

# Great Cities Commitment Programs at UIC

## *Environmental Protection*

### Air Pollution Training Institute

**Description:** This training institute assists state and local air pollution control agencies in the acquisition of professional level skills needed for effective conduct of air pollution abatement programs.

One of a network of centers and institutes operated by the EPA at universities throughout the U.S., the APTI provides professional training experiences for air pollution control professionals.

The program is carried out using one of three types of training: conventional academic training, intensive short course instruction, and special seminars and short courses on the EPA's Distance Learning Network. Conventional academic training offers instruction in air pollution control science and related subjects as required for professional training of air pollution abatement practitioners. Academic training supports students in academic programs leading to the Master of Public Health (MPH) and Master of Science (MS) in public health degrees. Short courses and distance learning seminars are scheduled throughout the year.

**Dates active:** 1996(?) -- present

**Category:** Environmental protection

**UIC Partners:** Public Health

**Contacts:** Scrimshaw, Susan C.

Dean, School of Public Health

**Phone:** 312.996.6620

**Email:** scrimsha@uic.edu

**Partners:** United States Environmental Protection Agency

### Dorothy Bradley Atkins Medicinal Plant Garden

**Description:** The Dorothy Bradley Atkins Medicinal Plant Garden contains more than 70 species of medicinal plants, many of which are mainstay drug-producing plants whose products are currently in use in clinical practice around the world. It builds upon the College's long-standing reputation as one of the world's foremost centers of natural products research.

The garden exists not only for educational and research purposes, but also for the enjoyment it offers as an island of beauty on the campus of the University of Illinois at Chicago.

**Dates active:** July 2002 -- present

**Category:** Biotechnology  
Environmental protection

**UIC Partners:** Pharmacy

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Dean and Professor, College of Pharmacy

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**Partners:** N/A

### Energy Resources Center (ERC)

**Description:** ERC is an interdisciplinary public service, research, and special projects organization dedicated to improving energy efficiency and the environment. ERC was established in 1973 by the Board of Trustees as an approved Illinois Board of Higher Education center with a mandate to conduct studies in the fields of energy and the environment and to provide industry, utilities, government agencies and the public with assistance, information, and advice on new technologies, public policy, and professional development training.

The Center was created as a "fast response" team of experts capable of quickly extending technical expertise, advice, and professional assistance to organizations in need of the Center's resources.

**Dates active:** 1973 -- present

**Category:** Environmental protection  
Industry partnerships

**UIC Partners:** Engineering

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Director, Energy Resources Center

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**Partners:** American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)

Association of State Energy Research and Technology Transfer Institutions (ASERTTI)

BP Foundation

Commonwealth Edison Company

Electric Power Research Institute

Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA)

National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO)

National Energy Management Institute

Nicor, Inc.

## Great Lakes Centers for Occupational and Environmental Health

**Description:** The mission of the Great Lakes Centers is to promote a healthy human environment in our workplaces and communities through the academic triad of teaching, research, and service. While the Great Lakes Centers takes a universal approach to improving, promoting, and maintaining the health of workers and communities, we devote special attention to the problems and needs of minority and disadvantaged workers and communities, the specific occupational and environmental safety and health needs of our region, and to the development of innovative and interdisciplinary approaches to addressing these needs.

The Centers include a NIOSH Education and Research Center, an ATSDR/USPA-funded Center for Children's Environmental Health (Region V PEHSU), a NIH Fogarty -funded Center for Global Environmental and Occupational Health, a CDC-funded Center of Excellence in Environmental Health, and the Occupational Health Services Institute.

**Dates active:** 1977 -- present

**Category:** Health and wellness  
Environmental protection

**UIC Partners:** Public Health

**Contacts:** **Hryhorczuk, Daniel**

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**Partners:** John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

## Industrial Assessment Center

**Description:** UIC is a designated U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) Office of Industrial Energy Technologies Industrial Assessment Centers (IAC). Along with 26 other universities across the United States, UIC now offers no cost industrial assessments. These assessments are performed by students from various engineering disciplines. Energy conservation, waste minimization and process improvement recommendations have resulted in an average annual savings of nearly \$59,000 per plant assessment.

