

Upcoming Equity Accountability System Webinars, Ongoing Program Portal and Operations Updates, and Published Comments for TCS Strawman Proposal

September 23, 2022

Program News

- **Upcoming Equity Accountability System Webinars**

On Tuesday, October 4, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. CT, the Program Administrator and IPA will hold a webinar, formally introducing the Equity Accountability System (EAS), outlined in Chapter 10 of the [Final 2022 Long-Term Plan](#). This webinar, the first in a two-part introductory series, will provide an overview of the EAS, discussion of key elements, its applicability to the Adjustable Block Program including future opportunities and requirements for Approved Vendors and Designees, and available support from the Program Administrator. Participants are encouraged to ask questions during the Question & Answer section of the webinar. Attendees can join the webinar via Zoom at this link: <https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/93965102181>

All AVs and Designees are strongly encouraged to attend the webinar series or to view the recording to ensure comprehension and compliance with program requirements. The webinar series will be recorded and posted on the Program website as well as the [ABP YouTube Channel](#) for later viewing by anyone who cannot attend.

- **Waiver of Net Metering Requirement For Projects Where Net Metering is Unavailable**

As previously shared, the IPA is introducing a waiver process for AVs and Designees that make offers to customers to install solar projects for which net metering is unavailable. Section IV of the [Consumer Protection Handbook](#) prohibits making offers to customers if the customer cannot utilize net metering.

The Agency recognizes that some customers may, with full understanding of the issue, still wish to move forward with a solar project. Therefore, a waiver process can be used as explained at this link: <https://illinoisabp.com/faqs/#netmeterwaiver>; stakeholders can access both [fillable](#) and [standard PDFs](#) of the waiver.

- **Announcement of Agenda for First Expanded Consumer Protection Working Group**

As previously announced, the Agency is expanding and recalibrating the Consumer Protection Working Group and hopes to engage a diverse set of stakeholders to create a more robust discussion of consumer protection issues. The agenda for the October 7, 2022 meeting has been [posted online](#). If you would like to receive further updates about the Working Group, please sign up at this link: <https://illinoisabp.com/cp-working-group/>

- **Ongoing Program Portal Updates**

The Program Administrator continues to update and optimize the new Program Portal. A scheduled release of improvements was made yesterday, September 22, 2022, that included the following:

- Updates to Disclosure Forms improving user interaction and functionality
- Addition of the Program Brochure to generated Disclosure Form PDFs
- The ability to batch projects, submit batches, and submit payment for batches will be coming soon in an update planned for the first week in October.

- **Ongoing Operations Updates**

The Program Administrator continues to work diligently in ensuring that Program operations and processes are functioning efficiently and effectively. With each week and phase of the current Program year, updates

will be shared with Approved Vendors and Designees to provide a deeper look into continued Program operations and processes. Recent updates for the week of September 19, 2022, include:

- Verifying customers from quarterly reports for Community Solar projects. Currently, the Program Administrator is verifying customers on 55 projects with about 300 customers per project.
- Implementing a process where weekly status updates will be posted for submitted applications. Please note, as applications are processed, the previous Program Portal will become unreliable as a source for application status as the information will become outdated.

Transition Updates

- **Program Administrator Office Hours**

To support AVs and Designees experiencing technical difficulties with use of the Portal or in resolving other challenges, the Program Administrator is pleased to continue offering open “office hours” to answer questions, provide support, and gather feedback. Sessions are held with individual AV or Designee points of contact, via Zoom, utilizing a waiting room for individual appointment privacy. Many Approved Vendors have taken advantage of the office hours, which also provide an opportunity to establish direct relationships and increase support from the Program Administrator as needed. Questions and answers arising from the hours will be anonymously shared so that all stakeholders can benefit from the information. Upcoming office hours are planned for the following dates and times, with more dates expected to follow:

- Wednesday, September 28 – 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. CT – Join link: <https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/95588710302>
- Wednesday, October 5 – 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. CT – Join link: <https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/95588710302>
- Wednesday, October 12 – 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. CT – Join link: <https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/95588710302>

REMINDER: All transition updates can be found on the [ABP Transition Hub webpage](#).

CONTACT US: For Portal, application, or Program-specific questions and inquiries, please contact admin@illinoisabp.com or call 877-783-1820.

Requirements and Reminders

- **Traditional Community Solar (TCS) Project Selection Proposal – Stakeholder Feedback Posted**

On September 1, the IPA released [an initial proposal](#) and stakeholder feedback request on Traditional Community Solar project selection and scoring criteria. Through this proposal, the IPA encourages robust and comprehensive stakeholder feedback for the TCS selection process. Proposal responses to the IPA were due on Friday, September 16, 2022. The IPA received a total of [13 responses to the TCS Project Selection Proposal](#) and sincerely appreciates the thoughtful feedback from program stakeholders in this process. The IPA is currently reviewing all responses to the Project Selection Proposal and will post a response in the coming weeks. Please keep in mind that applications for Traditional Community Solar projects (and TCS projects within the EEC and Public Schools categories) will not be available until November 1, 2022, once this feedback process is complete.

- **Annual Report Discrepancies – Curing Discrepancies Required by October 1, 2022**

The Program Administrator continues to review Annual Reports that were submitted in July 2022 and identify discrepancies that must be cured by Approved Vendors. The Program Administrator is reaching out directly to Approved Vendors who have discrepancies in their Annual Reports to ensure that issues are cured by the October 1, 2022, deadline. Failure to cure deficiencies may result in the contracting utility drawing on

collateral or other consequences outlined under the REC delivery contracts. Reminder, all discrepancies must be cured by October 1, 2022.

- **Program Year 2022-2023 Resources Available for Stakeholders**

On September 1, 2022, the launch of the Program Year 2022-2023, a variety of resources were released for Prospective and Approved Vendors and Designees. Resources are available at the following links.

- [Approved Vendor Application](#)
- [Welcome to Program Year 2022-2023 Webinar](#)
- [Program Year 2022-2023 Resource Guide](#)
- [Program year 2022-2023 Webinar Q&A](#)