



# Environmental Leadership Program

## Spring 2024 Schedule

#iSEE\_ELP

### Program Overview

Component	Dates	Format
Two-day intensive training	Friday-Saturday, Jan. 12-13, 2024	Hybrid
Weekly working meetings	Noon-1 p.m. every Friday, between Jan. 19 and March 8, 2024	In person
Trip to the Champaign City Council	Tuesday, March 5, 2024	In person
Five days of experiential learning with trips to corporate offices in Chicago, the Springfield State Capitol, and the Urbana City Council	March 11-15, 2024	In person

### Notes

- The schedule for each event is tentative. We will communicate with the ELP cohort any changes at the earliest convenience.
- This document includes the detailed schedule for each component, followed by a short introduction for each guest speaker.
- Additional times other than those listed above may be available to engage with the ELP team.



## Two-Day Intensive Training Schedule

*Room 337, National Soybean Research Center (NSRC)*

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### **Friday, Jan. 12**

**9:30-10 a.m. — Check-in and Breakfast**

**10-10:50 a.m. — Welcome, Cohort Introduction, and ELP Overview**

- Eric Green, Senior Academic Program Instructor/Advisor, iSEE

*Participants will share about their background and area of environmental focus. They will also receive an overview of the various program components and expected deliverables.*

**10:50-11 a.m. — Break**

**11 a.m.-noon — Presentation: “Advocating for the environment”**

- Jennifer Walling, Executive Director, Illinois Environmental Council

**Noon-1 p.m. — Lunch Break**

**1-2 p.m. — Presentation: “Legislative procedure for local government”**

- Grace Wilken, Ward 6 representative on the Urbana City Council, and Member of the Urbana Sustainability Advisory Committee

**2-3 p.m. — Presentation: “Policy development and the council-manager form of government”**

- Jeff Hamilton, Communications Manager, City of Champaign’s City Manager’s Office

**— Presentation: “Considerations when evaluating local policies”**

- Alicia Beck, Member, Champaign City Council

**3-5 p.m. — ELP Social at the Illini Union Rec Room**

**5-7 p.m. — Dinner**



**Saturday, Jan. 13**

**9:30-10 a.m. — Check-In and Breakfast**

**10-10:50 a.m. — Recorded Presentation: IEC's "Civics for environmentalists"**

- Eric Green, Senior Academic Program Instructor/Advisor, iSEE

*Participants will review the procedures a bill goes through.*

**10:50-11 a.m. — Break**

**11 a.m.-noon — Working Session: "Policy development: Ordinance and bill identification"**

- Eric Green, Senior Academic Program Instructor/Advisor, iSEE

*Participants will research existing policies at the local and state level, and begin to identify bills for which they might advocate.*

**Noon-1 p.m. — Lunch Break**

**1-1:50 p.m. — Working Session: "Policy development: Stakeholder identification"**

- Eric Green, Senior Academic Program Instructor/Advisor, iSEE

*Participants will identify their local and state representatives and determine the level of support for their policies of interest.*

**1:50-2 p.m. — Break**

**2-3 p.m. — Group Assignments**

- Eric Green, Senior Academic Program Instructor/Advisor, iSEE

*Participants will choose their policies of interest and divide into teams.*



## Weekly Working Meetings Schedule

*Room 337, National Soybean Research Center (NSRC)*

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### **Friday, noon-1 p.m.**

**Jan. 19 — Presentation: “Sustainable future: Using tech to solve hunger and food waste”**

- Jasmine Crowe-Houston, CEO, Goodr

**Jan. 26 — Presentation: “An insight into working in the Office of the Illinois Senate President Don Harmon”**

- Mary Hanahan, Deputy General Counsel, Office of Illinois Senate President Don Harmon

**— Presentation: “An overview of the U of I System Office of External Relations and Communication”**

- Nolan Drea, Associate Director of State Relations, University of Illinois Office of External Relations and Communications

**Feb. 2 — Presentation: “An insight into working at Just Transition Northwest Indiana”**

- Susan Thomas, Director for Legislation & Policy and Press Liason, Just Transition Northwest Indiana

**Feb. 9 — Presentation: “Multinational organizations and the global climate regulatory landscape”**

- Madison Rudolph, Sustainability Manager, Motorola Solutions, Inc.

