



Going Solar: Your Guide to Illinois Shines

This document provides information on the major steps in the Illinois Shines program for customers interested in installing a solar project on their property. Illinois Shines is the brand name for a renewable energy incentive program (also known as the Adjustable Block Program) administered by the State of Illinois. Information on timing for each step is approximate and may vary for your project. This information sheet is not for community solar offers.

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Review & Sign Disclosure Form and Customer Contract

Your Approved Vendor or its Designee must give you a copy of the Illinois Shines informational brochure and the standard Disclosure Form. Once you have signed the Disclosure Form, you can then sign your Installation Contract. It's important to carefully review and understand these documents before you sign them.

Your Approved Vendor cannot begin the process of applying for your solar project to be part of the Illinois Shines program until you sign the Disclosure Form.

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"Part I" Application Submission & Review (1-2 months)

The Approved Vendor completes an initial "Part I" application for your solar project to be part of the Illinois Shines program. The Approved Vendor groups your solar project with other projects and submits them as a "batch" to the Program Administrator, who reviews and verifies the applications.

If there are errors in an application, the Approved Vendor has 14 days to correct the errors. Your Approved Vendor may need your help in correcting any errors.

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Commission Review (1-3 weeks)

The Program Administrator sends batches of verified applications to the Illinois Commerce Commission for approval.

The Commission will review the applications and approve the corresponding Renewable Energy Credit (REC) Contracts between your Approved Vendor and the Contracting Utility. The Commission meets approximately every 2 weeks and the applications must be submitted 8 business days prior to a Commission meeting in order to be considered.

KEY TERMS

You may be working directly with:

Approved Vendor

Solar contractor or developer that enrolls your solar project in the Illinois Shines program, and also sells the Renewable Energy Credits ("RECs") generated from solar projects to the Contracting Utility.

Designee

Works with an Approved Vendor to do marketing, enroll customers, install projects, or other activities.

Entities involved in the Illinois Shines program:

Illinois Power Agency

State Agency that administers the procurement of renewable energy resources to meet Illinois' renewable energy goals, including renewable energy incentive programs like Illinois Shines.

Program Administrator

Works with the Illinois Power Agency to run the day-to-day operations of the Illinois Shines program. InClimate, Inc. is currently the designated Program Administrator.

Illinois Commerce Commission

State Agency that regulates public utilities in Illinois and also approves aspects of the Illinois Shines program.

Utility companies that will be involved:

Contracting Utility

Utility company (Ameren Illinois, ComEd, or Mid-American) that contracts with your Approved Vendor to buy the RECs from your solar project. May be different than your Service Utility.

Service Utility

Utility company in whose service area your solar project is located. Your Service Utility might be a municipal electric utility or rural electric cooperative. Also, your Service Utility will not always be the same as your Contracting Utility.

Types of contracts:

Installation Contract

Contract between you and the Approved Vendor or its Designee for the installation of your solar project. It can be structured as an out-right purchase, a lease, or for payment based on the amount of electricity produced (price per kWh).

REC Contract

Contract between your Approved Vendor and the Contracting Utility for the Renewable Energy Credits ("RECs") generated by your project. A REC is a certificate that represents the environmental attributes of 1 MWh of renewable energy.

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REC Contract Execution (3-4 weeks)

Within 1-2 weeks of approval by the Commission, the Contracting Utility signs the contract and sends it to your Approved Vendor, which then signs the contract within 7 business days. Under the REC Contract, your Approved Vendor sells the RECs produced by your solar project to the Contracting Utility.

The Approved Vendor must also provide collateral to the Contracting Utility for each project. Some Approved Vendors charge a fee to the customer to cover this cost, but many do not.

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Installation of Your Solar Project (Variable)

Your Approved Vendor or its Designee installs your solar project! They will also work with your Service Utility to connect your project to the electricity grid and to get it up and running. The timing for your solar project's installation will depend on the installer's schedule and the size of your project.

If you sign up for net-metering with your Service Utility, you should start seeing credits on your bill from the electricity that your solar project generates generally within 1-2 months.

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"Part II" Application Submission & Review (1-3 months)

Your Approved Vendor submits a final "Part II" application to the Program Administrator. This includes final details and documentation about your solar project. The Program Administrator may need 1-2 months (or more) to review and approve the second application. If there are any problems with the application, the Approved Vendor has 14 days to correct the issue.

Your Approved Vendor has up to 12 months after approval of the "Part I" application and the REC contract to actually install the project and get it running. Your Approved Vendor cannot submit the final "Part II" application until your solar project is installed and up and running.

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Contracting Utility Pays Approved Vendor for RECs (within 4 months)

The Approved Vendor sends an invoice to the Contracting Utility. For projects 25 kW in size or smaller, the Contracting Utility provides a lump sum payment for the RECs that your project will generate over the next 15 years. Depending on your Installation Contract with your Approved Vendor, a portion of this payment may be passed on to you, or the value of the payment may already be passed through in decreased project costs.

Approved Vendors send invoices to the Contracting Utilities four times per year. The Contracting Utility has 1 month to pay an invoice after receipt. Any pass-through payment to you would be based on the terms of your Installation Contract.

If you are curious about the status of your application please use the application lookup tool: <https://illinoisshines.com/project-status/>
Visit www.IllinoisShines.com or contact the Program Administrator at admin@illinoisshines.com or (877) 783-1820