



Chicago Architecture Center to open new exhibition, **ENERGY REVOLUTION**, laying out urban action on climate change

ENERGY REVOLUTION will be on view April 9 and will show how we can change our relationship to the built environment in response to the climate crisis.

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ENERGY REVOLUTION [Media Kit](#)

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CHICAGO – The [Chicago Architecture Center](#) (CAC), announces today [ENERGY REVOLUTION](#), the biggest exhibition in the organization's history, opening on April 9, 2022 in the revamped, award-winning Skyscraper Gallery overlooking the Chicago River at Michigan Avenue and East Wacker Drive.

ENERGY REVOLUTION reveals how city residents, neighborhood organizations, businesses and city leaders can create a carbon-free city using tools and approaches created by architects and urban planners and now being tested/used around the world. Energy Revolution is developed by co-curator Doug Farr, founder of Chicago-based architecture and design firm [Farr Associates](#), and CAC staff, including Eve Fineman, CAC Director of Exhibitions.

"Climate change is the most serious issue of our time, and we're the last generation that can do something about it. Energy Revolution serves as a warning but also hopes to inspire individuals, places and

communities to transform how we use energy in the built environment and innovate towards a sustainable future,” says Lynn Osmond, president and CEO of the CAC.

ENERGY REVOLUTION will show visitors the new technologies being developed by designers and urbanists that make carbon-free energy consumption a reality now, not decades from today, and lets exhibit goers explore how these new tools will change our buildings and neighborhoods. Energy Revolution includes fascinating new digital and physical interactive exhibits in five areas – Conserve, Electrify, De-carbonize, Store, Architectural Eras.



In Architectural Eras, visitors can see an infrared projection onto the supersized scale model of 875 North Michigan Avenue (formerly the John Hancock Center) that shows energy loss common among mid-20th century modernist designs that can be vastly improved through a retrofit.



In Decarbonize visitors will see a full-scale residential wind turbine showing them how they can collect-energy for their homes “off the grid.”

These and other interactive exhibits show visitors how the choices we make today will open opportunities for healthier living and a restored environment in the very near future. It aims to replace outdated but omnipresent building tools and approaches with 21st century building technologies and replace the energy-intensive structures that comprise so much of the city’s building stock. Reducing and revolutionizing our energy use is essential for addressing climate change that already batters our cities across the country and around the world.

"We have a moral responsibility to address growing energy demands in a manner that is regenerative for our communities and planet. Technology innovations in the electric grid, buildings, and renewables can get us to a carbon-free energy future but we must accompany technology with imagination and the will to transform our communities in the face of deepening climate impacts," says Uzma Noormohamed, Program Director at the Illinois Science and Energy Innovation Foundation which has given Energy Revolution a generous grant.

"We humans have self-inflicted a Climate Emergency. The greater share of this crisis is traceable to our self-destructive production and waste of energy. The situational urgency compels us to stage an ENERGY REVOLUTION, not one led by government, but one led by us, The People. This exhibit will inform and empower you on how to make a difference on climate," says co-curator Doug Farr.

Admission to Energy Revolution is included with regular admission to the CAC (located at 111 East Wacker Drive steps from Michigan Avenue) \$14 for ages five and up and \$10 for students with ID. Admission is free for children ages four and under. Admission is also free with any CAC bus, walking or “L” tour purchase.

The Chicago Gallery featuring the popular, interactive Chicago Model, Current Projects and Housing for a Changing Nation is open to the public throughout the run of Energy Revolution. The Skyscraper Gallery’s Race to the Top exhibit featuring the supersized scale models of the tallest buildings in the world -- from

the Chrysler Building to Jeddah Tower -- line the gallery's glass facade throughout the run of Energy Revolution.

Program Highlights

What is the Energy Revolution? A conversation with Doug Farr

Thursday, April 21 at 6 p.m.

Virtual on Zoom and in-person at the CAC Lecture Hall, 111 East Wacker Drive

A deep dive exploration of Energy Revolution with exhibit curator Doug Farr, a national leader in sustainable design.

Admission \$15, CAC Members \$7

Equitable Green Design in Chicago

Tuesday, June 21 at 6 p.m.

Virtual on Zoom

Highlighting net-zero projects for all with lessons from Seattle's Bullitt Center, one of the world's greenest office buildings.

Admission \$15, CAC Members \$7

Energy Revolution Happy Hour and Dance Party at the CAC

Thursday, July 14 at 5:30 pm

A fun evening utilizing the Energy Revolution dance floor + DJ's + drink!

Details to follow.

Acknowledgments

Energy Revolution is made possible by a generous grant from the [Illinois Science Energy and Innovation Foundation](#) and by Exhibit Sponsor [ComEd](#). Energy Revolution was developed by CAC staff in partnership with [Farr Associates](#) and founder Doug Farr.

About the Chicago Architecture Center

The Chicago Architecture Center (CAC) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1966, dedicated to inspiring people to discover why design matters. A national leader in architecture and design education, the CAC offers tours, programs, exhibitions, and more that are part of a dynamic journey of lifelong learning.

Opened to the public in 2018, its riverfront location is in the heart of the city, where Michigan Avenue meets the Chicago River, featuring nearly 10,000 square feet of exhibition space with views of a century of iconic skyscrapers.

Through partnerships with schools and youth-serving organizations, the CAC reaches approximately 30,000 K-12 students annually, while teacher workshops provide educators with tools and resources they need to advance STEM curricula in their classrooms. Committed to serving under-represented communities in construction, engineering, and design professions, the CAC offers many of its education programs—and all of its programs for teens—at no cost to participants. CAC programs for adults and members include talks with acclaimed authors and practicing architects, in-depth presentations on issues and trends in urbanism, and classes unlocking subjects related to the built environment

Proceeds from programs, tours, and the CAC Design Store, as well as from grants, sponsorships, and donations, support its educational mission. Visit architecture.org to learn more and follow @chiarchitecture and #chiarchitecture on social media.

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