Energy Equity Coaches

CLIMATE ACTION EVANSTON®

What is Climate Action Evaston

Climate Action Evanston accelerates tangible community-driven actions throughout Evanston, addressing both the root causes and the destabilizing symptoms of our planet's climate crisis.

About Climate Action Evanston

We are a **place-based, resident-led,** community organization advancing action on Evanston's climate commitments through our five programs since the early 2000s.

Unlike most communities, including Chicago, Evanston **has successfully met its past climate commitments.**

What's the secret ingredient to success? **Involved and engaged residents!**

We help 8th graders to 88 year-olds **realize their potential as climate champions.**

Coaches support this initiative by directly educating residents about opportunities to be **part of the solution.**

CLIMATE ACTION EVANSTON

- Beyond Waste
- Edible Evanston
- Energy
- Environmental Justice Evanston
- Natural Habitat Evanston



Climate Action and Resilience Plan
City of Evanston

How does the grant fit in with CAE's other work?

CLIMATE ACTION EVANSTON®

Beyond Waste | Edible Evanston | Energy | Environmental Justice Evanston | Go Evanston | Natural Habitat Evanston

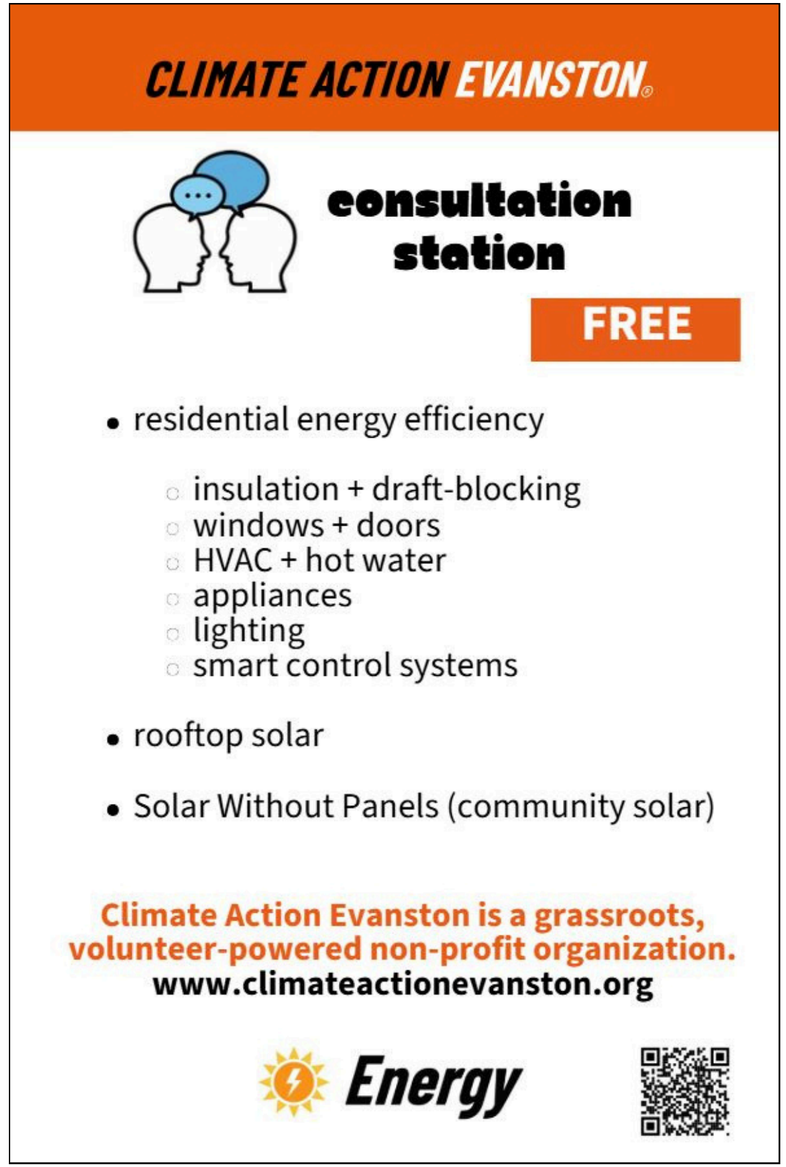
The goal of the Energy program is to reduce the greenhouse-gas emissions produced by the building sector. Its education and outreach activities help Evanstonians make their properties more energy-efficient while transitioning away from fossil fuels.

