

## Group B EEC Block Now Closed, Ongoing Portal and Operations Updates, Application Processing Updates

January 27, 2023

### Program News

- **Ongoing Program Portal Updates**

The Program Administrator continues to update the Program portal, and provide new help guides, informational webinars, and open Office Hours. Ongoing portal updates can be found at [IllinoisABP.com/portal-updates/](https://IllinoisABP.com/portal-updates/). A growing library of diverse portal help guides, including updated materials, can be found at [IllinoisABP.com/portal-help/](https://IllinoisABP.com/portal-help/).

#### Updates on Portal Issues and Improvements

- **Fixes and Features** – The Program Administrator has continued progress on a number of fixes and improvements to the Program portal, including the following:
  - Continued enhancements and bug fixes to Disclosure Forms including cosmetic improvements and data field modifications. Further DF fixes and enhancements are in progress, with information forthcoming on the impact to the DF Leniency Period that remains in effect.

#### Future Release Information

- The Program Administrator and Agency continue development on the Program portal, and expect to soon provide further information on a variety of planned functionality and enhancements, including but not limited to:
  - Community Solar Disclosure Form API – This functionality is expected to be available in Q1 2023, and the Program Administrator expects to deliver a draft specifications document, reflecting stakeholder input by the end of January for stakeholder feedback.
  - Distributed Generation Disclosure Form API, including an upcoming Working Group
  - Other functional and cosmetic updates to both CS and DG Disclosure Forms
  - Importing custom capacity factor calculations for Part II applications
  - Re-batching functionality (tentatively aimed for release in the portal in early 2023)

- **Ongoing Operations Updates**

Recent and forthcoming operational updates include:

- **Community Solar December Quarterly Subscriber Verification** – The Program Administrator has finalized the review of nearly all December Quarterly Reports. Approved Vendors should expect revised Schedule Bs via SharePoint and email requests to update standing orders in the next two weeks.
- **Community Solar March Quarterly Subscriber Verification** - The Program Administrator will be conducting the March Quarterly Report via SharePoint. Workbooks will be available by Monday, February 13, 2023.
- **REC Invoicing Opens February 1, 2023** – REC invoices and Quarterly Netting Statements will be made available for download from Approved Vendor SharePoint folders the morning of February 1, 2023. Invoices must be submitted to the utility by February 10, 2023 to receive payment for the February invoice period. Any invoice amounts not submitted to the utility by February 10, 2023 will be carried forward and included in the next invoice period (May 2023).

- **Application Processing Updates**

The Program Administrator's Application Processing team is reviewing and scoring Traditional Community Solar applications, Community-Driven Community Solar applications, and Part I and Part II Distributed Generation applications. TCS and CDCS application review and scoring will last into the first quarter of 2023, at which point processing of Distributed Generation applications can resume at full capacity. The table below shows the planned schedule and sequence for application processing for 2023:

- Community Solar Applications (TCS & CDCS):

- These projects will move through the Program as a group, due to the scoring element, and this is expected to last into the first quarter of 2023.
- Beginning this week, the Program Administrator is publishing application processing details, which will be regularly updated, and published to the Program website at <https://illinoisabp.com/project-application-reports/>. The PA is continuing to add application processing staff and technology resources to accelerate application processing speed.

