Blacks in Green, is an environmental and economic development 501c3 non-profit tackling pollution and poverty with a system we created and call The Sustainable Square Mile™ and a goal of closing the racial health/wealth gap by teaching the risks of climate crisis and opportunities of the new green economy.

The 8 Principles of Green-Village-Building™

1. WEALTH. Micro-Saving/Lending, Local Currency. Each village has its own measures, exchanges, and repositories of wealth.

2. ENERGY. Local Energy Production & Transportation. Each village produces its own energy for heat, light, and transportation.

3. PRODUCTS. Shopping & Waste. Each village supplies basic goods and services to neighbors, converting waste to wealth in the process.

4. HOMESTEAD. Affordable Green Homes & Gardens. Each village is sustained through jobs-driven development without displacement, providing middle-income housing and producing high-quality food through community land trust CDC's.

5. CULTURE. News & Networks, Stories & Structures. Each village celebrates its past, present, and future culture through stories in print, digital, and theatrical forms.

6. ORGANIZATION. Village Centers & Borders. Each village is a walkable, self-sustaining whole with perceptible borders, inter-dependent local ties, global context, organized and in action for self-interest.

7. EDUCATION. Health, Education & Welfare. Each village fosters life-long learning through hubs, which are epicenters for green training, development, and lifestyle transformation.

8. ECONOMY. Green Jobs & Enterprise. Each village circulates its wealth through neighbor-owned businesses which invent, invest, manufacture, and merchandise locally.

Our concept of a Sustainable Square Mile, is to create a walk-to-work, walk-to-shop, walk-to-learn, walk-to-play village where African Americans own the businesses, the land, and live the conservation lifestyle in Chicago's West Woodlawn community

SUSTAINABLE SQUARE MILE: LAND, HOUSING, ECONOMY

A Black-Chicago Walkable-Village Pilot Designed to Close Our Racial Health/Wealth Gap

At BIG! Blacks in Green since 2010 we've been building a walk-to-work, walk-to-shop, walk-to-learn, walk-to-play village around economies in horticulture, energy, housing, tourism and more - an integrated ecological hub for clean utilities, transportation; and managed water, waste.

- Sustainable Energy Pilot
- Garden
- Open Space
- Greenway
- Gateway
- Bus Route
- Bus Stop
- Bike Lane
- Future Bike Lane
- New Homes (1-3 units)
- New Homes (Multi Family)
- New Homes /Mixed-Use
- Retrofit (Mixed Use)
- Ground Business/Service
- Cultural Site

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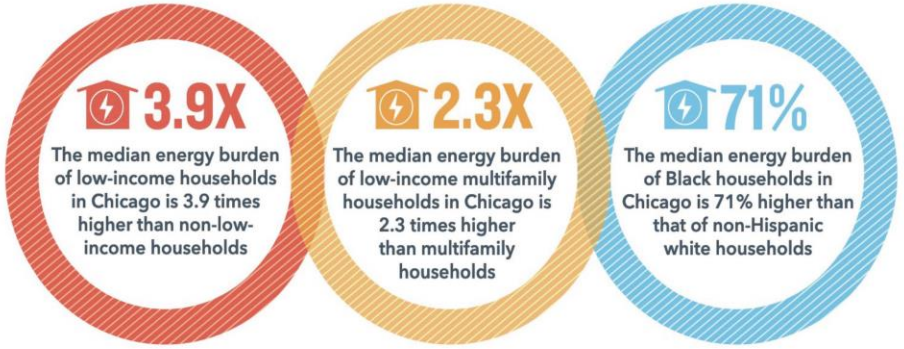
One of these 8 principles is ENERGY, which we know is an important element of health, safety and economy. We know that underserved communities are particularly energy burdened and this creates and exacerbates poverty and denies the opportunity for generational wealth.

SMART, FLEXIBLE, AFFORDABLE CLEAN ENERGY FOR CHICAGO

Energy Burden Prevalence in Chicago

Energy Burdens: Affordability = Safety, Comfort, Life



"[O]utdated electric circuits; the crowding for warmth in cramped quarters. Blocked exits become death traps. Failed smoke detectors become silent killers."

