

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act shall be known and may be  
5 cited as the Climate Accountability Act.

6 Section 5. Legislative intent. The General Assembly finds  
7 that in order to improve efficiency and the use of scarce  
8 resources, the State must receive the greatest return on the  
9 environmental investments it makes. Projects that do not return  
10 the expected environmental benefits not only waste the funds  
11 given to the project, but also prevent funding from being  
12 available for projects that would have a positive environmental  
13 impact.

14 The General Assembly additionally finds that reliable  
15 information and accountability are critical to ensuring that  
16 environmental projects are effective. By setting clear goals,  
17 the State can determine what projects best promote  
18 environmental sustainability, and it can hold contractors and  
19 State agencies accountable if those goals are not met. The  
20 General Assembly believes that by promoting climate  
21 accountability, the State can make the most of its resources in  
22 the effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote  
23 energy efficiency.

1 Section 10. Definitions.

2 (a) "Climate expenditure" means any State financial  
3 incentive, including, but not limited to, tax credits, grants,  
4 and loans, designed primarily to reduce greenhouse gas  
5 emissions.

6 (b) "CO<sub>2</sub>e" means carbon dioxide equivalent calculated as  
7 greenhouse gases normalized to metric tons of carbon dioxide.

8 (c) "Certified carbon offsets" means carbon credits  
9 certified to meet the United Nation's Clean Development  
10 Mechanism (CDM).

11 (d) "State agency" means that term as defined in the  
12 Illinois State Auditing Act.

13 Section 15. Assessment of climate priorities.

14 (a) Any State agency that makes a climate expenditure must,  
15 prior to implementation, provide the following information:

16 (1) the number of tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e reduced by the climate  
17 expenditure;

18 (2) the total cost of climate expenditure; and

19 (3) the cost per ton of CO<sub>2</sub>e reduction.

20 (b) Any State contracts required to implement a climate  
21 expenditure must include, in the performance portion of the  
22 contract, information concerning the cost per ton of CO<sub>2</sub>e  
23 reduction.

1 Section 20. Climate accountability.

2 (a) The Department of Central Management Services shall  
3 regularly conduct audits to ensure that climate expenditure  
4 contractors are meeting performance standards for cost per ton  
5 of CO<sub>2</sub>e. If contractors with whom State agencies are  
6 contracting are not in compliance, the contractors shall (i)  
7 provide certified carbon offsets equivalent to the difference  
8 between actual emissions reductions and contracted emissions  
9 reductions or (ii) refund a portion of the contract funds until  
10 the cost per ton of CO<sub>2</sub>e reduction meets the benchmark included  
11 in the contract.

12 (b) State agencies managing climate expenditure contracts  
13 shall regularly provide reports to the General Assembly  
14 outlining the performance of those individual contracts,  
15 including:

- 16 (1) the total tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e reduced;  
17 (2) the total contract amount; and  
18 (3) the cost per ton of CO<sub>2</sub>e reduced.

19 (c) State agencies that fail to complete audits and report  
20 to the General Assembly shall have all funding for all climate  
21 expenditures suspended until they meet the requirements of this  
22 Act.