





Illinois Shines/Adjustable Block Program Traditional Community Solar Application Re-Opening

October 24, 2022





Today's Presenters



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IPA
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Energy Solutions
Director, Solar and
Storage Solutions





Agenda

- Introductions
- Traditional Community Solar (TCS) Overview
- TCS Scoring Guidelines
- Application Submission Overview and Guidance
- Question and Answer Session
- What's Next





Traditional Community Solar Overview

The Traditional Community Solar category now allows for community solar projects up to and including 5 MW in size (increased from 2 MW). Traditional Community Solar projects must have subscriptions of 25 kW or less constitute at least 50% of the facility's nameplate capacity.

The Traditional Community Solar category will generally comprise at least 30% of the ABP capacity. Traditional Community Solar projects will now also feature 20-year REC delivery contracts that pay for RECs over time as they are delivered, rather than the front-loaded payment schedule previously used for community solar.





Equity Eligible Contractors

Equity Eligible Contractors can participate directly in the Traditional Community Solar block by developing projects themselves or by completing project development work as a Designee in support of other EEC certified or non-EEC Approved Vendors. Depending on the level of project involvement by EECs, points will be awarded to projects based on the guidelines in the scoring system.

Additionally, the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act established a project category for Equity Eligible Contractors, whereby at least 10% of the capacity of the Adjustable Block Program shall be reserved for projects submitted by applicants that are EEC certified. Approved Vendors that wish to submit projects into the Equity Eligible Contractor category must first apply to be certified as an EEC.









Stakeholder Feedback Process

Stakeholder comment process conducted in September 2022 on proposed TCS scoring:

- September 1 <u>Strawman proposal presented</u>
- September 16, 2022 Written comments due
- September 19, 2022 <u>Comments published (13 received)</u>
- October 7 Final Scoring Guidelines and Rationale package published

IPA received written comments on many elements of the Strawman proposal and used those to develop the final scoring guidelines.





Resources and Application Process for TCS Projects

Resources

- Final Scoring Guidelines document Updated October 21, 2022
- Rationale document Updated October 14, 2022
- Clarifications on TCS Scoring & applications Released October 21, 2022

Application Process

- Application requirements vs. additional uploads to application for the purposes of scoring
- Applications will be reviewed first for deficiencies, and then scored

Please keep in mind: All necessary application <u>requirements</u> must be present and submitted with an application in order to ensure the application conforms with Program requirements. Applications that do not meet Program requirements will not be eligible for scoring.



Category 1: Built Environment

Maximum of 4 points permitted

- a. Sited on "disturbed land" as defined by United States Geological Survey, "contaminated lands" as defined by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, or rooftops or other structures as outlined in the Commission's Final Order. (Add 2 points)
- b. Sited on a brownfield, as defined in Section 1-10 of the IPA Act and further clarified in Section 5.4.2 of the Plan. (**Add 2 points**)
- c. Commitment to utilize agrivoltaics (**Add 1 point**)
- d. Commitment to pollinator friendly habitat, as defined in the Pollinator Friendly Solar Site Act (525 ILCS 55). (**Add 1 point**)
- e. Site on Conservation Opportunity Areas as defined by the IL Dept. of Natural Resources. (Subtract 2 points, unless points received for 1.d and is sited in an Environmental Justice Community, an R3 area, and/or on a brownfield site, contaminated land, disturbed land, or rooftop or other structure)



Category 2: Siting

Maximum of 4 points permitted

- a. Sited in an Environmental Justice Community or an R3 area. (Add 2 points)
- b. Sited on land owned by a non-profit or public entity. (Add 2 points)
- c. Sited in a county (or a township within Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, or Will County) that does not currently have a community solar project that was approved by the ICC for a REC contract under the Adjustable Block Program at the time of application. (Add 2 points)



Category 3: Equity Eligible Contractors

Equity Eligible Contractors – Maximum of 4 points permitted

- a. Project is developed by an EEC certified Approved Vendor and can demonstrate contractual commitments for all project development work to be performed by EEC certified Designees. (Add 4 points)
- Project is developed by a non-EEC certified Approved Vendor and can demonstrate contractual commitments for all project development work to be performed by EEC certified Designees. (Add 3 points)
- c. Project is developed by an EEC certified Approved Vendor and the contractual commitments for EEC certified Designee(s) that work on the project represent 50% or more of the project's REC Contract value (**Add 2 points**)
- d. Project is developed by a non-EEC certified Approved Vendor and the contractual commitments for EEC certified Designee(s) that work on the project represent 50% or more of the project's REC Contract value (Add 1 point)



Category 4: Interconnection Status

Interconnection Status – Maximum of 4 points permitted

- a. Project has a valid interconnection agreement at the time of application (Add 1 point)
- b. Project has a top-two queue position among community solar projects on a substation on the date of the application (**Add 2 points**)
- Recency of project having obtained a valid interconnection agreement (Add up to 1 point)
 - i. Should project applications received on the first day exceed category capacity, the project with the earliest interconnection agreement effective date will receive a full 1 point. If there are multiple projects that share the earliest interconnection agreement effective date, they will each receive 1 point.



Category 4: Interconnection Status (Continued)

- c. (continued) Recency of project having obtained a valid interconnection agreement (Add up to 1 point)
 - ii. The project with the latest (i.e., most recent) interconnection agreement effective date will receive 0.25 points. If there are multiple projects that share the latest interconnection agreement effective date, they will each receive 0.25 points.
 - iii. Projects applying on November 1, 2022, with an interconnection agreement effective date between the earliest and latest dates as established in i. and ii. directly above, will be assigned points based on a sliding scale between 1 and 0.25 points based upon their rank-order from the earliest effective interconnection date to the latest effective interconnection date. Each independent effective interconnection date within this rank-order will be assigned an independent fractional score between 1 point and 0.25 points. As such, projects that have the same effective interconnection agreement date will receive the same number of points.



Category 4: Interconnection Status (Continued)

- c. (continued) Recency of project having obtained a valid interconnection agreement (Add up to 1 point)
 - iv. If a project lacks an effective interconnection agreement, no points will be awarded to that project under this category for that project.
 - v. For projects submitted *after* the first day of category opening (i.e., on or after 12:00:00 AM CT November 2, 2022), will be assigned points based upon the recency of the agreement on a sliding scale based upon their rank-order from earliest effective interconnection date to the latest effective interconnection date; the maximum available points for recency of interconnection agreement shall be .25 points (for the earliest interconnection date), and the minimum points available shall be .10 points (for the latest interconnection date).



Waitlist Point Threshold

- Projects must receive a minimum score of 5 points to receive a spot on the waitlist.
- Should first day project applications not exceed category capacity, then all applicant projects otherwise qualifying shall be deemed acceptable and may qualify for a REC Delivery Contract.
- Should category capacity fill later in the program year, then from that point forward, only projects meeting this scoring threshold of 5 points may be considered for an eligible for a spot on the waitlist for the Traditional Community Solar category.
- Demonstration of continuous site control will be required to maintain a waitlist
 position throughout the program year and into the next program year; the degree
 to which this is monitored by the Program Administrator, and the manner of that
 monitoring, will be determined at a later date.