Source: https://www.bettergov.org/news/greising-since-2014-at-least-61-people-died-in-buildings-with-fire-safety-dangers-known-to-city/

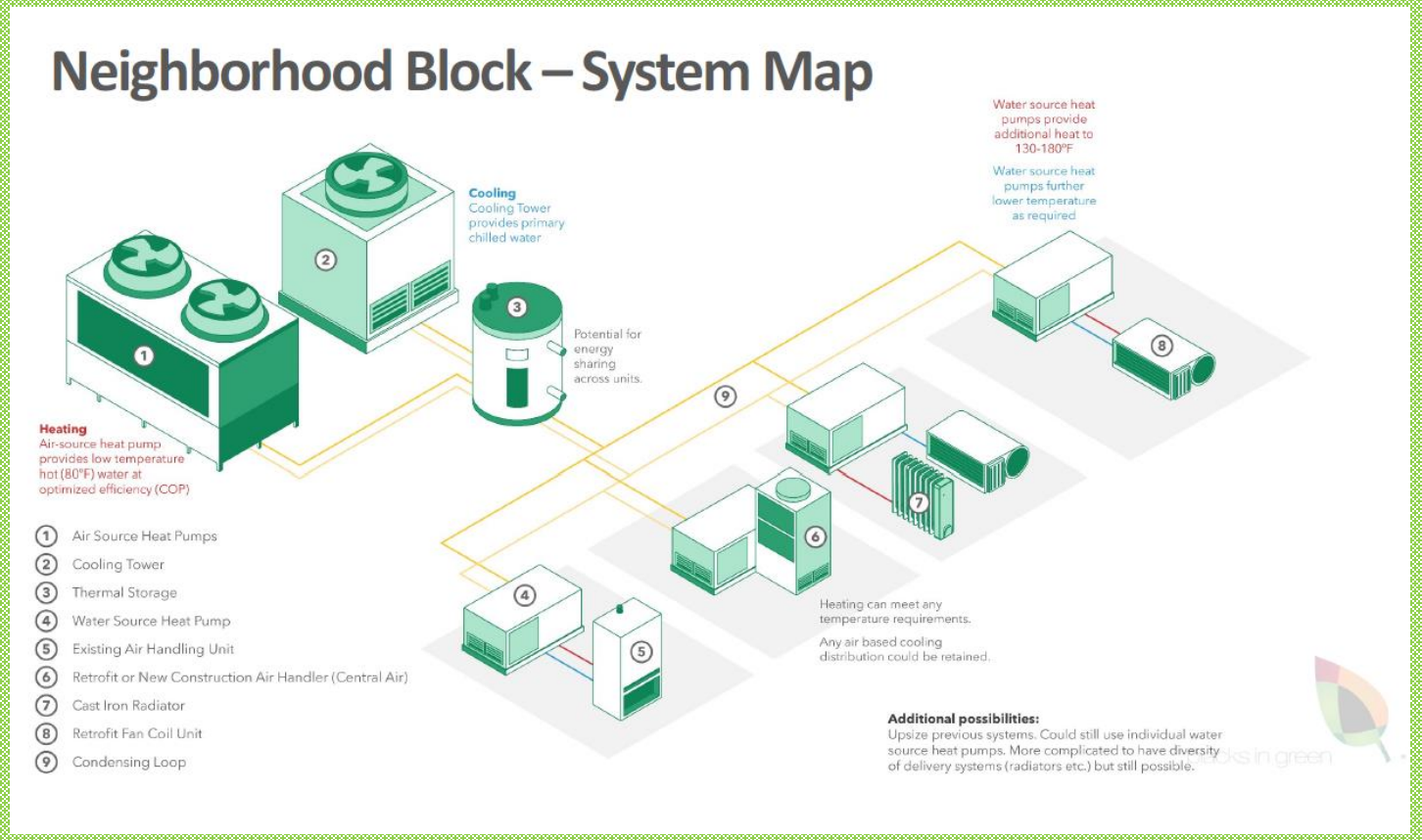
ACEEE
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

aceee.org

Source: ACEEE, Energy Burdens in Chicago. https://www.aceee.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/aceee-01_energy_burden_-_chicago.pdf

blacks in green

To resolve these problems and in the context of a community producing its own energy for heat, light, and transportation, we are building a Microgrid that can facilitate an affordable energy transition that is critical to successful climate adaptation and resilience.



