological advancements like AI while remaining forward-looking and impactful. By prioritizing offerings to maximize impact and staying attentive to funding and shifting priorities, the Hub will ensure sustainable and relevant support for its community.**
- a. Space for upgrade/furniture & more
  - b. AI – use and integration of technology, forward-looking
  - c. Need to prioritize programs and offerings to make the biggest impact – can't be everything to everyone
  - d. Attentive to funding/shifts in priorities (politically, ideologically)
- 6. Integrate, support, and collaborate with existing community efforts: The Englewood Innovation Hub should integrate, support, and collaborate with existing community efforts by addressing adjacent assets and finding its unique niche to avoid duplication. By coordinating closely with existing organizations, facilities, and programs, the Hub will enhance rather than compete with current initiatives, ensuring well-coordinated partnerships at local and regional levels.**
- a. How are we addressing adjacent assets
  - b. Find your niche – don't overlap/duplicate too much with existing organizations and initiatives
    - i. For example, interface with and support existing community gardens instead of creating our community gardens.
  - c. Coordination with existing organizations, facilities, and programs – not duplicative or competitive with existing efforts
  - d. Well-coordinated with partners – local/regional
- 7. Local/Community economic impact (connect the community?): The Englewood Innovation Hub should actively engage and economically uplift the local community, including residents of Englewood and surrounding areas, by serving as a community branding catalyst that changes perceptions and fosters local pride. By offering community competitions, access to sought-after equipment, and programs that cultivate and retain local talent, the Hub will draw people to the space and ensure a lasting positive impact on the community.**
- a. Englewood residents / Auburn Gresham / Chicago Lawn / South Side Residents / Southwest Communities
  - b. Community branding catalyst
  - c. Change perception of Englewood
  - d. Community competitions
  - e. Cultivate talent that stays and impacts the community
  - f. Access to equipment that the community is interested in – draw people to the space
    - i. Embroidery/fashion
    - ii. Laser cutting
  - g. Need to offer things that service the community – is there a pipeline?

8. **Connect with national/global community: The Englewood Innovation Hub aims to connect with the national and global community by offering lodging options and fostering a welcoming environment for tech industry professionals and international members. It seeks to be highly visible and attract a larger target audience beyond Englewood, serving as a hub where talent from around the world can gather to exchange knowledge and collaborate on innovative projects.**
  - a. Lodging? / Space for staycation
  - b. Tech industry / international members
  - c. Highly visible
  - d. Larger target audience than just Englewood – located in Englewood but not just for Englewood residents
    - i. Attract talent from around the world to learn and share knowledge
  
9. **Self-sustaining: The Englewood Innovation Hub prioritizes sustainability by ensuring efficient space utilization, maintaining strong long-term leadership for continuity, and aligning investments with specific, agile strategies that respond to trends in clean energy jobs and community needs. It emphasizes robust operations with dedicated staff to manage the space effectively, ensuring ongoing funding and sustainability for its initiatives.**
  - a. Underutilization of the space
  - b. Poor long-term leadership – continuity in planning and operations
  - c. Lack of specificity – too general
  - d. Sustainability – investing in the right things at the right times (agile)
  - e. Strong operations – good staff to manage space
  - f. Funded / sustainable
    - i. Follows trends & needs in clean energy jobs
  
10. **Community gardens**
  - a. Community gardens/plant processing
  - b. Support infrastructure needs for community gardens/site with equipment
  - c. Hydroponic gardening spaces
11. **Plant-based products/processing**
12. **Space for dining (need to classify)**
13. **Control the narrative (in what sense?)**
14. **Innovation in sports, entertainment, beauty/barbershop services (areas of interest to the community)**
15. **Clothing/fashion entrepreneurs**
16. **Kitchen to support culinary entrepreneurs**
17. **Gaming – support to learn about game development**