Qualification and Demonstration

- Qualification will be demonstrated through supporting materials demonstrating that
 the criterion is met and an accompanying attestation, and the Program Administrator
 will assess the sufficiency of a submittal and request additional information where
 appropriate.
- Supporting documentation for each criterion the Approved Vendor seeks to score
 points for will need to be submitted in the portal at the time of application.
- Demonstration of compliance with EEC scoring adders provides timing challenges:
 while demonstration that the applicant Approved Vendor is an EEC is straightforward—
 either that entity has qualified as an EEC, or it has not—demonstrating qualification of
 subcontractor Designees may not be possible at the time of Part I application.
 - Therefore, while an applicant need not demonstrate contractual relationships with an EEC sufficient to cover all or up to half of project development work at the time of Part I application, the Part I application must include identification of an applicable EEC and an attestation from an EEC of its interest and capacity to perform project development work.



Proposed Schedule for Review and Scoring

1. Application Review Period

a. Initial review by Program Administrator: Approximately 4 weeks

2. Application Cure Period

a. AVs cure deficiencies identified by Program Administrator: Approximately 2 weeks

3. Application Scoring Period

 Program Administrator begins scoring process for all relevant applications (those submitted without deficiencies and those that successfully cure deficiencies during the 2 week cure period): Approximately 3 weeks

4. Scoring Cure Period

a. AVs review initial scores and dispute and resolve any discrepancies: Approximately 2 weeks

Final scores posted after Scoring Cure Period. Please note this schedule is tentative and will be dependent on both the quality and quantity of applications received.



Compliance

Approved Vendors will be asked to submit proper documentation for each scoring criterion sought based on the table in the scoring guidelines document. A sample of the document requirements (for Built Environment) is below, with full documentation requirements for all scoring criterion available in the Scoring Guidelines.

1. Submissions at Part I Application

Scoring Criterion	Topic	What Should Be Submitted
1.a	Built Environment – Disturbed/Contaminated Land	Provide documentation of qualifications per definition
1.b	Built Environment – Brownfield	Provide documentation of qualifications per definition
1.c	Built Environment – Agrivoltaics	Agrivoltaics development plan with all required items outlined in Appendix A
1.d	Built Environment – Pollinator Friendly Habitat	Pollinator Friendly Habitat development plan that aligns with IDNR's Illinois Planned Pollinator Habitat on Solar Sites



Part II Applications

Permitted Changes between Part I and Part II Submissions

- Agrivoltaics Plan
 - Change in crop utilization or footprint size
- Pollinator Friendly Habitat
 - Change in crop utilization
- EEC Designee Substitution
 - Substitution of EEC Designee(s)

Part II Verification Commitments

- Program Administrator will request confirmation that Part I commitments were fulfilled through project development, including, but not limited to the above categories.
- Any changes to commitments made in Part I application which resulted in a more favorable scoring would be considered an event of default under the REC contract resulting in full forfeiture of collateral.



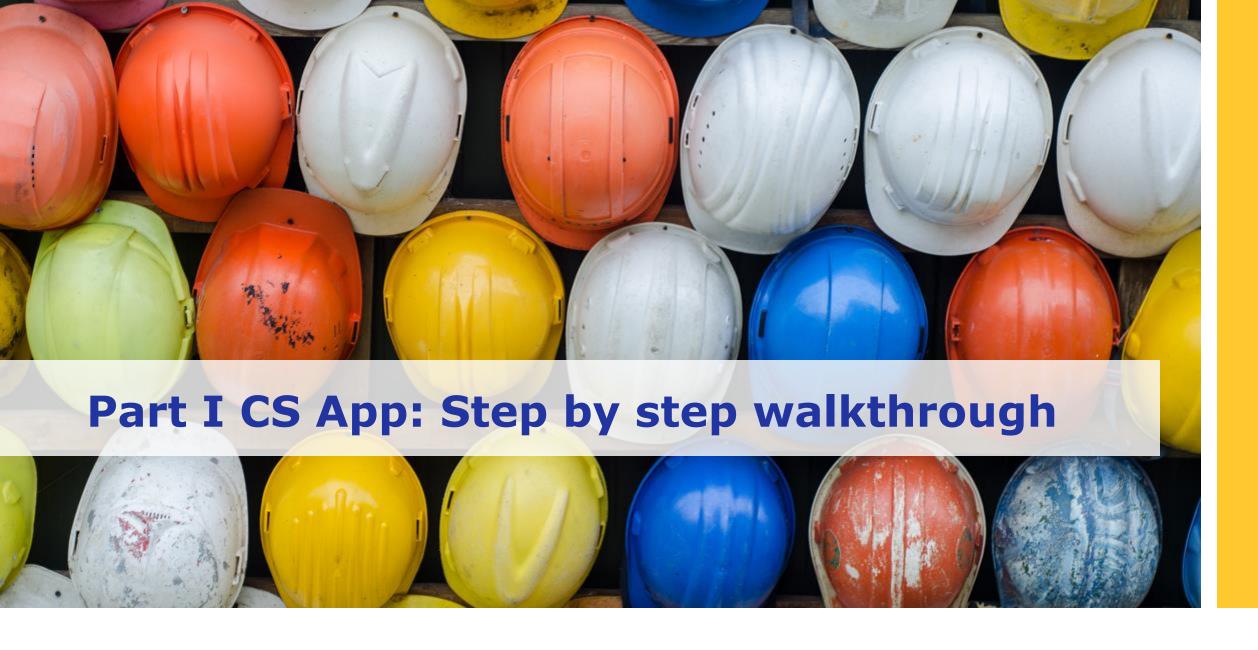




Launch Day Timing and Overview

- A splash screen will appear at the portal beginning late evening October 31, 2022, announcing portal is down until 8 a.m.
- Application acceptance begins: 8:00 a.m. CPT
- "First Day" application window: 8:00 a.m. 11:59:59 p.m. CPT
- Applications cannot be queued prior to portal opening.
- Applications will be reviewed in the order they are received (Part I submitted and batched) with "First Day" applications scored first.
- Live support services will be available for real-time troubleshooting.
- · Block closing announcement will be sent if capacity achieved.
- Capacity dashboard will be updated ongoingly on launch day (for Part I applications submitted and batched)







Starting a New Part I Application - CS

A completed DF is **not** required to start a Community Solar Part I Application.

Step 1: Navigate to the Project Applications> **Create CS** task. If prompted, select the Vendor ID / Company Name. You'll be brought to a "New Project Application" page. If you need to exit this page, use your browser's "BACK" button or the portal menu.

Step 2: Use the "Section #" buttons to work on each section. The green check mark (√) appears in front of a button once you've completed that section.

Please click on each section below to fill out the forms. You do not have to complete the sections in order. You can save your progress for each completed section.