To be effective, that plan for a Microgrid must be flexible enough to recognize different renewable and clean technologies, and business models and flexible enough to be accessible to all community members recognizing the different types of home and residences.

Our Sustainable Chicago Geothermal project and its focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion provides that flexibility ensuring that resident voices and goals are heard and make the opportunities of decarbonization, electrification, and beneficial electrification meaningful and accessible to all our community neighbors.

Our Sustainable Chicago Geothermal is consistent with these principles and to assure its success we need, as a basis, the Foundational Study.

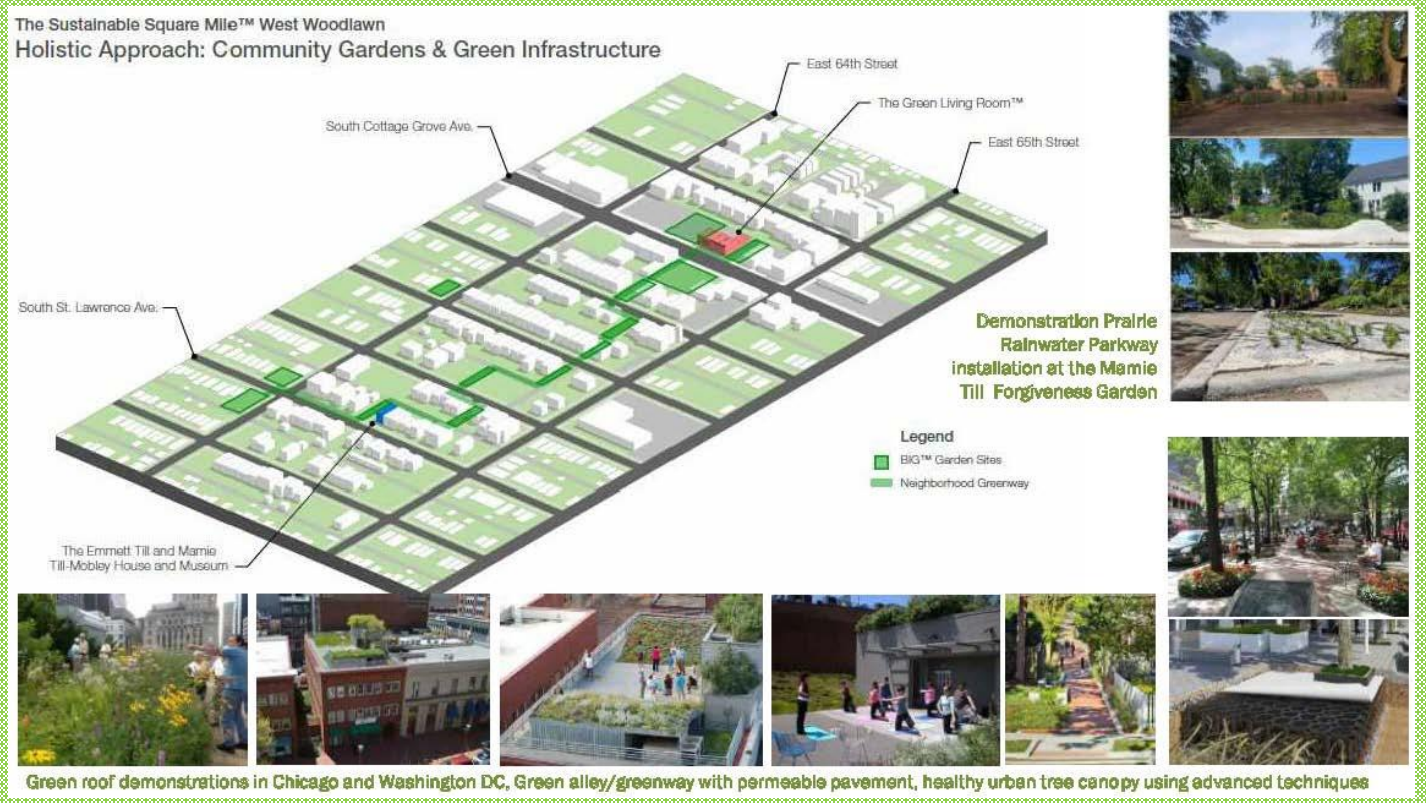
The Foundational Study design includes sub-sampling of all types of homes and populations within the program target area to ensure proper representation and robust inference from analysis.