Each assessment includes:

- Measurement of combustion efficiency for all fuel burning equipment
- Measurement of electric motor operating parameters
- Evaluation of compressed air and steam systems
- Inventory of all ancillary energy users within the plant
- Development of a process flow map

**Dates active:** 2001 -- present

**Category:** Environmental protection  
Industry partnerships

**UIC Partners:** Engineering

**Contacts:** **Banerjee, Prith**

Dean, College of Engineering and UIC Distinguished Professor

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**Partners:** United States Department of Energy

## Institute for Environmental Science and Policy

**Description:** The mission of IESP is to advance multidisciplinary research and scholarship within the environmental and health sciences, engineering, economics, and the social sciences among UIC's faculty and students, to prepare the next generation of environmental scientists and decision-makers, and to transmit workable solutions for environmental problems to the public sector. IESP's core theme is to advance understanding of the relationship between anthropogenic impacts and environmental health.

**Dates active:** 1998 -- present

**Category:** Environmental protection

**UIC Partners:** Research, Vice Chancellor for

**Contacts:** **Gislason, Eric A.**

Vice Chancellor for Research

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**Partners:**

## Midwest Combined Heat and Power Applications Center (MAC)

**Description:** The Midwest CHP Application Center promotes the development and deployment of integrated systems that provide on-site electrical generation and utilize the heat from the generation equipment to provide cooling and/or heating for the building.

The Center serves to identify and promote the use of viable CHP technologies and systems in applications where they can increase energy efficiencies, reduce operating costs, reduce electrical loads on the utility electrical grid in areas where it is taxed, and shave peak load demands from the grid. The Application Center will serve to bring together manufacturers, utilities, building operators, research and development organizations, industry associations, energy service companies, architects and engineers, and national laboratory personnel to promote on-site and near site power generation, energy recovery, and energy management and utilization for commercial, institutional, multifamily and community based buildings.

**Dates active:** 2001 -- present

**Category:** Environmental protection  
Industry partnerships

**UIC Partners:** Engineering  
**Contacts:** **Banerjee, Prith**  
Dean, College of Engineering and UIC Distinguished Professor  
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**Partners:** City of Chicago  
Gas Technology Institute (GTI)  
Illinois Commerce Commission  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
Nicor, Inc.  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
United States Department of Energy  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Wisconsin Public Service Commission

## Post Occupancy Evaluation Study of Four Lincoln Park Nature Areas

**Description:** The City Design Center, in partnership with the North Central Research Station-Chicago of the USDA Forest Service is conducting a post-occupancy evaluation of four restored natural areas in Chicago's Lincoln Park. Through interviews and behavioral observations, the evaluation study will assess the impact of these restorations on users of the park. The study further explores how well natural environments work for people within broader considerations of ecological sustainability, historical integrity and contextual compatibility.

**Dates active:** 2004 -- 2006

**Category:** Environmental protection

**UIC Partners:** Architecture and the Arts

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**Partners:** United States Department of Agriculture  
*Forest Services, North Central Research Station*

## Residential Energy Assistance Program (REAP)

**Description:** Helps homeowners understand the energy costs associated with owning a residence. Helps identify energy efficiency improvements to reduce natural gas and electric bills.

**Dates active:**

**Category:** Environmental protection

**UIC Partners:** Engineering

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**Partners:** Chicago Department of Environment  
Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity  
Illinois Institute of Technology

## UIC Industrial Assessment Center (IAC)

**Description:** UIC is a designated U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) Office of Industrial Energy Technologies Industrial Assessment Centers (IAC). UIC-IAC offers no costs industrial and manufacturing process assessments to small and medium sized businesses in Northern Illinois and the Tri-State area. The objective is to assist small manufacturing firms improve their energy efficiency while reducing their costs of production. This helps improve competitive capabilities and retain jobs.

**Dates active:** 2001 -- present

**Category:** Environmental protection  
Industry partnerships

**UIC Partners:** Engineering

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**Partners:** Illinois Commerce Commission

Nicor, Inc.

Rutgers University

United States Department of Energy

*Office of Industrial Technologies*