Section 1 - Project Location

Section 2 - Project Details



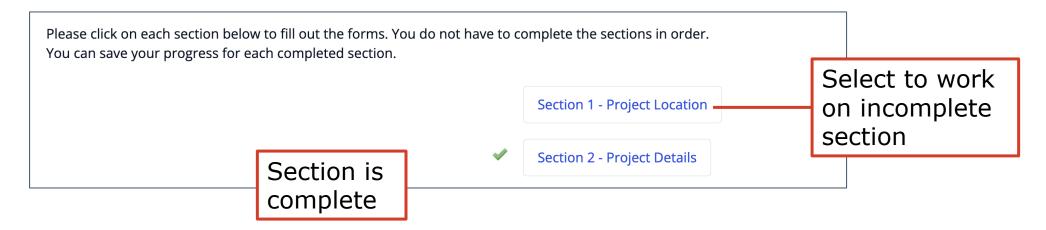
Resuming an incomplete Part I App (DG or CS)

Step 1: Navigate to the Project Applications > **View** task. If prompted, select the Vendor ID / Company Name associated with the incomplete Part I App.

Step 2: The table of existing Part I Apps will appear. Find your incomplete App in the list and confirm that its Status is "InProgress." In the Action column, choose the square "*Edit*" icon button.



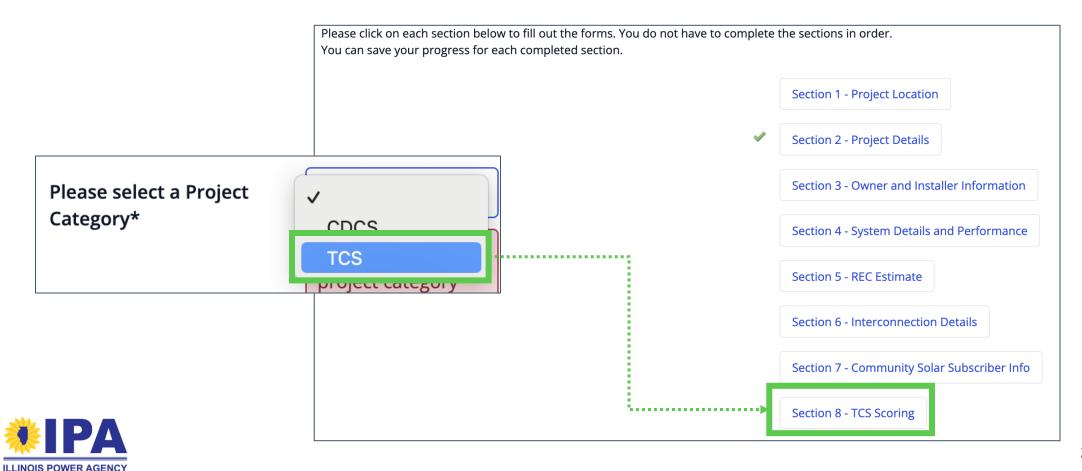
Step 3: The portal will bring you to the page for your App. Scroll down and select the "Section #" buttons to continue working on those sections.





Section 8 – Traditional Community Solar

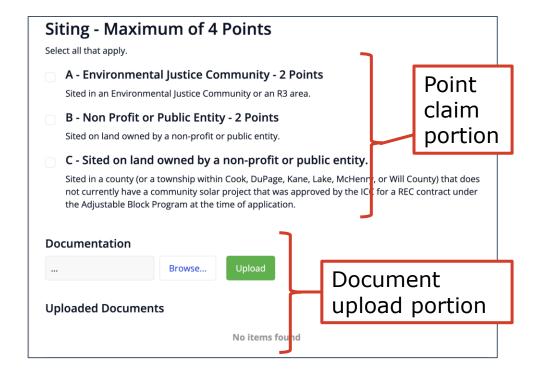
This section is only shown if you selected "TCS" for the Project Category in Section 2. For more information on TCS scoring criteria, refer to the Program Guidebook (Section 1F, pages 22+).



Section 8 – TCS Overview

The TCS scoring criteria is divided into four sections (categories). In each section, you'll claim the points that apply to your project, and then upload documentation to support your claim.

- Maximum file size: 20 MB
- Acceptable file types include PDF (preferred), Word, zip files, image files, etc.
- Can upload multiple files per section





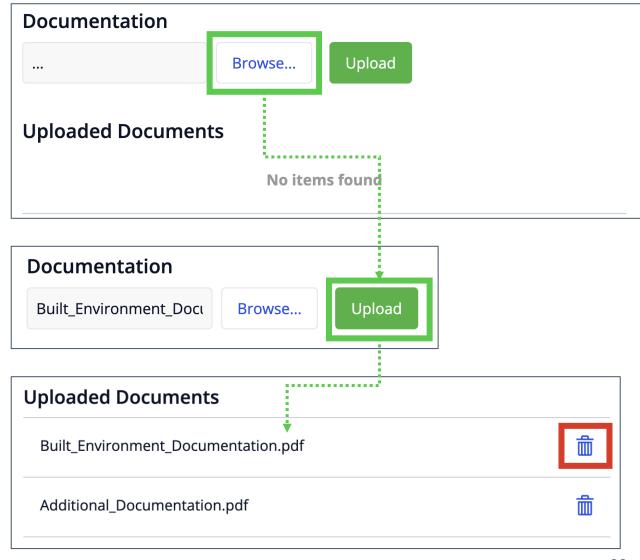
Section 8 – TCS Overview

In each section:

Select "Browse" to locate a documentation file on your local computer, and then select "Upload".

The filename appears in the "Uploaded Documents" section when upload is successful.

To delete an uploaded document, select the trash can icon on the right side of that row.









Final steps - Attestations

Step 1: After completing all the sections, return to the main page of your application by selecting "Save and Continue" at the final section, or "Close" at the bottom of any completed section.

Step 2: Scroll down below the "Comments" box to the "Required Attestations" section. Carefully read and check the boxes if you agree to the statements.

Required Attestations



By checking this box, I claim that I believe this information to be proprietary, privileged or confidential, and the disclosure of which would cause competitive harm

By checking this box, I certify that I have read and understand the notice below regarding wages paid for the construction of the project.

Each project participating in the adjustable block program and not subject to limited exceptions outlined in

You may see a different set of attestations (statements) than the ones shown here, depending on your Application block/type.

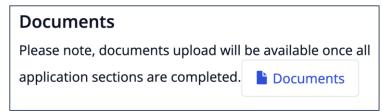


Final steps - Document upload

Step 3: Scroll further down and select the "Documents" button.



If you see this instead, return to the **top** of the page and fill out any sections that don't have a green check mark. (\checkmark)



Step 4: For each requested document, select the "Upload" button on the right.



You <u>must</u> provide all **Required** documents before you can submit the Part I Application. However, you can choose whether to provide the *Optional* documents.



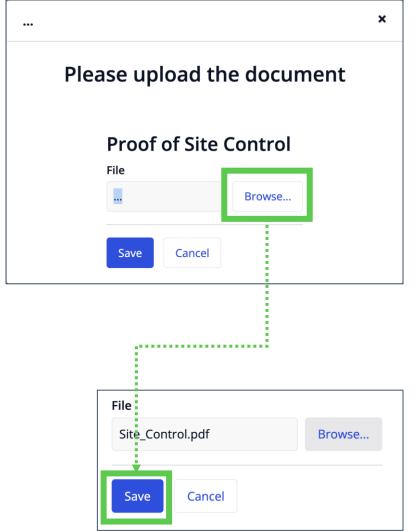
Final steps - Document upload

Step 5: An Upload pop-up window appears. Select the "*Browse*" button to search for the file on your computer.

