



Today in Illinois, as elsewhere around the globe, people are under attack from two serious crises: the **soaring cost of energy**, particularly electricity rates and gas prices; and the gradual catastrophe in the making known as **global warming**.

These two crises are related. They both stem primarily from the manner in which we produce and use energy. Our heavy reliance on fossil fuels to produce energy for heating, cooling, electricity, and transportation – as well as our inefficient and **wasteful uses of such energy** – has made us extremely vulnerable to the price-gouging practices of giant energy companies, has resulted in heavy emissions of the greenhouse gases, and is the primary reason for our federal government's **disastrous policies of military aggression** in the Middle East.

The common cause of these problems, however, also points the way toward common solutions. Better methods of producing energy and using it more efficiently are not only needed to save the planet; they will, at the same time, reduce costs for consumers and businesses alike. There is great potential to unite environmentalists, labor, anti-poverty and affordable housing advocates, the peace and justice movements, and even forward-looking business interests into a great force for positive change.

**The Power to the People campaign aims to build such a force in Illinois.**

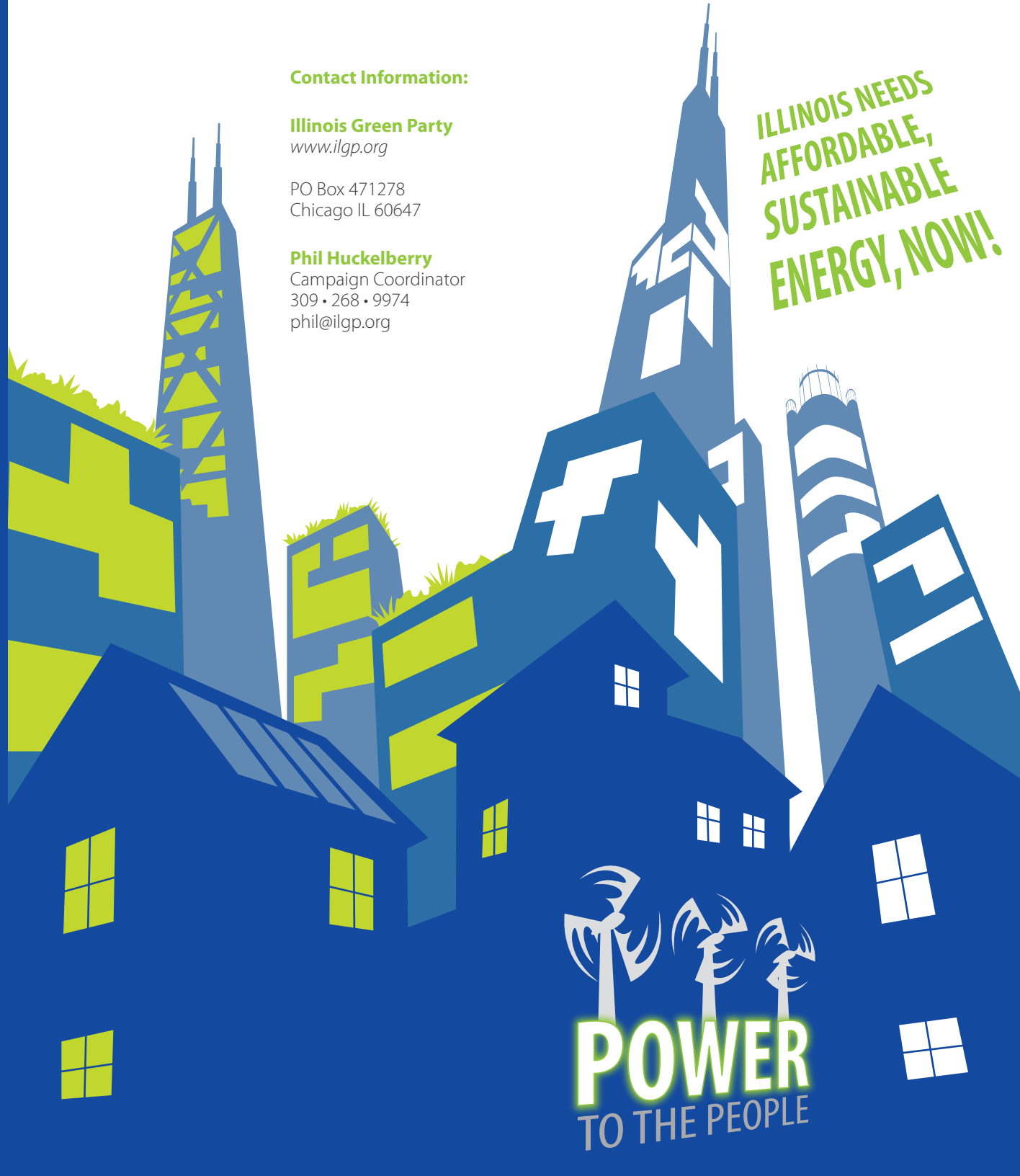
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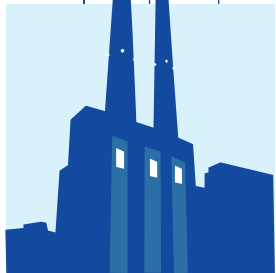
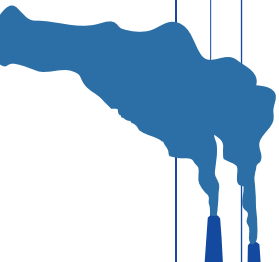
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**ILLINOIS NEEDS  
AFFORDABLE,  
SUSTAINABLE  
ENERGY, NOW!**



WHAT'S  
DRAGGING  
ILLINOIS  
DOWN?



WE NEED



POWER  
TO THE PEOPLE

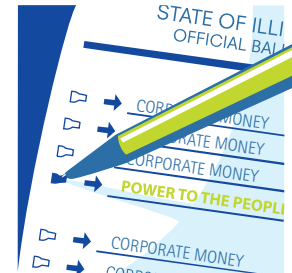
FOR ILLINOIS!

### How Will the Campaign Work?

Positive political change doesn't happen by itself. The people have to make it happen. We, the people, have to become educated about the issues and fight for the policy changes needed to reach our goals.

We begin with community organizing. Green Party local chapters throughout Illinois, other organizations, and interested individuals are encouraged to organize and promote public meetings in their local communities. Groups can contact the Campaign Committee to arrange for a speaker to present the Campaign's goals, initiatives, and legislative priorities, which include:

- An immediate roll-back and freeze of electricity rates, followed by an introduction of a system of regulatory controls aimed at protecting the public interest.
- Establishment of publicly owned, publicly accountable energy utilities, and new regional electrical or energy cooperatives.
- Development at all levels of government of green building codes and programs to provide assistance for the retrofitting of homes and businesses, with first priority going to low-income housing.
- Increased state and local support for public mass transit, smart urban planning, a clean cars program, and other measures to promote sustainable transportation.



- Raising energy-efficiency requirements for electrical appliances.
- Major campaign finance reform which would prevent utilities and other for-profit corporations from exerting powerful influence on the election process.
- A strong renewable energy standard requiring utilities to obtain at least 25 percent of their power from renewable energy sources by the year 2020.

The Campaign Committee will disseminate information on legislative and local initiatives, and organize to push legislators and other public officials to support these initiatives. These initiatives - and how our elected officials respond to them - will then become issues for the 2008 election. We will win what we can now, and continue the fight throughout 2008.

The Power to the People Campaign is a project of the Illinois Green Party. Now an established political party in Illinois, the Green Party is devoted, among other things, to principles of grassroots democracy, social justice, community-based economics, and the protection and restoration of our environment.