	Activity	Audience	Venue(s)
Tabling	table, kiosk or booth @ community event	general public	farmers markets resource fairs street festivals block parties
Presenting	educational presentation	community groups	church basements business offices public meeting spaces
Coaching	one-on-one advice re: energy-efficiency retrofits	homeowners + apartment dwellers	Evanston Public Library
Consulting	in-home energy assessment	homeowners	individual residences

Tabling



- takes place 20-24 times per year
- May-October
- Saturdays from 8:00 -12:00
- at Evanston Farmers Market
- other venues on ad-hoc basis



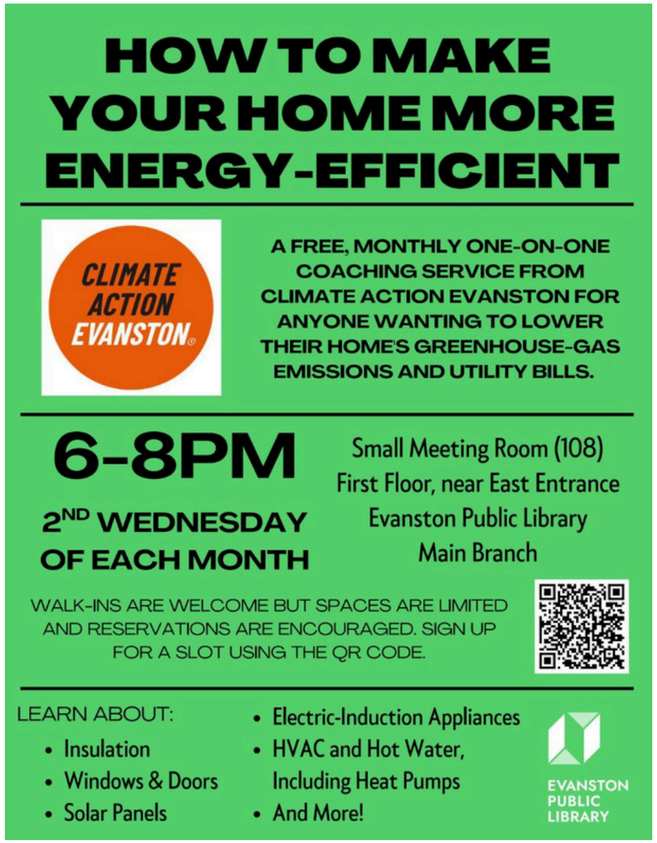
- “consultation station”
- mobile help desk for energy-efficiency and electrification

Coaching

- the “consultation station” approach only more in-depth
- usually attracts folks seriously interested in *learning about* energy-efficiency/electrification
- takes place on a regular schedule once per month
- jointly “sponsored” by Evanston Public Library (CAE not charged for use of space)
- promoted by CAE (flyer, newsletter, social), EPL (newsletter, sign) and City (newsletter)



CAE flyer distributed digitally and physically (8.5" x 11")



sign displayed in main lobby of EPL (24" x 36")

Coaches in the Wild

Utility bill assistance is available for Evanston households — here's what you need to know

Applications for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program close Aug. 15.