PDF is the preferred file format for all document uploads. However, the portal will also accept Word docs, zip files, image files, etc.

The maximum file size is 50 MB. You can only upload one file in each slot.

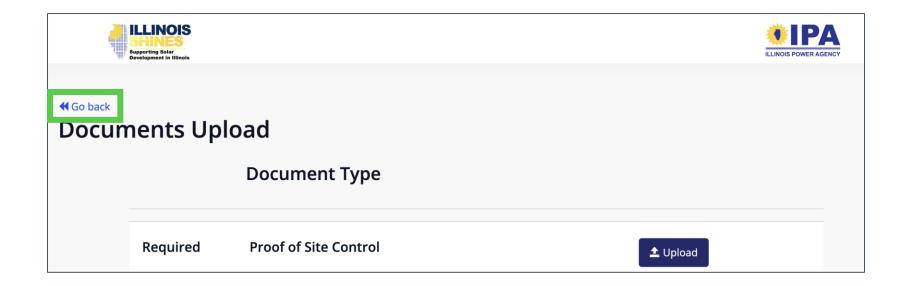
Step 6: After you've located the document you want to upload, select "*Save*". The page will update with the file name and receipt date.





Final steps - Document upload

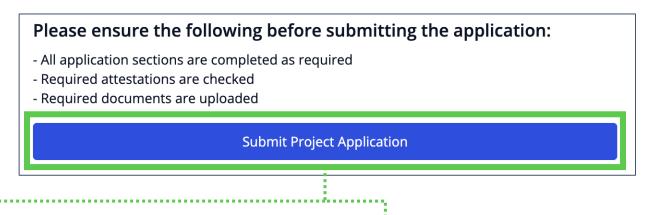
Step 7: Once you've uploaded all of your documents, select the "Go back" link at the **top left** of the document upload page to return to the main Application webpage.





Final Application submission

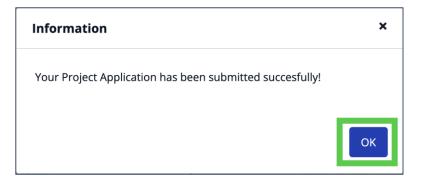
Step 8: At the bottom of the main Application webpage, select "Submit Project Application".



If the Application is not complete, the portal will instruct you to fix the missing parts.



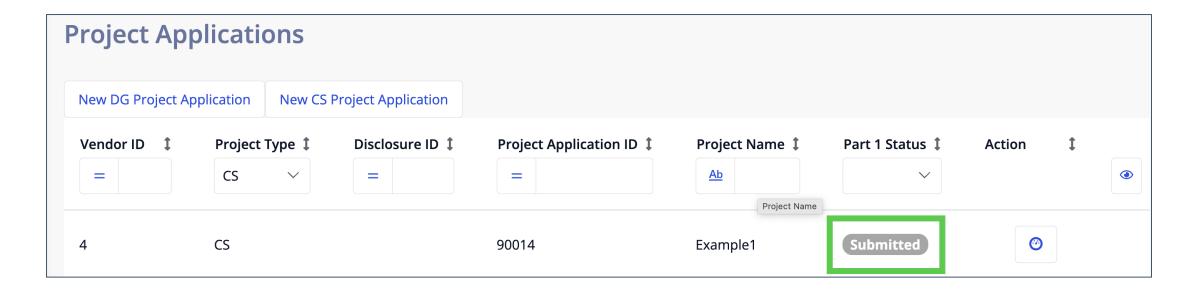
Otherwise, the portal will display a submission confirmation message. Select "*OK*" to continue.





Final Application submission

Step 9: You'll be returned to the Project Applications > **View** task. The Part 1 status of your project will be updated to "Submitted".



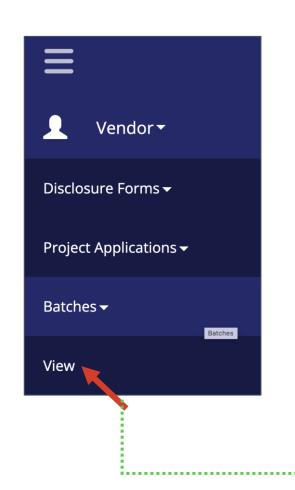
You can now proceed to the Batches > **View** task to add the project to a batch.







Getting Started: Batches Menu



Step 1: After logging in, in the **left** menu, expand the Vendor role and then the "*Batches*" functionality. Then select the "*View*" task.

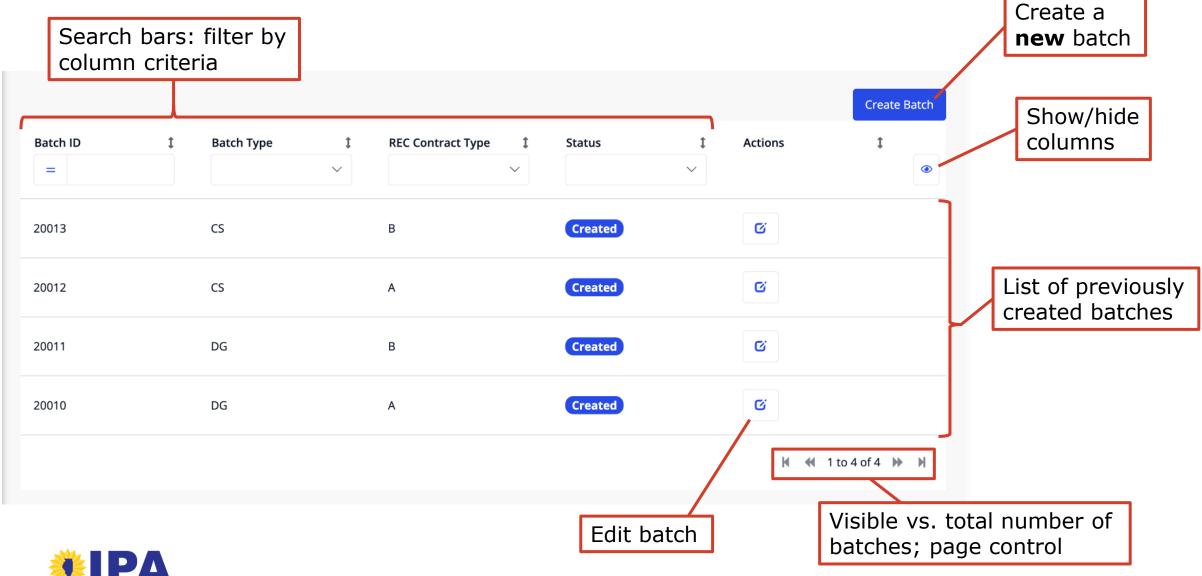
Step 2: (*If prompted*) Select a Vendor from the list in the pop-up window. When it's highlighted, select the "*Proceed*" button.



