



## News Release

### For Immediate Release

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### Don Gillingham Joins R1 as Consultant

**ROCKFORD, IL** – Region 1 Planning Council is pleased to welcome Don Gillingham to its team as a consultant. Gillingham is a longtime advocate for the Rockford Region and recently retired as Executive Director of Rockford Lutheran School, following a 45-year career in education. He served a two-year term on the Rock Valley College Board of Trustees beginning in 2013. Gillingham will use his public sector, education, and community experience to lend support to multi-jurisdictional projects that further economic development initiatives pertaining to energy resiliency, sustainability partnerships with the private sector, as well as investment in targeted labor sheds.

“Our best possible future requires an increased commitment to renewable energy,” Gillingham said. “Raising awareness of the need for renewable energy and the capacity for the production of tomorrow’s power provides me with a way to contribute to this community.”

R1 Executive Director Michael Dunn Jr. is excited to have Gillingham work with R1 staff on new opportunities that allow organizations to collaborate on regionwide projects. “Don brings years of experience and wisdom to us as a consultant, and has shown a strong track record in our community of marrying a unique innovative vision, with day-to-day action,” Dunn Jr. said.

**ABOUT R1:** Region 1 Planning Council is a special-purpose, regional government agency. Regional councils are public organizations comprised of local elected officials that promote collaboration among local governments, working across the jurisdictional silos of states, counties, and municipalities.

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