**Feb. 16 — Presentation: “Tools for environmental communication”**

- Eban Goodstein, Director of the Center for Environmental Policy, and MBA in Sustainability, Bard College

**Feb. 23 — Presentation: “Sustainability in the private sector”**

- Harriet Hentges, President and CEO, Hentges Associates

**March 1 — Working Session: “Crafting the message”**

- Eric Green, Senior Academic Program Instructor/Advisor, iSEE, & the ELP team

*Participants will organize how to convey the aspects of the policy they support.*



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**March 8 — Working Session: “Policy impact assessment”**

- Eric Green, Senior Academic Program Instructor/Advisor, iSEE, & the ELP team

*Participants will discuss the policy they have reviewed and determine what the impacts may be.*

## Five Days of Experiential Learning Schedule

*Urbana, Champaign, and Springfield, Illinois*

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Component	Dates	Format
<b>Day in Urbana</b>	Monday, March 11, 2024	In person
<b>Trip to Springfield</b>	Tuesday-Thursday, March 12-14, 2024	In person
<b>Trip to Chicago</b>	Thursday-Friday, March 14-15, 2024	In person

**Note:** The schedule for the five days of experiential learning, including trips to corporate offices in Chicago, the State Capitol in Springfield, and the Urbana City Council, is still in preparation. We are working to finalize the times for the various meetings planned with lawmakers, state agencies, and company executives.

Some of the planned activities include the following:

- Present policies at the Urbana City Council
- Visit the Illinois Environmental Council (IEC) Office
- Visit the Illinois State Capitol and interact with lawmakers
- Meet with State Representative Carol Ammons
- Meet with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) Director
- Meet with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Directors
- Visit the offices of Accenture, Resource Environmental Solutions, and Motorola Solutions in Chicago
- Meet with the staff at the Environmental Law & Policy Center (ELPC) in Chicago



## Our Guest Speakers

*(in order of appearance)*

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**Presentation — “Advocating for the environment”**

### Jennifer Walling



**Bio:** Jen Walling has served as the Executive Director for the Illinois Environmental Council since January 2011, where she oversees the strategic direction and management of the organization and lobbies decision makers on environmental issues. Walling holds a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She also received a juris doctorate from the University of Illinois College of Law and is an attorney licensed to practice law in Illinois.

Walling has drafted, negotiated, lobbied and passed hundreds of bills in Springfield while working to build the power, expertise and relationships of the entire environmental community. On energy issues, she worked to fix the renewable energy portfolio standards and increase energy efficiency through the Future Energy Jobs Act and is working to pass the Clean Energy Jobs Act. Walling has been a statewide leader in composting policy since 2009, when she worked to pass the first commercial composting law in Illinois. She has fought to protect state parks and natural areas through increasing funding to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, increasing recreation liability protections and funding stewardship through the Natural Areas Stewardship Act. Through her leadership, Illinois was the first state to ban microbeads in personal care products in 2013.



## Our Guest Speakers

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**Presentation — “Legislative procedure for local government”**

### Grace Wilken



**Bio:** Grace Wilken (she/her) serves as the Ward 6 representative on the Urbana City Council and as a member of the Urbana Sustainability Advisory Committee. She works in the area of sustainability and aims to consider the three pillars of sustainability (social, environmental, and economic wellbeing) in city decision-making. Her educational background includes bachelor’s degrees from Millikin University in Biology and Spanish, and master’s degrees in Sustainable Energy and Business Administration from Eastern Illinois University.

Ms. Wilken works at the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC) in microbiology research with a project focused on algal-bacterial interactions to treat wastewater and generate a renewable biofuel. Her other research interests include many sustainability-related topics such as compost, wastewater management, social justice, sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and sustainable business practices. Before these current roles, Ms. Wilken worked as a high school science teacher in southeast Kentucky and at an outdoor education center in southern California. Grace also worked as an adjunct instructor in the Biology Department at Millikin University.





