

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ComEd Icebox Derby Helps 30 Young Women Bridge the Gap in STEM, Awards Each with \$1,500 Scholarship

New Derby Diehards program also lets fans take part in the action and get a chance to win prizes

CHICAGO (July 16, 2019) – ComEd has selected 30 young women ages 13 to 18 to participate in the sixth-annual [ComEd Icebox Derby](#), a program the energy company developed to encourage women to pursue science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education and careers. Each participant will receive a \$1,500 scholarship.

Icebox Derby participants transform old refrigerators from ComEd’s [Fridge and Freezer Recycling](#) program into solar-enhanced racecars. Six teams of girls will work with ComEd mentors to assemble and race the cars.

This year, the [ComEd Icebox Derby](#) is not only for the participants: Everyone can join in on the fun and have a chance to win big by becoming a Derby Diehard. The public can take up to 12 social media challenges for a chance to win one of several energy efficient prizes, including a smart refrigerator, smart thermostats and solar-powered phone chargers. Fans can learn more about Derby Diehards and take a quiz to find out which team matches their personality at [IceboxDerby.com](#).

In addition to powering homes and businesses across northern Illinois, ComEd continues to lead the conversation on the value of STEM-focused careers. Women make up 49 percent of the workforce, yet only 26 percent of jobs in STEM-related fields in Illinois, according to a [study](#) by the Illinois Science & Technology Coalition. This summer, more than 10 percent of past Icebox Derby participants are working at ComEd as interns.

“The lack of women in STEM careers continues to be a problem, and we need to do more than talk about it,” said [Joe Dominguez](#), CEO of ComEd. “That’s why we created this program to encourage young women to step into their power and take ownership of the opportunities that exist in STEM field. The world’s biggest challenges involve science, technology, engineering and math, and we will need women scientists and innovators to help solve them. The Icebox Derby is just one way we are creating positive change and exposing youth from our communities to STEM career possibilities.”

The program will culminate with the race on **Saturday, Aug. 3, at Daley Plaza, 50 W. Washington St., Chicago**. The festivities will begin at noon, and admission is free for all. In addition to the race, families and kids can enjoy various STEM activities in the plaza. The winning team will earn bragging rights and the ComEd Icebox Derby STEM Cup. The race will test not only the girls’ speed and craftsmanship, but also their analytical skills and ability to work together to achieve a common goal.

Interviews are available with ComEd leadership and mentors, Icebox Derby alumni and participants.

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ComEd is a unit of Chicago-based Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC), a Fortune 100 energy company with approximately 10 million electricity and natural gas customers – the largest number of customers in the U.S. ComEd powers the lives of more than 4 million customers across northern Illinois, or 70 percent of the state’s population. For more information visit [ComEd.com](#) and connect with the company on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).