

Dear Mayor Rahm Emanuel,

On March 1, 2018 [Chicago Advanced Energy](#) (CAE) convened 74 energy leaders to discuss the importance of energy resiliency for Chicagoland, and the challenge of building the social capital to proactively pay for it.

The purpose of these quarterly gatherings is to discuss current challenges and develop solutions for Chicago to achieve a more resilient, clean energy future. This event commenced with presentations from select discussion leaders prior to a roundtable exercise. The discussion leaders included:

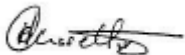
1. *Chris Wheat, Chief Sustainability Officer, City of Chicago*
2. *Sadzi Martha Oliva, Commissioner, Illinois Commerce Commission*
3. *Rick Welton, Senior Director, Distribution Planning, Operating & Reliability, Ameren IL*
4. *Andy Hesselbach, VP, Construction, System Modernization, Peoples Gas*
5. *York Chan, Vice President, Facilities, Advocate Health*
6. *Jason Borg, Deputy District Commander, USACE Chicago District*
7. *Joel Williams, Lead, Booz Allen Managed Threat Defense*
8. *Jamie Statter, VP, Strategic Initiatives, USGBC - PEER*

Per the presentations and roundtable exercise, CAE stakeholders agreed that is imperative to educate the Chicago community on the pressing needs and benefits of investing in resilient energy infrastructure. CAE Stakeholders came to a consensus on three key recommendations for the City:

1. **Redefine infrastructure** – The term infrastructure currently has positive connotations in the government spending framework, but this term is more generally associated with transportation infrastructure such as roads and bridges. Redefining ‘infrastructure’ to include energy resiliency, will drive broader acceptance and support for critical energy projects. Community members will support the cost of resiliency projects when they understand how these investments avoid grave consequences to their routine, jobs, food and well-being.
2. **Facilitate an emergency simulation** - Support a regional emergency exercise that simulates a plausible catastrophic event. Use a tiered approach to engage stakeholders with direct interest in critical infrastructure optimization to develop and participate in this exercise with other select community leaders. Have these stakeholders lead a unified conversation on the foreseen consequences, risks, and needed solutions to the broader Chicagoland Community. This exercise will identify blind spots, a matrix of possible solutions, and improve response effectiveness.
3. **Seek social capital** – A definition of infrastructure inclusive of resiliency supported by consensus-based conclusions of a Chicagoland simulated catastrophe will provide the needed educational tools to garner the social capital necessary to drive a sense of urgency and change on such an interdependent issue.

These suggested approaches should assist the City of Chicago develop and fund critical energy infrastructure investments beneficial to the 2.8 million Chicagoans while still meeting Chicago’s 80x50 climate goals.

Sincerely,



HG Chissell

CEO, Advanced Energy Group & Executive Director of Chicago Advanced Energy