

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Higher Education Institutions Commit to Reduce Energy Use

July 18, 2014—(Chicago, IL)—The City of Chicago announced today that 10 local colleges and universities have joined Retrofit Chicago's Commercial Buildings Initiative (CBI), committing to reduce energy consumption by 20% in at least one campus building over the next five years. The commitments grew out of a new collaborative developed by local universities to work together to identify best practices for reducing energy consumption. The collaborative, known as the Alliance to Retrofit Chicago Higher Education (ARCH), launched in late 2012 with funding from the Joyce Foundation, Chicago Community Trust, and Comer Foundation.

By joining CBI, these schools have pledged to retrofit over 3.7 million square feet. When this work is done, collectively, the buildings will save over \$1.2 million a year, have created up to 30 jobs and have a carbon impact equivalent to taking more 1,900 cars off the road. They join iconic Chicago landmarks, like the Merchandise Mart, Rookery Building, Wrigley Building, Intercontinental Chicago Magnificent Mile and Shedd Aquarium.

"The Alliance to Retrofit Chicago Higher Education has been a key partner in bringing targeted energy efficiency support and solutions to Chicago-area colleges and universities" said Karen Weigert, the City of Chicago's Chief Sustainability Officer. "Mayor Emanuel and the entire city welcome these 10 ARCH members' commitment to a challenge that is strengthening Chicago across 48 participants and 37 million square feet."

The ten institutions joining CBI include: City Colleges of Chicago; Columbia College Chicago; DePaul University; Illinois Institute of Technology; Loyola University; Northwestern University; Roosevelt University; School of the Art Institute; University of Illinois at Chicago; and University of Chicago. Lewis University, located in Romeoville, Illinois, is another member of ARCH.

"Reducing energy consumption in our existing buildings will help Northwestern achieve its goal of becoming a more sustainable campus and reducing energy use," said Northwestern President Morton Schapiro. "We are pleased to participate in this important initiative and to partner with other Chicago-area colleges and universities."

ARCH was founded in 2012 after Mayor Emanuel's Green Ribbon Committee identified the role higher education could play in meeting the City's climate goals. ARCH is committed to

advancing energy efficiency investment to create a more sustainable future and help organizations to reduce energy consumption and costs.

“The partnership has demonstrated what can be accomplished when institutions work together towards a common purpose,” said Adele Simmons, President of the Global Philanthropy Partnership and member of the Green Ribbon Committee, who conceived the idea for ARCH. “While each institution was making progress on its own, the ten schools collectively will be able to amplify their impact significantly,” she added.

"UIC's Climate Action Plan calls for us to reduce our carbon emissions by at least 80 percent by 2050," said Cynthia Klein-Banai, Associate Chancellor for Sustainability at the University of Illinois-Chicago, when asked why joining ARCH was beneficial to UIC. "Through ARCH, we have accelerated our progress towards meeting our 2050 goal. Our commitment today to reduce energy use by at least 20 percent in our Science and Engineering Laboratories Complex within five years is just one example. We're glad to share our experience and overcome common, but complicated, hurdles to energy efficiency investment, as well as learn from our peers."

Today's commitment demonstrates the schools' dedication to further action and results. The alliance is poised to tackle larger issues, like new opportunities to engage utility programs and establishing novel funding mechanisms for efficiency projects.