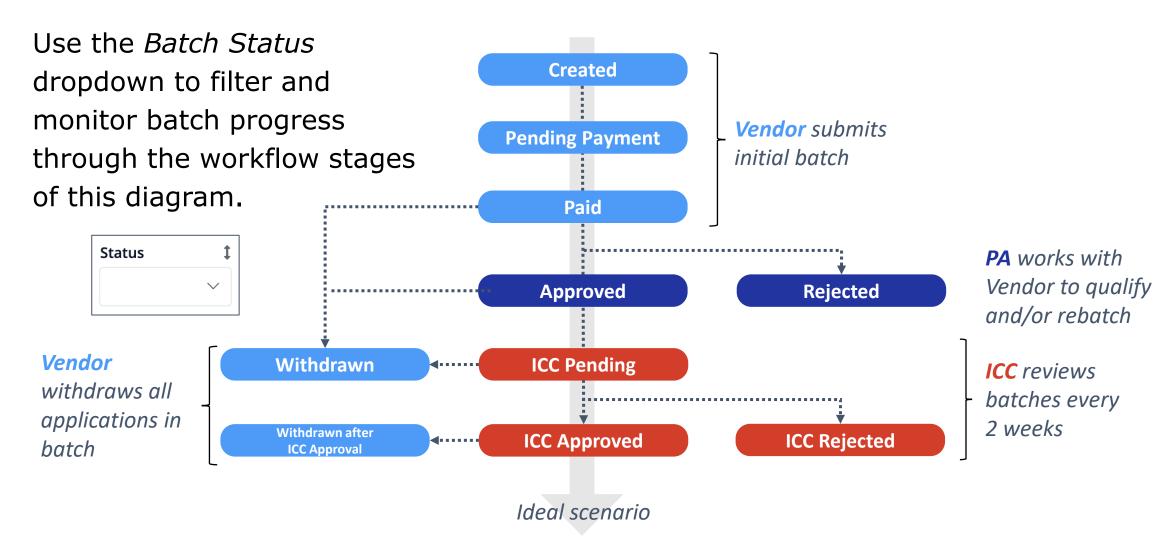


Managing Your Batch List

ILLINOIS POWER AGENCY



Viewing your batch list



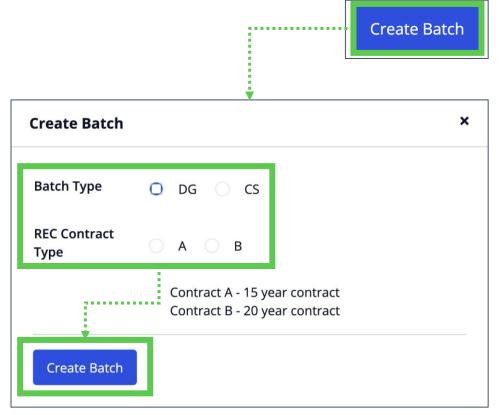


Creating a New Batch

Step 1: From the Batches > **View** task, select the "*Create Batch*" button at the **top right** of the dashboard.

Step 2: In the pop-up window:

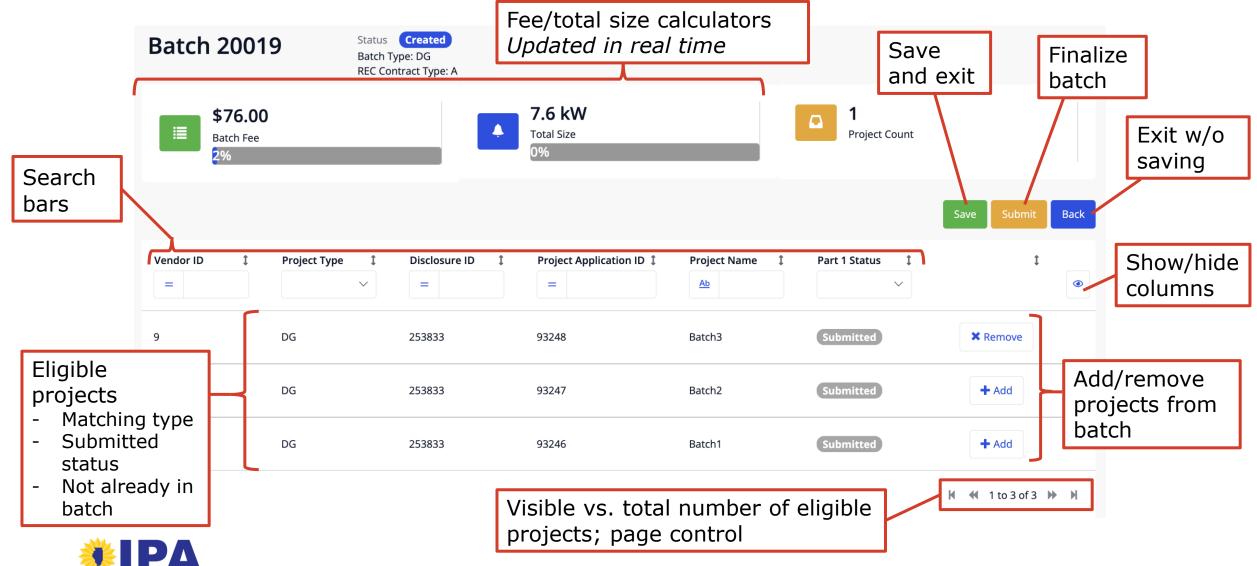
- a. Use the radio buttons to choose the project type to be batched
 (Distributed Generation or Community Solar) and the REC contract length.
- b. Select the "Create Batch" button.
 You'll be sent to a page for your new batch.





Editing a Batch

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Step 1: Go to the Batch edit page by creating a new batch or resuming a "Created" batch. The table lists all projects that are eligible for the batch.

What if I don't see the project I want?

Confirm that the project:

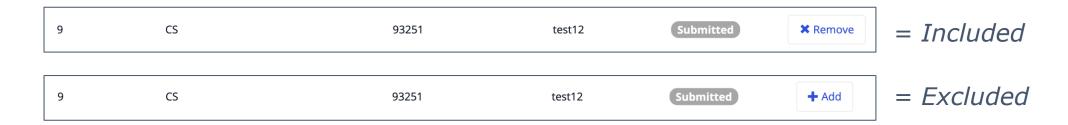
- Has a Part I App in the (Submitted) state
- Has not been added to a different batch
- Matches the type (DG or CS) of the current batch
- Matches the REC contract type of the current batch



Step 2: For each row, select the "+Add" button to include that project in the batch and the "XRemove" button to take the project back out. The **Batch Fee** and the **Total Size** will recalculate after each change.

How do I know if a project has been included?

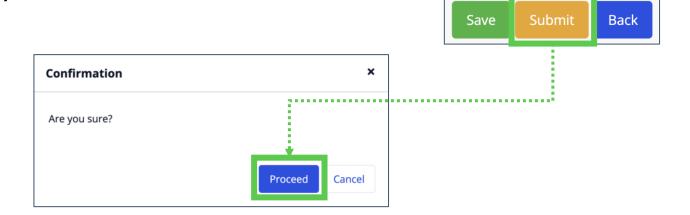
The easiest way is to associate the button with a status:



You'll also see the Batch Fee and Total Size calculators update as you add and remove projects.



Step 3: When you're done changing your project selections, select the "Submit" button **above** the table, and then "Proceed" in the Confirmation window. This saves and submits your batch.