by Ruixin Zhang
August 9th, 2026

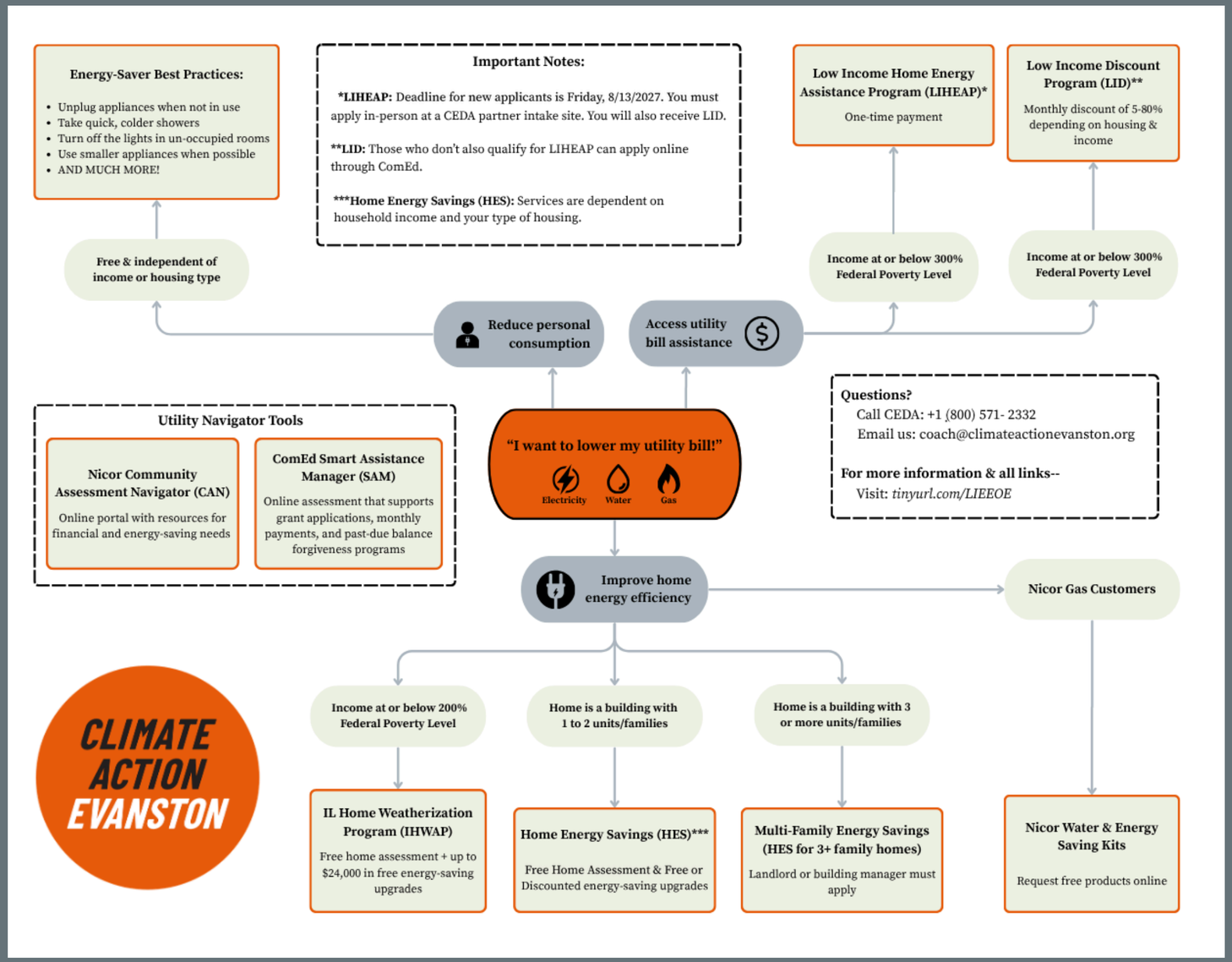


Izzy Franconeri, who spearheads Climate Action Evanston's energy efficiency campaign, shares program offerings at Thursday's Downtown Summer Sounds event. Credit: Ruixin Zhang