The FS provides the evidenced-base necessary for selecting renewable energy and climate resilience solutions that are appropriate technologies and produce just and equitable outcomes for householders and the community, including reduced carbon, safe and comfortable homes and neighborhoods, affordable access to clean renewable energy and other life essential services (water, transportation, broadband, overall environmental quality.)

- **The FS also provides critical baseline information to catalyze:**
- **Smart choices and decisions about electrification and decarbonization technology options**
- **Build adaptive capacity infrastructure, projects and programming for benefit of all community residents, especially those who are most climate vulnerable via slow onset processes.**
- **Household and community level wealth building, job creation and resilience.**

Lastly, the FS would identify barriers faced by households and at the community level to affordable, clean , safe decarbonization or beneficial electrification technologies.

Within our Sustainable Square Mile is a target area in which is located much of our work. By way of integrating our 8 principles of Green Village building, we see within this target area extensive development of Green Infrastructure.



Within the area is our headquarters, the Green Living Room and our administrative offices. From we implement our 8 principles, such as Organization and Education. We develop land use and housing vision for the area and encourage community participation at our meeting space.

The Sustainable Square Mile™ West Woodlawn

Net-Zero Building Approach: The Green Living Room™ (TBDA)

The Green Living Room™, BIG™ Garden and Farm

Since BIG™ purchased its headquarters at 6431-39 S Cottage Grove, The Green Living Room™ has become a foremost hub nationally for conversations, convenings, and collaborations for all initiatives at the intersection of environmental and energy justice, sustainable communities and the New Green Economy. BIG is currently renovating the fire-damaged building at 6437-39 as a Net Zero, Living Building prototype, a replicable model of other mixed-use buildings throughout West Woodlawn. BIG is also purchasing the 50-foot city-owned vacant lot to the south for a new Living Building, with mini commercial spaces on the ground floor, affordable apartments above, an open garden, and semi-conditioned space between the buildings. BIG also intends to purchse the vacant city-owned lot across the street at 6434-40 S Cottage Grove and the residential lot across the alley on the next block at 6429 S Evans, with plans for a new mixed-use building, a new mid-block crossing at Cottage Grove, and a gateway to the proposed Neighborhood Greenway providing a beautiful, pedestrial path through West Woodlawn.

Blacks In Green (BIG™)

We are developing the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House Museum as part of our Culture and Tourism principles. We intend to totally retrofit the interior building as a Passive building, high performance building.

The Sustainable Square Mile™ West Woodlawn

Net-Zero Building Approach: The Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House and Museum (TBDA)

The Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House and Museum

BIG's purchase of the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House at 6427 S St Lawrence Ave and its landmark designation by the City of Chicago has established a premier heritage and tourism site in West Woodlawn. Our pending application to purchase a 25 feet vacant lot north of the building will allow construction of a world-class museum and cultural center, and will accommodate the many community events we've been able to host on the site.

Blacks In Green (BIG™)

The Sustainable Square Mile™ West Woodlawn

Integrated District Energy (TBDA & DataBased+)