



Office of the Cook County Board President  
Toni Preckwinkle



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Cook County is Named one of Top 100 Nominees for 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicago Innovation Awards**

Cook County has been selected as one of the Top 100 nominees for the *2013 Chicago Innovation Awards*. This nomination recognizes the County's innovative steps to reduce energy costs and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

The Chicago Innovation Awards, celebrating its 12<sup>th</sup> year, is the Chicago region's foremost recognition of innovative new products or services brought to the market or public service each year. There were 562 nominees to the 2013 Chicago Innovation Awards.

"When I took office, county government was in crisis," Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle said. "My administration's reform efforts have been guided by innovative leadership, fiscal responsibility, and improved services. Being recognized as an innovator affirms the ongoing transformation of Cook County government."

"Crisis not only creates opportunities for innovation, it often demands innovation in order to solve the current problem and prevent the crisis from happening again. The Chicago Innovation Awards recognize those with the courage, confidence, and good sense to take risks in the name of innovation," said Thomas D. Kuczmarzski, co-founder of the Chicago Innovation Awards.

The County's submission focused on the Guaranteed Energy Performance Contracting (GEPC) project. In June 2012, the county's Office of Capital Planning/Bureau of Economic Development in collaboration with the county's Chief Sustainability Officer, began the largest single phase GEPC project undertaken by a county. Under GEPC, the Energy Savings Company (ESCO) implements energy efficiency measures and guarantees that the cost of those measures will be paid from savings produced by the project. The county's ESCOs are Johnson Controls and NORESO.

The County's ESCOs will implement energy upgrades at the nation's second largest public health system and the nation's largest single-site county jail. The \$60 million cost of these measures will be financed

by the energy savings that result from the project. The ESCOs are financially responsible if a shortfall occurs.

This public-private partnership features:

- More than 20% savings in energy use
- Approximately 20% reduction in emissions
- Roughly 600 local construction and technology jobs
- More than \$230,000 in Illinois energy rebate revenues in 2013, with over \$1,000,000 projected in 2014
- More than \$60,000,000 in facility upgrades

The three-year, \$34 million project now under way at the Cook County Department of Corrections and the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center will improve building standards, increase energy efficiency and realize significant energy savings. It will replace critical heating, cooling and control systems, install new insulation and upgrade lighting systems for a total of 17 Energy Conservation Measures throughout the campus.

The anticipated energy savings realized through these improvements will pay for the cost of the project within 20 years. It is expected to create more than 350 construction jobs, and features 38 percent Minority and Women and Business participation. Construction is set encompass 22 buildings totaling four million square feet on the Corrections campus.

Each year a panel of judges reflecting a cross section of Chicago's business community chose 10 Chicago Innovation Awards winners among the 100 finalists. The 10 winners will be announced Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> and celebrated at an event at Chicago's Harris Theater. In addition, each of the 100 finalists is automatically in the running for the annual "People's Choice Award," selected through online balloting at [www.chicagoinnovationawards.com](http://www.chicagoinnovationawards.com).

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