POLICY WATCH

Tracking federal and Illinois policy changes affecting clean fuels production and use

A Renewable Diesel Option for Chicago Film Productions

Film and television productions in the Chicago area now have a renewable diesel option. Renewable diesel is available for public purchase at a BP station on South Des Plaines Street in Chicago, a development that connects directly to Illinois' sustainable production incentive.

That incentive is an additional 5% credit, on top of the state's film production tax credit, for productions certified as "green" by the Illinois Film Office, part of the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). It was added through Senate Bill 1911, signed in December 2025, and applies to productions that applied on or after July 1, 2025. Governor JB Pritzker highlighted it in an April 22, 2026 announcement.

To qualify, a production hires a certified third-party sustainability vendor, follows a Sustainable Production Plan, and submits a wrap report that includes a carbon footprint analysis. The Film Office director decides on certification and, if approved, issues a Green Production Certificate to include with the tax credit claim.

For Illinois' clean fuels community, the transportation section of the Film Office's scoresheet is where fuel choice comes in. The scoresheet awards two points when at least half of the diesel purchased and used in trucks and generators is renewable diesel (also called HVO), documented with fuel descriptions and invoices, so productions buying at the pump should make sure receipts identify the product. That is one scored item among many. Others reward electric and hydrogen vehicles, battery or grid power in place of generators, and no-idling policies. A production needs 70 of the scoresheet's 100 possible points, along with its required items, to qualify, so fuel choice is one lever among several rather than a stand-alone path to the credit. Productions should confirm with their sustainability vendor and the Film Office how a specific fuel choice would be scored, and should confirm current eligibility dates and application steps before planning around the credit.

"Sustainable production isn't just a goal, it's a new standard," said Peter Hawley, deputy director of the Illinois Film Office, at the April announcement.

IACT will keep tracking how state incentives like this one shape fuel and fleet decisions across Illinois industries. IACT does not endorse any fuel, supplier, or vendor. Productions and suppliers with questions about clean transportation options in Illinois can reach IACT at info@il-act.org.