CLIMATE ACTION EVANSTON®

Summary


Energy-Saver Best Practices:
• Unplug appliances when not in use
• Take quick, colder showers
• Turn off the lights in un-occupied rooms
• Use smaller appliances when possible
• AND MUCH MORE!
Free & independent of income or housing type
Important Notes:
*LIHEAP: Deadline for new applicants is Friday, 8/13/2027. You must apply in-person at a CEDA partner intake site. You will also receive LID.
**LID: Those who don't also qualify for LIHEAP can apply online through ComEd.
***Home Energy Savings (HES): Services are dependent on household income and your type of housing.
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)*
One-time payment
Income at or below 300% Federal Poverty Level
Low Income Discount Program (LID)**
Monthly discount of 5-80% depending on housing & income
Income at or below 300% Federal Poverty Level
Reduce personal consumption
Access utility bill assistance
Utility Navigator Tools
Nicor Community Assessment Navigator (CAN)
Online portal with resources for financial and energy-saving needs
ComEd Smart Assistance Manager (SAM)
Online assessment that supports grant applications, monthly payments, and past-due balance forgiveness programs
"I want to lower my utility bill!"
Electricity
Water
Gas
Questions?
Call CEDA: +1 (800) 571- 2332
Email us: coach@climateactionevanston.org
For more information & all links--
Visit: tinyurl.com/LIEEOE
Improve home energy efficiency
Nicor Gas Customers
CLIMATE ACTION EVANSTON
Income at or below 200% Federal Poverty Level
Home is a building with 1 to 2 units/families
Home is a building with 3 or more units/families
IL Home Weatherization Program (IHWAP)
Free home assessment + up to $24,000 in free energy-saving upgrades
Home Energy Savings (HES)***
Free Home Assessment & Free or Discounted energy-saving upgrades
Multi-Family Energy Savings (HES for 3+ family homes)
Landlord or building manager must apply
Nicor Water & Energy Saving Kits
Request free products online

Income: Tabling Resources

LOWER YOUR UTILITY BILL

CLIMATE ACTION EVANSTON

Relief is out there, at every income. Let's find the solutions for you!

1) IDENTIFY HOUSEHOLD INCOME 'GROUP'

Based on the number of people in your household and income from the last 30 days, identify your Group.

People	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
1	Up to $2,660	$2,661 - $3,990	>$3,990
2	Up to $3,607	$3,608 - $5,410	>$5,410
3	Up to $4,553	$4,554 - $6,830	>$6,830
4	Up to $5,500	$5,501 - $8,250	>$8,250
5	Up to $6,447	$6,448 - $9,670	>$9,670
6	Up to $7,393	$7,394 - $11,090	>$11,090

2) IDENTIFY YOUR NEXT STEPS

Use the eligibility table & recommendations for your Group below to plan your next steps.

Program	Description	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
LIHEAP *State-run* *Bill Discount*	A one-time payment to your utility provider. Payment will be given to you directly if utilities are included in your rent.	✓	✓	--
LID Utility-run Bill Discount	A recurring monthly discount on your utility bill (from 5%-80% depending on housing type and income level).	✓	✓	--
IHWAP *State-run* *Home Upgrade*	A free in-home energy assessment and up to $24,000 in upgrades	✓	--	--
HES *Utility-run* *Home Upgrade*	Identifies home energy leaks. Receive free/discounted energy-saving products. Renters can participate with landlord permission. *If in a building of 3 or more families, landlord applies for the **MFES** program.*	✓	✓	✓
Nicor Kits *Utility-run* *Home Upgrade*	Nicor Gas customers can request free water saving (kitchen and bathroom faucets, showerheads, etc.) & energy savings kits.	✓	✓	✓

GROUP 1 RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Visit an Intake Agency by 8/13/27 to apply for **LIHEAP**.
- Visit an Intake Agency to apply for **LID** (Tiers 1-4) and **IHWAP**.

GROUP 2 RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Visit an Intake Agency by 8/13/27 to apply for **LIHEAP**, which also enrolls you in **LID**.
- If you don't qualify for **LIHEAP**, apply for **LID** (Tier 5) online through ComEd's website.