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## Our Guest Speakers

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**Presentation — “Policy development and the council-manager form of government”**

### **Jeff Hamilton**



**Bio:** Jeff Hamilton serves as the Communications Manager in the City of Champaign’s City Manager’s Office. He has served in that leadership role since 2015 and worked for the City of Champaign since 2002. He has more than 30 years of communications-related experience and has received 11 national awards for his work in public communications. He holds a master’s degree in Political Science with an Option in Public Administration and Public Policy and a bachelor’s degree in Telecommunicative Arts.



## Our Guest Speakers

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**Presentation — “Considerations when evaluating local policies”**

### Alicia Beck



**Bio:** Born and raised in Livingston, Colo., Alicia attended Knox College in Galesburg earning a BA in Psychology in 1995. In 1997, she completed her Master of Social Work at the University of Kentucky. She moved to Champaign with her husband, David, and son in 2003. Alicia’s professional experiences already included community organizing, civil rights, disability services, downtown development and business promotion. Alicia spent the next several years working for the University of Illinois, raising funds to educate the next generation of social workers. Today, she is the Director of Support for Workforce Training at Parkland College.

Alicia has found the community of Champaign rich with opportunities to serve others. The board of directors at Courage Connection and the YWCA, the board of the Eastern Illinois Association of Fundraising Professionals, Junior League, the Labor Day Parade, the PTA at Southside Elementary and the Edison Middle School PTSA are some of the formal ways she has volunteered. After being elected to the City Council in 2017, Alicia currently represents the interests of the people of District 2 and the City of Champaign. Serving the people of this diverse district along with all those who call Champaign home is an honor for Alicia as she aspires to bring the people’s voice to city hall.



## Our Guest Speakers

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**Presentation — “Sustainable future: Using tech to solve hunger and food waste”**

### **Jasmine Crowe-Houston**



**Bio:** Jasmine Crowe-Houston is an award-winning social entrepreneur, children’s book author, a TED Speaker and determined leader. In 2017, after years of feeding people experiencing homelessness from her own kitchen, Jasmine launched Goodr, a sustainable waste management company that leverages technology to combat hunger and reduce food waste. She has been featured on CNBC, Oprah Magazine, Forbes, Fast Co., New York Times, and named by Entrepreneur Magazine as one of the top 100 influential female founders and Insider’s 100 People Transforming Business.

Under Jasmine’s leadership, Goodr has provided nearly 40 million meals to those in need and redirected millions of pounds of materials from landfill. Jasmine currently sits on the board for Metro Atlanta Chamber, Universal Music Group's Taskforce for Meaningful Change and Drawdown Georgia.



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## Our Guest Speakers

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**Presentation — “An insight into working in the Office of the Illinois Senate  
President Don Harmon”**

### **Mary Hanahan**



**Bio:** Mary Hanahan currently works as a Deputy General Counsel in the Office of the Illinois Senate President Don Harmon. She received her Bachelor’s degree with a double major in Political Science and Psychology as well as her J.D. from Loyola University Chicago.

Mary has working for the Office of the Senate President for 5 years. She serves as lead staffer on the Energy & Public Utilities Committee and the Executive Committee.



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## Our Guest Speakers

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**Presentation — “An Overview of the U of I System Office of External Relations and Communication”**

### **Nolan Drea**



**Bio:** Nolan Drea joined the University of Illinois System in February 2019 as assistant director of state relations. A graduate of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign’s Gies College of Business, Nolan previously worked on Illinois Senate President John Cullerton's staff for seven years.



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## Our Guest Speakers

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**Presentation — “An insight into working at Just Transition Northwest Indiana”**

### **Susan Thomas**



**Bio:** Susan Thomas is the Director of Legislation & Policy and Press Liaison for Just Transition Northwest Indiana. A former environmental trend analyst in Colorado, where she earned her BA from University of Denver, Susan holds a master's degree in journalism from Northwestern University. She resides in Beverly Shores, Indiana, the heart of the Indiana Dunes National Park.