If you're not ready to move ahead, select the "Save" button to save your changes for later, or the "Back" button to delete all your changes. Both options will close the batch and take you back to the Batch View dashboard.

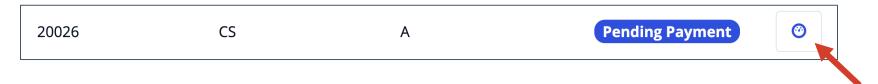


If your batch has a problem (such as an ineligible size), you'll see an explanation when you attempt to Submit. Select "OK", make additional changes, and resubmit.



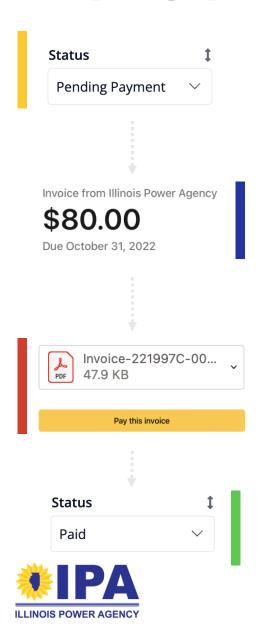
Step 4: If your batch submission was successful, you'll see a confirmation message. Select "*OK*" to return to your Batches dashboard. Your Batch will now have "Pending Payment" Status and be view-only.







Paying your batch fees: workflow



After you've **submitted a batch**, the batch status will change to "Pending Payment".

You should **receive an email** via Stripe, our payment processor, with the subject "New invoice from Illinois Power Agency". Be sure to check your Spam folder if you don't see this email.

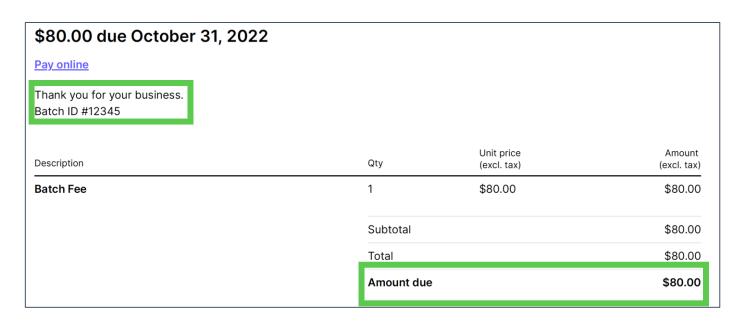
Open the attached invoice for details and **check payment** instructions; or select "Pay this invoice" to **pay online**.

Fees must be paid within 10 days.

The batch status will update to "Paid" once we confirm your payment (generally within 2 business days of receipt).

Paying by check (con't)

Step 3: Write a check for the batch fee amount shown in the invoice.



The check must be payable to **Illinois Shines-Cohen Ventures.**

Include the batch ID # in the check memo field.

Step 4: Mail the check to: Energy Solutions (IL ABP Program Administrator)

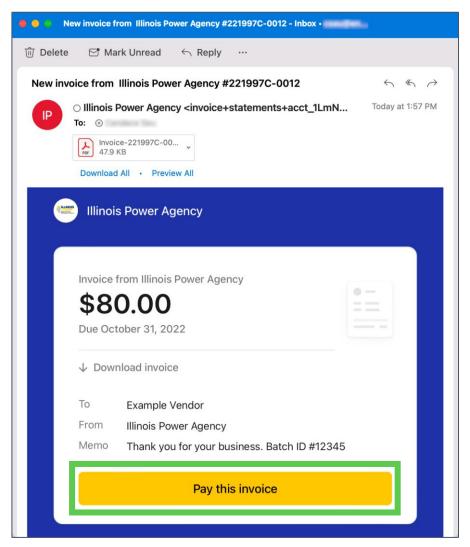
Attn: Grace Reyes

449 15th St, Suite 400

Oakland, CA 94612



Paying your batch fees: payment options



To pay by credit card, bank transfer (ACH), or wire transfer

Step 1: Find and open the batch fee Invoice email from Stripe.

The **From:** field will name the Illinois Power Agency, but the email address will end in @stripe.com

The body of the email will show a Memo field with your Batch ID.

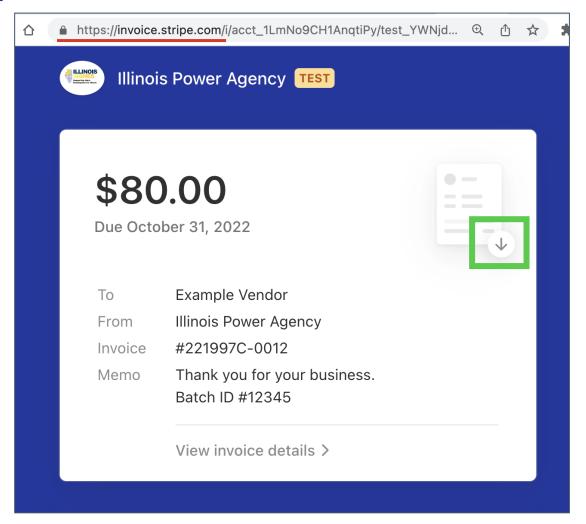
Step 2: Select the "Pay this invoice" button to go to the Stripe website.

Your computer may look different from this example, depending on your operating system and email program.



Step 3: Confirm that you're at an https://invoice.stripe.com/ URL with the IPA logo at the top. The webpage will show the same batch fee and batch ID# that you saw in the email.

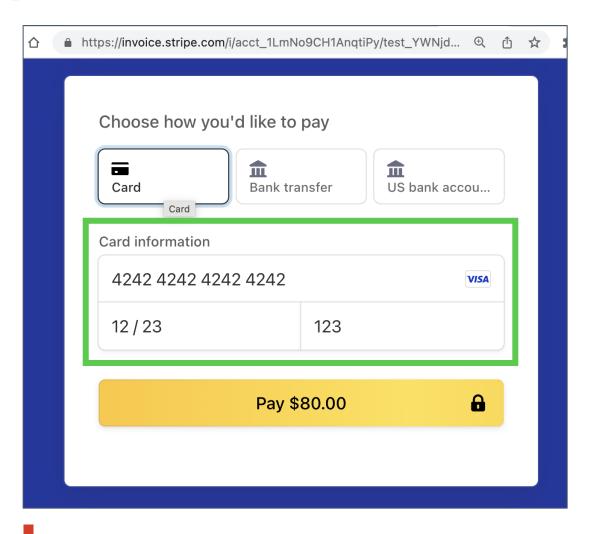
You can select the arrow on the document icon on the right to download a copy of the PDF invoice (the same document that was attached to your email).





Step 4: Scroll down and select your preferred electronic payment option:

 For card, enter your credit card information as prompted and select the "Pay" button to authorize.

