

CHICAGO FLAME

Clinton partners with city for green initiative

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Through his foundation, former President Bill Clinton is partnering with the city, an international commercial real estate company and a green building group to help improve the energy efficiency of schools, multifamily housing buildings and commercial structures, including Chicago's Sears Tower and its massive Merchandise Mart, a building so large it has its own zip code.

"We waste too much energy, we ignore clean sources of energy," Clinton said.

The partnerships are part of an initiative Clinton's foundation launched last year to help fight climate change.

The Merchandise Mart, a center of Chicago's wholesale design industry, will spend about \$50 million over the next 15 years become more energy efficient, from power and cooling systems to rooftop gardens on the 4.2 million-square-foot building, said Christopher Kennedy, president of Merchandise Mart Properties.

Kennedy expects the efficiencies to eventually yield substantial cost savings.