## Our Guest Speakers

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**Presentation — “Multinational organizations and the global climate regulatory landscape”**

### **Madison Rudolph**



**Bio:** Madison Rudolph is the Sustainability Manager at Motorola Solutions, Inc. Over the past three years, she has worked to lay the foundation of Motorola Solution's climate strategy across their value chain and enhanced sustainability reporting in alignment with internationally recognized standards and regulations.

She is the founder and leader of the Motorola Solutions Sustainability Affinity Group, an employee driven special interest group which engages in volunteerism, employee education, and identifying opportunities for 'greening' at the organization. Madison graduated from the University of Victoria with a Bachelor of Commerce in

International Business focusing in Business Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility. She is the mom to two kittens and her hobbies include traveling as often as possible, biking, and listening to music.

## Our Guest Speakers

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Presentation — “Tools for environmental communication”

### Eban Goodstein



**Bio:** Eban Goodstein directs Graduate Programs in Sustainability at Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y. Degree options include (1) the low-residency MBA in Sustainability based in NYC; (2) M.S. Degrees in Environmental Policy and in Climate Science and Policy; and (3) an M.Ed. in Environmental Education. Goodstein holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Michigan, and a B.A. in Geology from Williams College.

He is the author of three books: *Economics and the Environment*, (John Wiley and Sons: 2017) now in its eighth edition; *Fighting for Love in the Century of Extinction: How Passion and Politics Can Stop Global Warming* (University Press of New England: 2007); and *The Trade-off Myth: Fact and Fiction about Jobs and the Environment* (Island Press: 1999). Articles by Goodstein have appeared in among other outlets, *The Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, *Land Economics*, *Ecological Economics*, and *Environmental Management*. His research has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Scientific American*, *Time*, *The Economist*, *USA Today*, and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, and he has testified in Congress on the employment impacts of environmental regulation. He serves on the editorial board of *Sustainability: The Journal of Record*. Goodstein is known for coordinating international educational events around climate change, engaging over 2,500 colleges, universities, and K-12 schools in solutions-based dialog. At Bard he also directs C2C Fellows, a network of undergraduates and recent graduates who aspire to sustainability leadership in business, NGOs, and government.





## Our Guest Speakers

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**Presentation — “Sustainability in the private sector”**

### Harriet Hentges



**Bio:** Harriet Hentges is President and CEO of Hentges Associates, an advisor to business and non-profit organizations to accelerate sustainability/corporate responsibility in the retail, consumer goods and tourism industries. Hentges has been in the sustainability leadership teams of two of the top five food retailers in the U.S. -- Walmart and Ahold Delhaize (formerly Ahold USA). She was in the first sustainability team Walmart established following its ambitious commitment to sustainability. She crafted and directed the sustainability strategy for Ahold USA and was on the global sustainability team of Royal Ahold, the parent company of Ahold USA.

Hentges served on the Food Marketing Institute’s Sustainability Executive Committee, a pre-competitive collaboration of sustainability leaders of some 25 U.S. grocery chains which led to unprecedented progress in the industry. She also held an executive position at Sears World Trade, a subsidiary of Sears Roebuck and Co. and was a partner in Hentges Kahn & Strauss (HKS) LLC, an advisory firm to food and agribusiness industries -- producers, manufacturers and grocery retailers -- aimed at fostering a sustainable food system from soil to shelf.

Her varied experience working across sectors, companies and industries has uniquely positioned her to design creative solutions and effective collaborations. She is currently a partner in the Sustainable Tourism Group, an investment firm developing sustainable tourism projects in Rwanda and other East African countries. She also serves on the Advisory Board of the Environmental Leadership Program at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Hentges’ management experience is diverse as COO of the U.S. Institute of Peace, an independent Federal agency focused on international conflict resolution, a financial services firm, a boutique investment firm and the national grass roots organization, the U.S. League of Women Voters. Government service includes the U.S. Special Trade Representative’s Office and the U.S. Department of State. She has been an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University’s Walsh School of Foreign Service and has a PhD from the Johns Hopkins Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, a Masters’ degree from American University and a BA from St. Catherine University.