



Bitcoin Beacon - May 2025

Educating, Advocating, & Collaborating for Illinois's Bitcoin Future

Welcome to the Beacon!

Dear Illinois Bitcoin Community,

Welcome to *The Bitcoin Beacon*! At the [Illinois Bitcoin Council](#), our three pillars—education, advocacy, and collaboration—guide our mission to make Illinois a leader in Bitcoin adoption. Our current areas of focus are:

EDUCATION

Develop homeschool curriculum for financial literacy and Bitcoin education.

Awaiting our application approval to become a node on the [Mi Primer Network](#)!

ADVOCACY

Work with local politicians on Bitcoin-friendly legislation such as:

- Illinois Digital Asset Self-Custody Act
- Illinois Municipal Digital Asset Investment Act

COLLABORATION

Identify and build relationships with state retail associations.

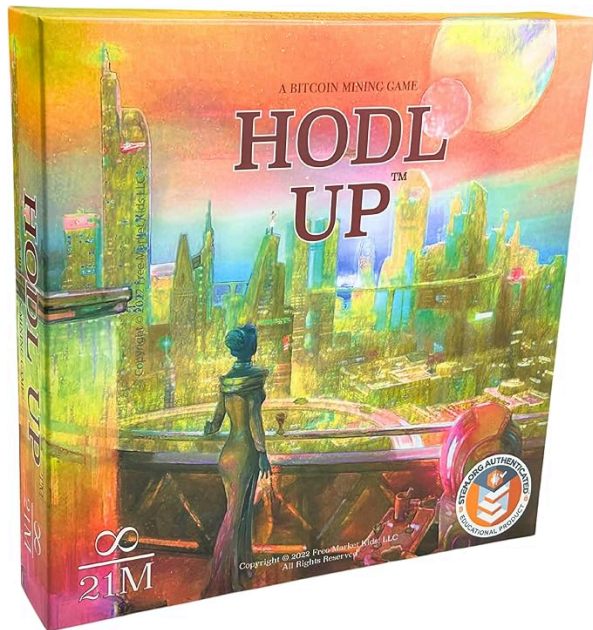
Develop educational materials to enhance Lightning Network adoption.

- Illinois Bitcoin Tax Exemption Act

At the protocol's core is the belief - *Bitcoin is for everyone*. Together, we're building an inclusive Bitcoin ecosystem. Read on to see how you can get involved!

~ Tim Niemeyer, IBC President

Education: Empowering Our Kids with Bitcoin Education



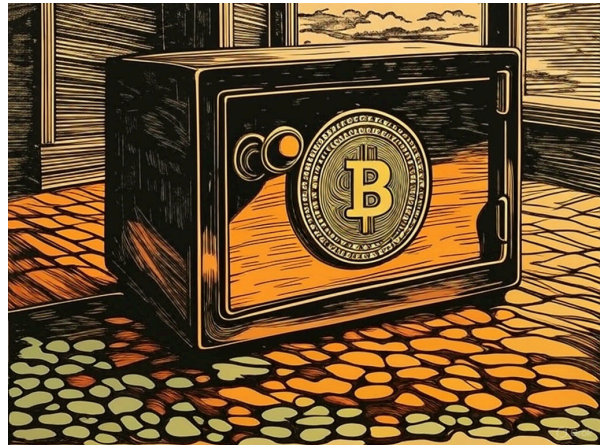
Free Market Kids, founded by Scott and Tali Lindberg, is an education company dedicated to teaching children about money, math, and Bitcoin through engaging tabletop games, courses, and resources, with a mission to empower the next generation for freedom, success, and happiness. Their flagship game, HODL UP, is a STEM.org-certified Bitcoin mining game that introduces players of all ages to the Bitcoin timechain in a fun, accessible way. Designed to be as easy to learn as Uno, HODL UP combines strategy, chance, and Bitcoin principles like halving events, cold storage, and hash power, making it an ideal tool for family game nights or classrooms, fostering both entertainment and financial literacy in about 45 minutes of play.

Advocacy: Upholding the Right to Financial Freedom

The *Illinois Digital Asset Self-Custody Act* is designed to protect your right to hold and manage your Bitcoin and other digital assets without relying on third-party custodians. This proposed bill aims to ensure financial freedom by letting you

control your private keys or wallets securely. We believe the need for ensuring autonomy, privacy, and protection from undue state interference is paramount.

This act empowers everyday Bitcoiners by clarifying that self-custody isn't "money transmission," sparing you from unnecessary licensing hassles. It also safeguards your assets from state seizure without due process and prevents unfair taxation just for holding your own Bitcoin. While it respects federal regulations like anti-money laundering rules, the bill's focus on individual rights means you can enjoy greater privacy and autonomy.



Collaboration: Lightning Network 🤝 Retail Associations

The Illinois Bitcoin Council (IBC), with its mission to foster responsible Bitcoin growth through education, advocacy, and collaboration, are open to developing relationships among retail associations in Illinois that share overlapping interests in innovation, economic empowerment, and business-friendly policies.

The Lightning Network (LN) enables fast, low-cost Bitcoin transactions, ideal for retail environments. We are developing a "Consumer Report," which will assess possible LN provider based on criteria critical to retail associations: ease of setup and use, transaction fees, integration capabilities, reliability, security, and customer support.

