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Illinois Clean Energy Names New Executive Director; Dennis O'Brien to Lead Foundation's Second Decade

The Illinois Clean Energy Foundation announced the appointment of a new Executive Director to lead the Foundation as it embarks on its second decade of grant making. In its first decade, the Foundation has made over 3,000 grants totaling \$160 million to organizations in all 102 Illinois counties. These grants have brought tangible benefits to Illinois communities; they have led to reducing energy demand and lowering energy costs, expanding investment in renewable energy systems, and preserving treasured landscapes-- all helping to create brighter, healthier and safer places to learn, work and live.

"The Trustees are proud of the Foundation's accomplishments in its first decade and will continue to seek opportunities to promote the use of renewable energy, encourage energy efficiency and advance the protection of natural areas and wildlife habitats in our state," said Phil Novak, Chairman of the Foundation.

In making the announcement of the appointment of Dennis O'Brien as the new Executive Director of the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. Mr. Novak pointed out that Mr. O'Brien brings to his new position over thirty years of executive experience, including more than twenty years of experience in the energy industry. Mr. O'Brien has been the Treasurer of two major corporations in the electric energy industry. Mr. O'Brien is very familiar with the Foundation's work and has served as an Ex-Officio trustee since the beginning of the Foundation in 2000.

"I am very excited about taking on this new role at the Foundation." Mr. O'Brien said. "Over the past decade the Foundation has developed a range of terrific programs that have benefited the citizens of Illinois. Now I have an opportunity to work with the Trustees in exploring areas in which the Foundation may develop new programs while seeking to improve upon its existing ones."

Mr. Novak expressed the Trustees' gratitude to Jim Mann who is retiring after serving the past ten years as the Foundation's Executive Director. "Jim did an outstanding job both in building the Foundation from a concept in the beginning to the effective grant-making organization it is today," Mr. Novak noted." He provided key leadership in developing the Foundation's grant programs that have benefited so many Illinois communities. We are grateful to Jim for all of his hard work and his dedication to the Foundation. In the coming years the Foundation will continue to build on the momentum that Jim has helped us achieve in our first decade."