## **Englewood Innovation Hub Design Principles - DRAFT**

1. The Englewood Innovation Hub is committed to fostering a multigenerational and inclusive space that promotes clean energy careers and entrepreneurship. It aims to break down barriers and provide a secure, non-judgmental environment that supports individuals of all ages and abilities, encouraging active participation and innovation.
2. The Englewood Innovation Hub empowers entrepreneurs with essential tools, resources, and training to innovate and thrive. It fosters a supportive environment for intellectual property protection and micromanufacturing, facilitating the development of new products and businesses that contribute to the growth of clean energy solutions.
3. Designed for dynamic career exploration and training, the Englewood Innovation Hub provides mentorship, hands-on experiences, and specialized programs that empower individuals to explore and commit to careers in clean energy. By leveraging advanced maker space equipment and fostering confidence in diverse skill sets, the Hub prepares individuals for impactful roles in the clean energy workforce.
4. With a focus on flexibility and innovation, the Englewood Innovation Hub adapts to emergent technological advancements and business and community needs. It maintains a flexible physical layout, operational continuity, and dynamic programming that supports sustainable growth and impact, ensuring relevance and long-term sustainability.
5. The Englewood Innovation Hub integrates seamlessly with existing community efforts, leveraging local assets and fostering collaborative partnerships. By identifying unique niches and avoiding duplication, the Hub enhances community cohesion and amplifies collective impact, enriching the local and regional ecosystem.
6. Committed to local economic empowerment, the Englewood Innovation Hub catalyzes community revitalization and pride. Through initiatives that engage residents, promote local talent, and offer access to specialized resources, the Hub drives economic growth and transforms perceptions of Englewood as a hub of innovation and opportunity.
7. Globally connected and locally rooted, the Englewood Innovation Hub welcomes diverse perspectives and fosters international collaboration. It provides a visible platform for global dialogue and knowledge exchange, attracting talent and ideas from around the world to drive innovation and address global clean energy challenges.

**#2- Below is the 2<sup>nd</sup> resource that helped us present to the community about our clean energy entrepreneurship and workforce development programs. It consists of a PowerPoint that outlines the clean energy incubator project.**