Why Bitcoin Makes Sense for Small Businesses:

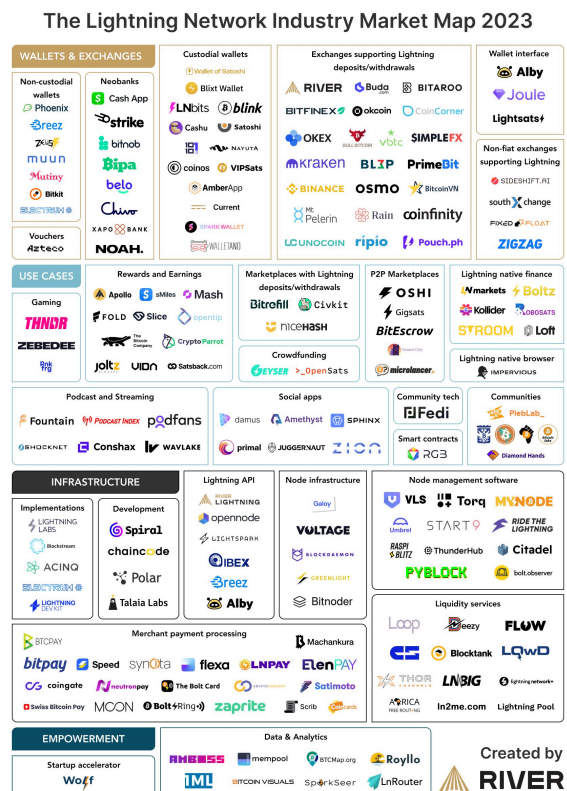
- **Lower Fees:** Credit card transactions can eat away at profits. Bitcoin eliminates most of those processing fees.
- **New Customers:** Bitcoin users are a loyal, global community always looking to support crypto-friendly businesses.

- **Reliable Payments:** Unlike traditional payment platforms, Bitcoin transactions can't be frozen or reversed—what you earn, you keep.
- **Marketing Edge:** A simple "We Accept Bitcoin" sign sets your business apart and attracts attention in a crowded marketplace.
- **Financial Inclusion:** Accepting Bitcoin can help serve unbanked or underbanked customers who face steep fees just to cash checks or store money.

The Lightning Network, Bitcoin's layer-2 scaling solution, is exponentially expanding, enabling near-instant, low-cost transactions that will revolutionize businesses.

By facilitating high-volume micropayments with minimal fees, it empowers retailers, e-commerce platforms, and service providers to accept Bitcoin seamlessly, reducing reliance on costly traditional payment systems.

Its growing adoption enhances global accessibility, fostering financial inclusion and enabling businesses to tap into new markets. This scalable, secure network transforms payment processing, streamlining operations and driving innovation across industries.



SOURCE: [River](#)

Think Globally...

Federal Reserve Withdraws Digital Asset Notification Requirements

The U.S. Federal Reserve has withdrawn its 2022 and 2023 guidance requiring banks to notify regulators before engaging in digital asset-related activities,

including Bitcoin. This shift removes a key regulatory barrier, paving the way for greater integration of Bitcoin into traditional finance.

Strategic Bitcoin Reserve Proposal

Senator Cynthia Lummis's BITCOIN Act and President Trump's 2025 Executive Order establish a U.S. Strategic Bitcoin Reserve, aiming to acquire 1 million BTC over five years. This government-backed initiative positions Bitcoin as a national strategic asset, boosting its legitimacy, fostering policy collaboration, and enhancing public understanding of its role in the financial system.

Cambridge Digital Mining Industry Report

The University of Cambridge's 2025 Digital Mining Industry Report reveals that 52.4% of Bitcoin mining now relies on zero-emission energy, up significantly from 37.6% in 2022. The report strengthens Bitcoin's environmental credibility, informing policy, supporting advocacy, and highlighting its role in renewable energy integration and grid stability.

Repeal of SEC Staff Accounting Bulletin 121 (SAB 121)

The repeal of SEC Staff Accounting Bulletin 121 eliminates a major accounting hurdle that discouraged banks from offering Bitcoin custody services. This regulatory win promotes collaboration with financial institutions and advances Bitcoin's mainstream integration by removing barriers to adoption.

Cantor Fitzgerald's Twenty One Capital Bitcoin Venture

Cantor Fitzgerald's launch of Twenty One Capital—a \$3.6 billion Bitcoin-native public company backed by major financial and crypto firms—marks a significant step in Wall Street's embrace of Bitcoin. With over 42,000 BTC and a 197% stock surge, the venture advances advocacy, investor education, and cross-sector collaboration, reinforcing Bitcoin's role in mainstream finance.

Pro-Bitcoin SEC Chair Appointment

The appointment of a pro-crypto SEC chair in April 2025 marks a regulatory shift toward clearer, more supportive oversight of Bitcoin and digital assets. This development reduces market uncertainty, encourages institutional participation, and aligns with advocacy efforts for Bitcoin-friendly legislation and mainstream integration.

...Act Locally

We invite you to take action through volunteering, donating, or becoming a member. What talents or passions do you have to share? Share your ideas at info@illinoisbitcoinCouncil.org.

Bitcoin donations are welcome at our [Geyser fund page](#). Every contribution counts!

[Become a member](#) for exclusive access to future workshops, policy updates, and networking events.

Vires numeris! Get involved and help us build a more inclusive ecosystem as Bitcoin is for everyone.

Contact: info@illinoisbitcoinCouncil.org, illinoisbitcoinCouncil.org, x.com/ilbtccouncil, [IBC LinkedIn Group](#)

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