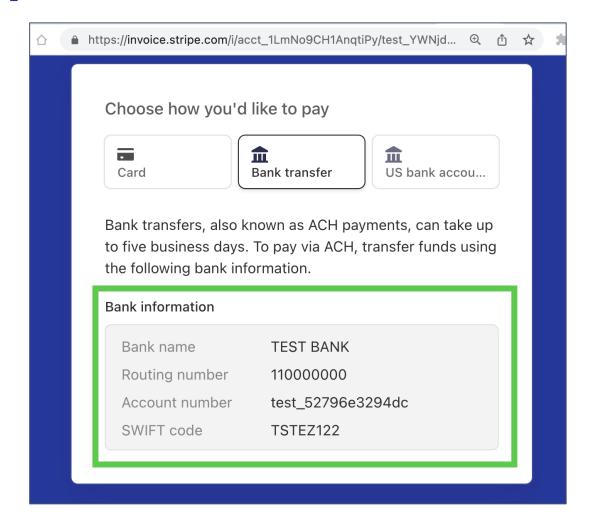


A 2.9% fee may be charged for each credit card transaction.



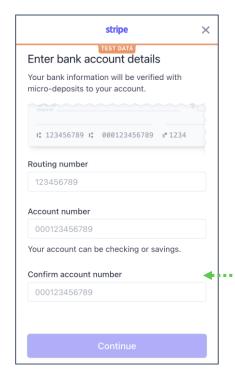
 For manual bank transfer (ACH), you'll need to log in to your bank's website or call your bank to authorize a bank-to-bank (ACH) transaction.

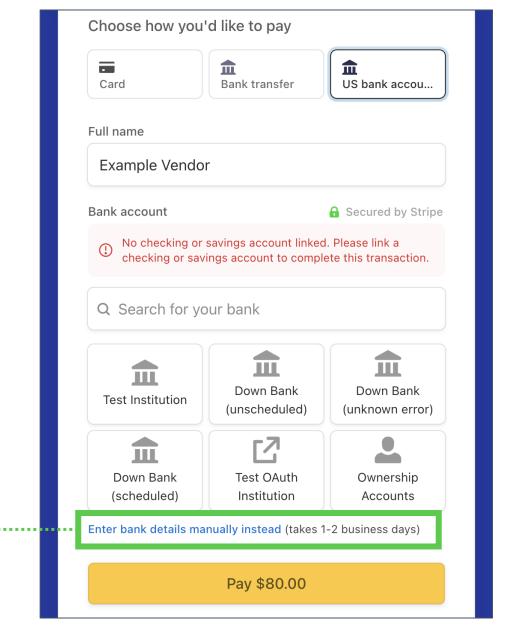
Use the bank information provided on your payment page (don't use the example information shown here).





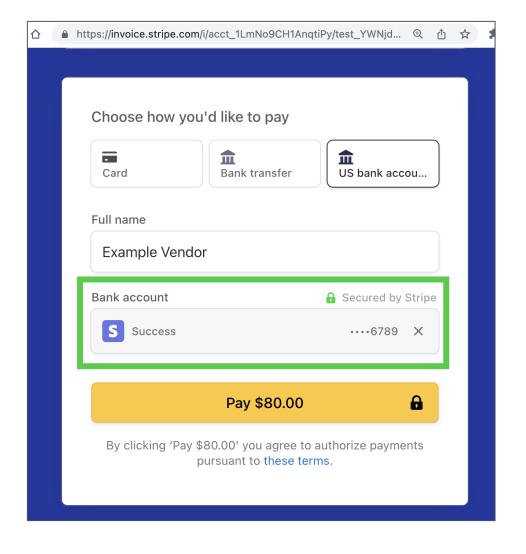
- For ACH direct debit, select the "US bank account" option.
- If you haven't previously linked a bank account to Stripe, you may need to go through the bank verification process as shown.







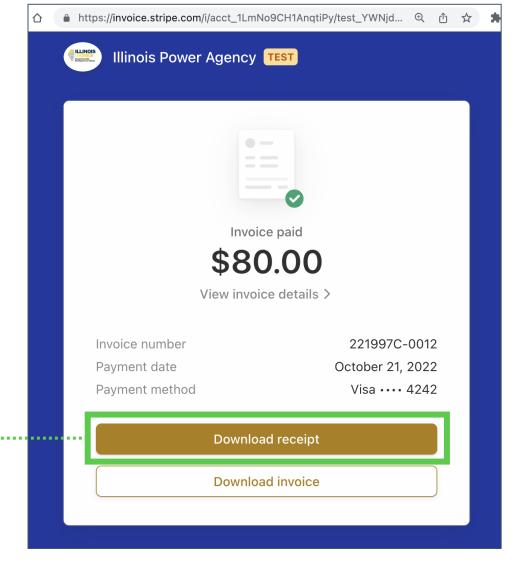
 For ACH direct debit, if you've already linked one or more bank account to Stripe, make sure that the bank account you'd like to pay from is shown in the "Bank account" section, and select "Pay".





Step 5: If you were able to pay with an automatic payment option (card or ACH direct debit), you'll see a payment confirmation page. Select the "Download receipt" button to get a PDF receipt confirming the payment date and method for your records.

Receipt Invoice number 221997C-0012 Receipt number 2961-7397 Date paid October 21, 2022 Payment method Visa - 4242





Post-payment next steps

If you opted to pay via check or manual bank transfer, please allow additional time for mailing and processing. The Program Administrator will confirm your payment once it arrives and update your Project Status to Paid.

As vendors submit, the capacity in each block will be allocated. The program administrator will regularly update the capacity status of each block on the IL ABP website.

To view the capacity status, visit:

https://illinoisabp.com/block-capacity-dashboard/

"Detailed Program Data"







What's Next

For immediate support, email <u>admin@illinoisabp.com</u>

Resources:

- Application Submission Guide IllinoisABP.com/portal-resources
- Scoring Guidelines and Rationale IllinoisABP.com/programresources
- Recording of this webinar, presentation slides, and post-webinar Q&A published at Program website

Office Hours:

- (TCS) Monday, October 24 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. CT
- (TCS) Wednesday, October 26 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. CT
- (Batching) Thursday, October 27 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. CT
- (Batching) Friday , October 28 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. CT
- (TCS) Wednesday, November 3 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. CT





