The Ameren Illinois Clean Energy Award

Call for Applications: Are you passionate about creating a cleaner, more sustainable energy future? The 2026 Ameren Illinois Clean Energy Award recognizes students whose studies and experiences show a commitment to addressing climate change, energy justice, and the challenges of the clean energy transition.

Clean energy includes renewable power like sun, wind, and water—it also includes advances in storage, materials, electrification, efficiency, policy, and sustainable innovation. This transition is vital for protecting health, safeguarding the environment, and ensuring reliable energy for generations.

The Ameren Illinois Clean Energy Award provides financial support and recognition to undergraduates in any field—engineering, business, chemistry, biology, and beyond—who are pursuing academic excellence and impactful careers that contribute to a sustainable energy future through clean energy.

Come learn more about the award: **Ameren Clean Energy Award Informational Meeting**: (March 6th, 3:00, Bradley Hall Room 70). Attendance is encouraged but is **not required** to apply.

Award Amount: Up to $3,000. Multiple awards will be made.

Eligibility Criteria: To apply, students must meet the following **minimum eligibility requirements**:

- Be currently enrolled as a **full- or part-time undergraduate** at Bradley University.
    - Priority is given to students who have completed at least **one semester (minimum of 12 credit hours)** at Bradley University.

- Be pursuing a major in **Biology, Business, Chemistry, Construction**, **Engineering, or Environmental Science**. Students **from other Clean-Energy related majors** are welcome to apply but must include a brief explanation of how their program of study is relevant to clean energy in the application form where they indicate their major.

- Meet **at least one** of the following criteria*:

    - First-generation college student (first in the family to attend college)
    - Person with a disability
    - U.S. military veteran
    - Returning to the workforce following incarceration
    - Have financial need as evidenced by **at least one** of the following:
        - Qualify for a federal Pell Grant
        - Qualify for State of IL Map Grant (Illinois residents only)
        - Have an SAI under $9,000 as determined by FAFSA

*If you are unsure about whether you meet one of the qualifications for financial need, contact bufinaid@bradley.edu or the Financial Aid Office (309) 677-3089.

Application Materials

To be considered for the The Ameren Illinois Clean Energy Award, students must submit the following:

1. **Completed Application Form (go to the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies website):**
   https://www.bradley.edu/academics/academic-offices/office-of-interdisciplinary-studies/

2. **Faculty recommendation (no more than 1 page)**

   - Must be written by a faculty member or instructor in the applicant's major and/or someone who teaches energy-focused classes.
   - Should speak to the student's academic strengths, motivation, and potential for success in a profession related to advancing a sustainable energy future through clean energy.
   - The recommendation may be shared with Ameren and Solutions for Energy Efficient Logistics, LLC.

The faculty recommendation should be sent electronically to Dr. Derek Montgomery, Director, Office of Interdisciplinary Studies, at montg@fsmail.bradley.edu

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Deadline and Submission

- Application Deadline: Fall Semester [**April 3, 2026**]
- Submit materials: application form (link here) and faculty recommendation to montg@fsmail.bradley.edu
- Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Selection Process

A multidisciplinary committee of faculty and staff will review applications based on:

- Academic dedication related to clean energy
- Clarity and relevance of career goals to a clean energy theme
- Potential impact of the award on the applicant's future
- Strength of recommendation

Questions? For questions about eligibility or the application process, please contact: Dr. Derek Montgomery, montg@fsmail.bradley.edu