GROUP 3 + GEN. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Apply for **HES** online through ComEd or call.
- If in a 3+ unit building, tell your landlord about **MFES**
- If a **Nicor** Gas customer, request free water & energy **Saving Kits** online.

For more information & links, visit: tinyurl.com/LIEEOE | coach@climateactionevanston.org

CLIMATE ACTION EVANSTON®

Coaches in the Wild





Wrapping up

Provide Handout

Log interaction - add to this tracking sheet after the event

CLIMATE ACTION EVANSTON

LOWER YOUR UTILITY BILLS

For more information & direct links:

EMAIL: coach@climateactionevanston.org

VISIT: *tinyurl.com/LIEEOE* OR SCAN

Your Next Steps...

[ ] Call CEDA: (800) 571-2332

[ ] Visit an Intake Site

[ ] ComEd SAM Tool

[ ] _____

You Likely Qualify For...

[ ] LIHEAP, LID & IHWAP

[ ] LID & possibly LIHEAP

[ ] HES/MFES

[ ] Free Water or Weatherization Kit

Closest Intake Sites:

If childcare or transportation costs prevent you from visiting an intake site, please email *coach@climateactionevanston.org*

Transit Passes are available!

Metropolitan Asian Family Services

2520 W Devon Ave | (773)-465-3105 | Español ✅

30 minutes from ETHS:

Take the 93 Bus South to California & Devon

MORE Services, Inc.

4001 W Devon Ave | (773) 853-0857 | Español ✅

50 minutes from ETHS:

Take the 93 Bus South to California & Peterson, then the 84 Bus to Peterson & Pulaski.

South-East Asia Center

5120 N Broadway | (773) 989-6927 | Español ✅

30 minutes from Davis St. Transit:

Take the Purple Line South to Howard, ride the Red Line to Argyle Stop.

Global Executive Council Services

5812 N Lincoln Ave | (872) 806-2066 | Español ✅

30 minutes from ETHS:

Take the 93 Bus South to California & Lincoln

Community Helping Hands

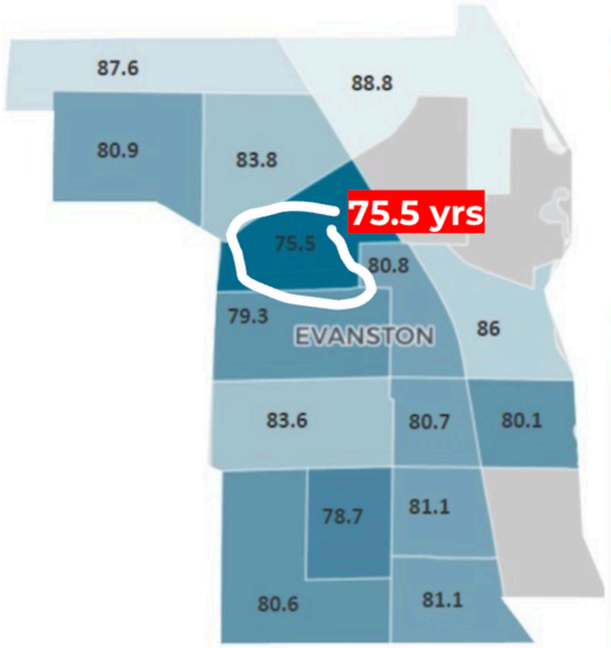
5875 N Lincoln Ave SUITE 112 | (773) 516-8772

30 minutes from ETHS:

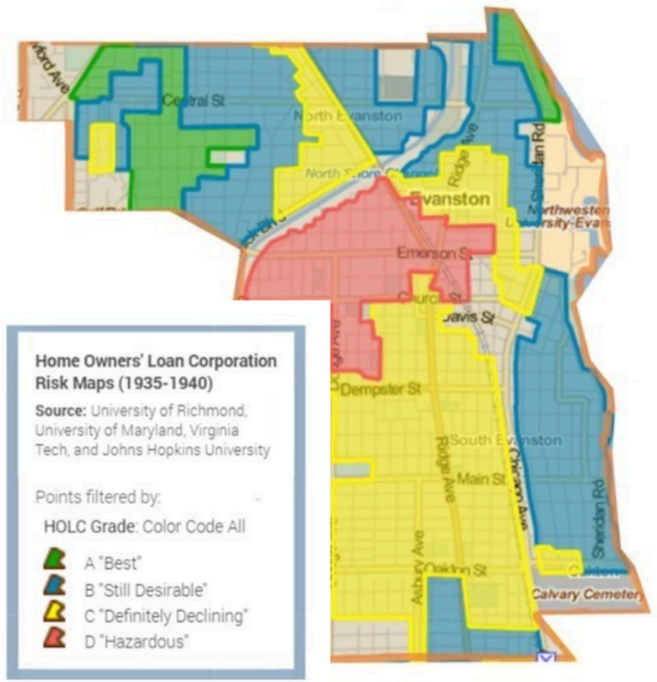
Take the 93 Bus South to California & Thorndale

Connection to Environmental Justice

Life Expectancy by Census Tract

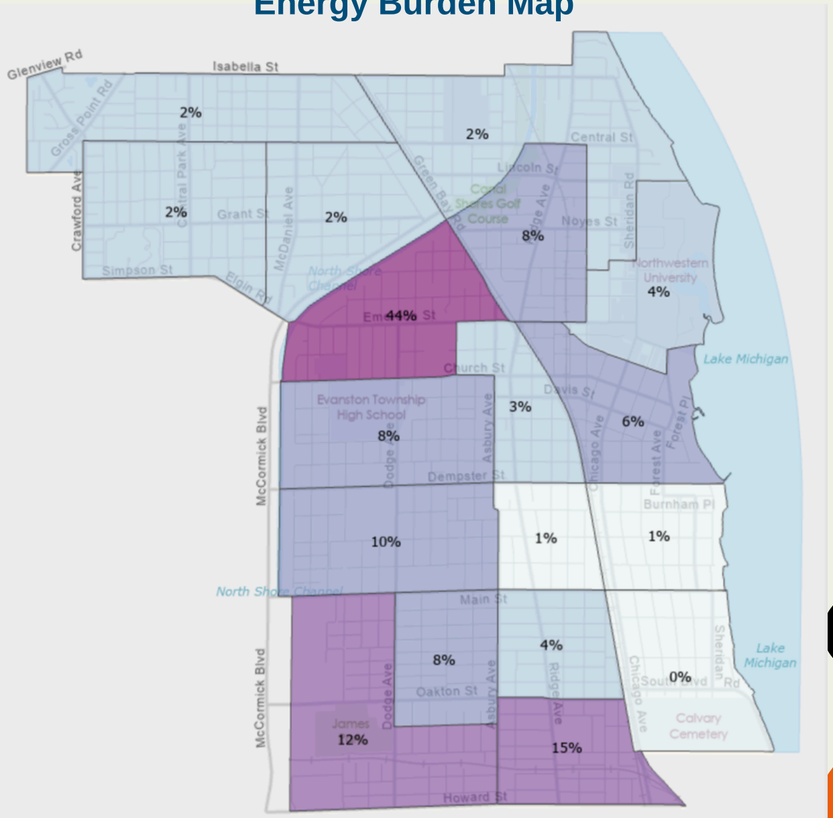


1935 Redlining Map



Source: Evanston EPLAN, 2022

Energy Burden Map



CLIMATE ACTION EVANSTON®

Connection to Environmental Justice





Housing and Development

	Action	Change Maker	Potential Partners	Alignment	Time Frame	Metrics
HD.1.	Develop programs and outreach that help property owners with electrification, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, and weatherization home upgrades.		CoE, CAE	Evanston Green Homes Pilot		Referral and participation in programs

Questions?

Jack Jordan
Executive Director
Climate Action Evanston
jjordan@climateactionevanston.org