Sector Strategist Support

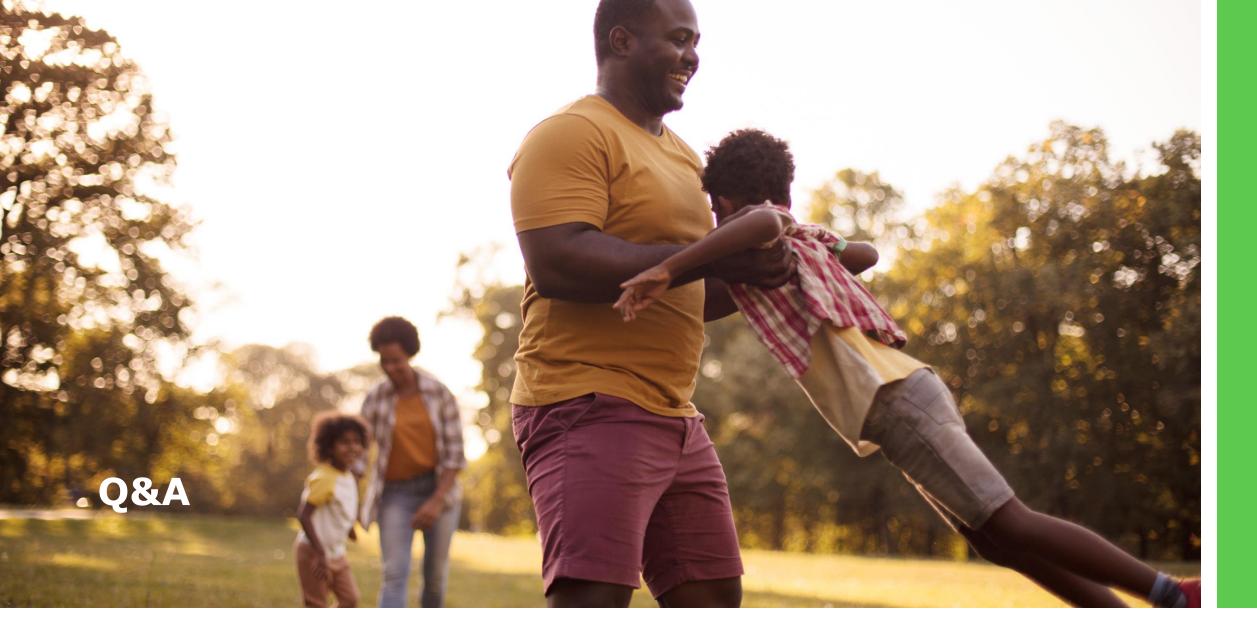
Energy Solutions' efforts as Program Administrator include the addition of Sector Strategists to support stakeholders and Program success.

Strategists will be available across each of the six sectors

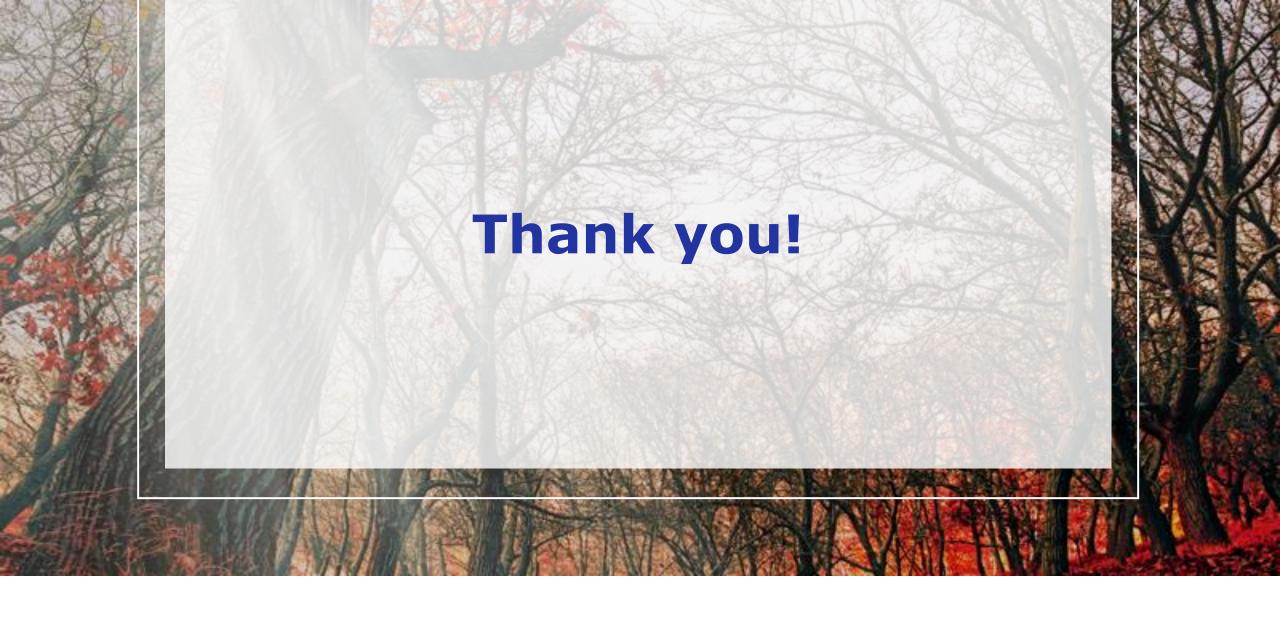
Small DG smallDG@illinoisabp.com	Large DG largeDG@illinoisabp.com	Community Solar communitysolar@illinoisabp.com
Community-Driven Community Solar communitysolar@illinoisabp.com	Public Schools schools@illinoisabp.com	Equity Eligible Contractors EEC@illinoisabp.com

General and ongoing technical support can always be accessed by emailing admin@illinoisabp.com)













Section 8 – TCS "Built Environment" Criteria

Review the <u>Program Guidebook</u> for more information about documentation requirements.

Criterion	Documentation Needed
A. Disturbed Land	Can include news stories, attestations from local officials, or government, financial, or other land use records demonstrating that the site meets one or more of the criterion, and an accompanying certification from the applicant. (p. 22)
B. Brownfield Land	See Appendix C for a list of acceptable documents depending on the regulatory body for the land. (p. 131)
C. Agrivoltaics	See Appendix B for a list of agrivoltaics development plan requirements (p. 128)
D. Pollinator Friendly Habitat	A Pollinator Friendly Habitat development plan - review instructions at Solar Site Pollinator Scorecard
E. Conservation Opportunity Areas	Statement that this scoring criterion is sought after (Yes/No) AND Name of Conservation Opportunity Area that the project is located in



Section 8 – TCS "Siting" Criteria

Review the <u>Program Guidebook</u> for more information about documentation requirements.

Criterion	Documentation Needed
A. Environmental Justice Community	Statement that this scoring criterion is sought after (Yes/No). Check your project site's <u>EJC status</u> and <u>R3 eligibility</u>
B. Non-Profit or Public Entity	Site control documentation that proves ownership, such as a written, binding contract indicating that the AV or project owner has the right or option to use the site.
C. Counties without a TCS or CDCS project	Statement that this scoring criterion is sought after (Yes/No)



Section 8 – TCS "Equity Eligible Contractors" Criteria

Review the <u>Program Guidebook</u> for more information about documentation requirements. Select the highest scoring item (only) that your project is qualified for.

Criterion	Documentation Needed
A. EEC Certified Vendor & Contractual Commitments	Name of EEC Designee(s) that AV is partnering with and date of EEC certification
B. Non-EEC Certified Vendor & Contractual Commitments	Same as (A)
C. EEC Certified Vendor & 50% or more EEC Designee	Same as (A), AND Attestation from EEC Designee(s) of its interest and capacity to perform project development work
D. Non-EEC Certified Vendor & 50% or more EEC Designee	Same as (C)



Section 8 – TCS "Interconnection Status" Criteria

Review the <u>Program Guidebook</u> for more information about documentation requirements.

Criterion	Documentation Needed
A. Valid Interconnection Agreement	Copy of agreement and date of last signature
	If not applicable, please state "N/A" or "No interconnection agreement available"
B. Top Two Queue Position	Identifier of relevant substation and queue position (if available)
	If not applicable, please state "N/A" or "No queue position available"
C. Recency of Interconnection Agreement	None - Program Administrator will determine from item A submissions.

