University of Illinois System

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE)

FOR FY2026, THE U OF I SYSTEM REQUESTS $9.5 BILLION FOR THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND $500 MILLION FOR ARPA-E.

DOE OFFICE OF SCIENCE	
FY2025	=$8.2B
FY2024	= $8.2B
FY2023	= $8.1B
FY2022	= $7.475B

ARPA-E	
FY2025	= $460M
FY2024	= $460M
FY2023	= $470M
FY2022	= $450M

Appropriations Bill: Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies

Agency: U.S. Department of Energy

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DOE R&D EXPENDITURES, FY2024	
University of Illinois Chicago	$16.1 Million
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	$121.8 Million

*Source: FY2024 NSF HERD Survey

DOE-SUPPORTED PROJECTS AT UIUC

UIUC has been one of DOE's top university funding partners. UIUC is regularly among the top 10 institutions nationwide in annual DOE research expenditures.

DOE Office of Science
UIUC is the lead institution for one of nation's four Bioenergy Research Centers (BRCs), the Center for Advanced Bioenergy and Bioproducts Innovation (CABBI), which was launched in 2017 with a 5-year grant. In March 2023, DOE announced a 5-year extension of funding for CABBI to a total of $262.5 million for the period from 2017 to 2027. CABBI is using thematic research into feedstock production, conversion, and sustainability to develop sustainable, cost-effective biofuels – and bioproducts.

UIUC launched the Illinois Quantum Information Science and Technology Center (IQUIST) to revolutionize computing, communication, security, and measurement and sensing through quantum mechanics.

UIUC is also home to two Energy Frontier Research Centers (EFRCs) — the Center for Quantum Sensing and Quantum Materials (QSQM) and the Center for Regenerative Energy-Efficient Manufacturing of Thermoset Polymeric Materials (REMAT).

Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, & Emergency Response (CESER)
With support from DOE CESER and DHS' Security Science & Technology Directorate, the Cyber Resilient Energy Delivery Consortium (CREDC) is conducting cutting-edge research to bolster the resiliency of the nation's energy delivery systems.

National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL)
The Prairie Research Institute is a global leader in demonstrating technologies for capture and storage of carbon dioxide to balance our nation's growing energy needs and climate concerns. DOE is funding multiple CarbonSAFE geologic storage projects to define and develop regional carbon storage infrastructure. A post-combustion Carbon Dioxide Capture project enables the commercial-scale capture of CO2 from coal-fired power plants.

In Feb. 2024, DOE awarded UIUC $4M for a Front-End Engineering and Design study to establish a fully integrated, vertical supply chain that would be located entirely within the State of Illinois for production of select critical minerals from coal-based sources.

Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA-E)
ARPA-E announced $5M in funding to UIUC and partner institutions to develop a new variety of corn called NSave that will reduce nitrogen fertilizer use and greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining crop yield.

A "smart farms" research team was awarded $4.5M from DOE's ARPA-E program to calculate farm-scale carbon credits. It will allow individual farmer to understand the value of their land and practices toward carbon trading markets.

DOE awarded a $3.3M ARPA-E grant to a multidisciplinary research team at UIUC to develop a precise system for measuring greenhouse gas emissions from commercial bioenergy crops grown in central Illinois.

The Next Generation of Materials for Energy
As part of the Manufacturing USA Initiative, UIUC is a Tier 1 member of the DOE-funded REMADE Institute, which focuses on driving down the cost of technologies needed to reuse, recycle, and remanufacture materials such as metals, fibers, polymers, and electronic waste.

UIUC is leading a $2M project for the development of next generation steels aimed at meeting the challenges of hydrogen embrittlement.

UIUC's Prairie Research Institute is part of a national team to develop artificial intelligence technologies to sort non-recyclable plastics so they can be reused for fuels. DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy has awarded the team $2.5 million to complete the three-year project.

DOE National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)
The DOE's NNSA Advanced Simulation and Computing announced it will fund a new $17M Center for Exascale-enabled Scramjet Design at UIUC. It will be a boon for hypersonics efforts at UIUC and for bringing high-performance computing together with engineering analysis and design.

Office of Nuclear Energy
The DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy funds R&D projects, infrastructure upgrade grants, fellowships and scholarships under the Consolidated Innovative Nuclear Research program. DOE-supported nuclear energy research at Illinois includes enterprise risk management, irradiation assistance for stress in weldments, computer code validation for nuclear power plants, advanced structural materials tolerance, and accident-tolerant nuclear fuels.

Advancing Commercial Applications
From 2003-2024, DOE awarded 100 Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) awards to EnterpriseWorks companies for a total of nearly $53.5M.

DOE-SUPPORTED PROJECTS AT UIC

With the support of a $4.8M, three-year award from DOE, UIC is leading a new consortium that will pave educational pathways to usher students from all backgrounds into quantum engineering.

UIC is leading a $4.1M DOE project to develop innovative modeling, protection, and control strategies for next-generation power grids with large-scale renewable energy integration.

In 2020, UIC's Energy Resources Center was selected to receive a three-year, $1.8M research grant from DOE to investigate the impacts of locating pollinator habitat at large-scale solar facilities.

As a testament of UIC's long history in energy storage science, UIC is part of the Energy Storage Research Alliance, a $62.5M DOE initiative uniting researchers from three national laboratories and 12 universities to pursue cleaner, safer and longer-lasting battery technologies.

In 2022, engineers at UIC were awarded just over $1M from DOE's National Alliance for Water Innovation to build a system that selectively removes and destroys poly- and perfluorinated substances, commonly called PFAS and referred to as "forever chemicals," from industrial and municipal wastewaters.