# Englewood Energy Hub

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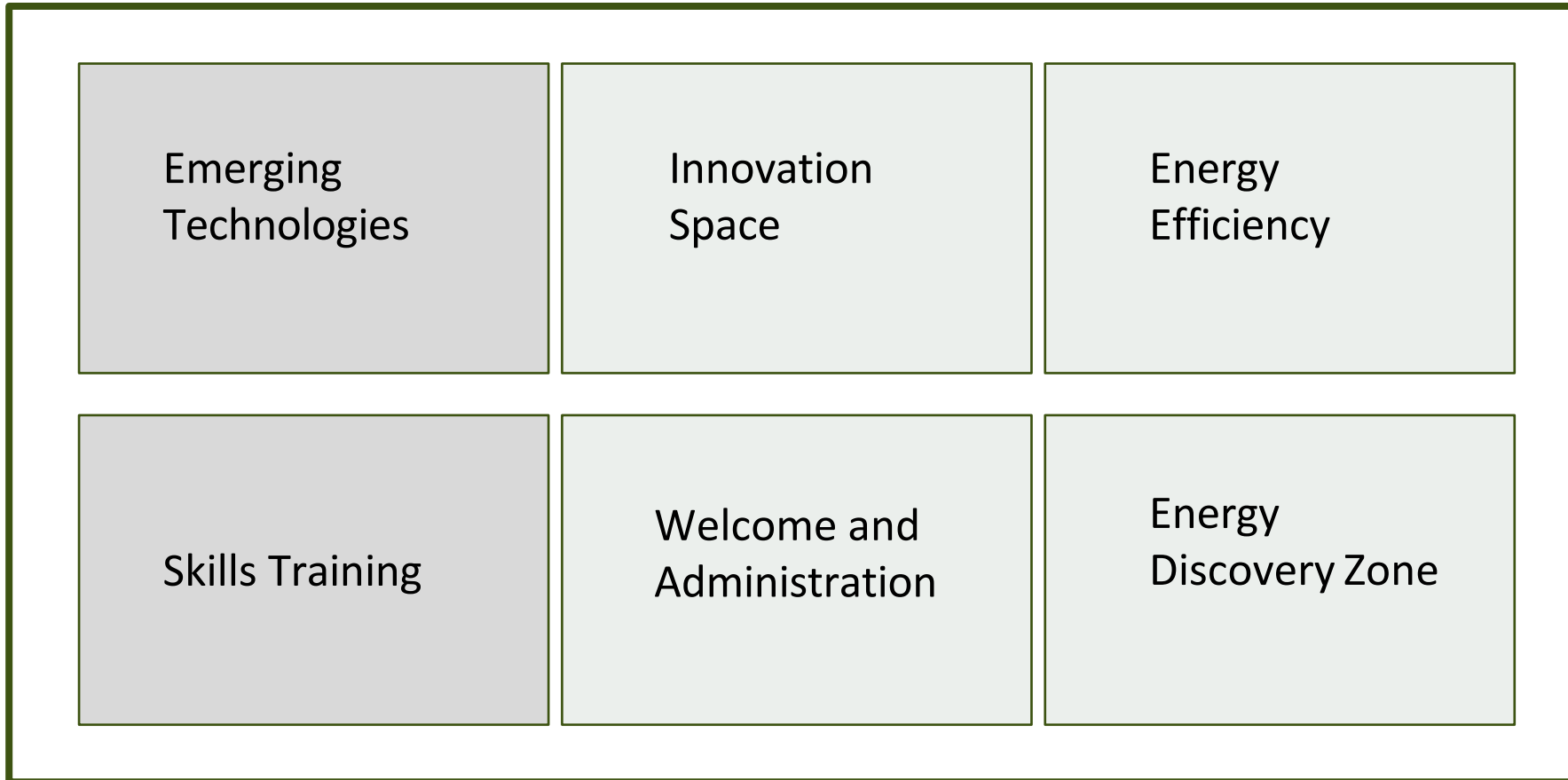
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# Potential Energy Hub Sectors

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- Energy Advanced Manufacturing
- Bio Energy
- Buildings
- Energy Analysis
- Energy Security & Resilience
- Energy Storage
- Geothermal
- Grid Modernization
- Hydrogen & Fuel Cells
- Solar
- Wind
- Water
- Transportation & Mobility (EV)
- Energy Efficiency
- Energy Response
- Battery Workforce Initiative

# Applied Energy Innovation Hub Functional Spaces



# Focus of Facility's Functional Areas

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## Skills Training

- In demand skills for selected sectors
- Supports industry and workforce training needs
- Provides certifications and apprenticeships

## Emerging Technologies

- Flexible space for emerging technology providers in selected sectors to prototype and develop equipment
- Anticipated to be revolving door

## Innovation Space

- Rapid prototyping equipment
- Micro production
- Community as well as in-house users

# Focus of Facility's Functional Areas

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## Energy Efficiency

- Demonstrates equipment and products to improve residential and commercial energy efficiency
- Community outreach with energy efficiency services

## Energy Discovery Zone

- Hands-on and interactive exhibits
- Career exploration
- Educational outreach

## Support functions and space provided in facility across the street

- Scope of these spaces to be defined

# Next Steps

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## Scope of Initiative

- Narrow and define targeted energy sectors
- Identify potential partners and funding sources
- Introductory visits: NREL, NERL, DOL, EDA
- Identify near-term funding for concept development

## Facilities Scope

- Coalesce Design Studio and Site Visit input
- Develop facility design guidelines
- Create preliminary facility concept

## Equipment Scope

- Research options for equipment and resources for each functional area and selected energy sectors



# Next Steps

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## Business Plan

- Vision and Mission Statement
- Community leadership (working group)
- Activities timeline
- Communications and outreach plan
- Partnership development
- Funding and financial plan
- Develop “Share our Vision” promotional package