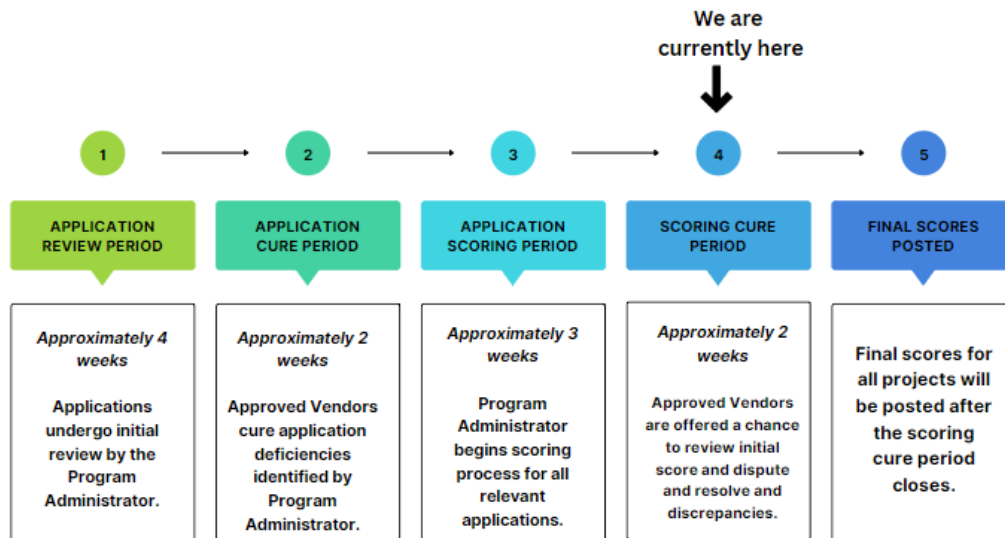
<b>Application Processing as of Wednesday, January 25, 2023</b>			
Project Category	Application Type	Reviewing Applications Submitted As Of:**	Applications in Processing Queue
Small Distributed Generation	Part I	October 28, 2022	3,998
Small Distributed Generation	Part II	December 17, 2022	1,763
Large Distributed Generation	Part I	October 28, 2022	44
Large Distributed Generation	Part II	December 19, 2022	36
Traditional Community Solar – Waitlist Reallocation	Part I	January 24, 2023	3
Traditional Community Solar – Waitlist Reallocation	Part II	December 19, 2022	5
Traditional Community Solar – November 2022*	Part I	In scoring cure period	262
Traditional Community Solar – November 2022*	Part II	None submitted at this time due to Part I applications in scoring process	0
Community-Driven Community Solar	Part I	In need info cure period	67
Community-Driven Community Solar	Part II	None submitted at this time due to Part I applications in scoring process	0
Public Schools	Part I	November 1, 2022	3
Public Schools	Part II	None submitted at this time	0
Equity Eligible Contractor	Part I	Not reviewing at this time due to open ICC docket	75
Equity Eligible Contractor	Part II	Not reviewing at this time due to open ICC docket	0

\*Includes only applications submitted on November 1, 2022

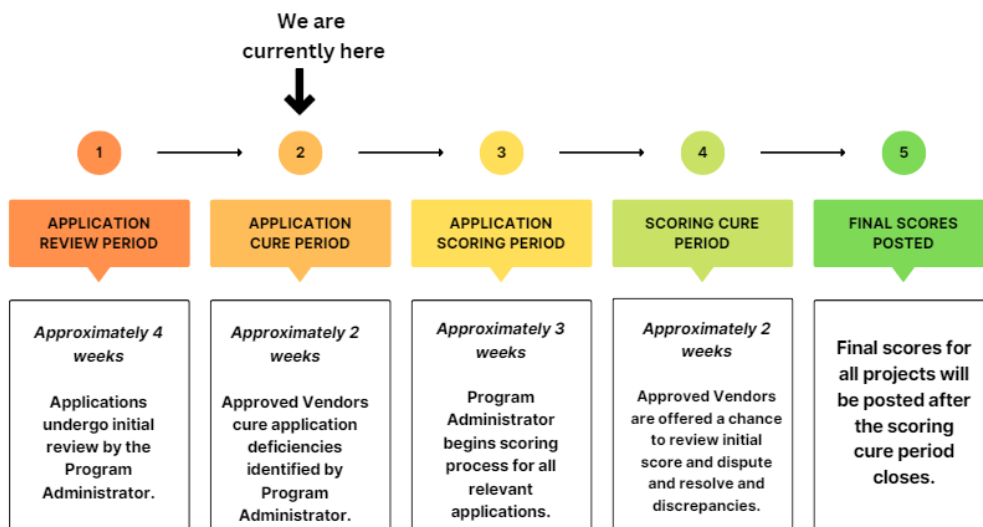
\*\*As used here, “Submitted” means the application has been Batched, and the Batch has been Paid

○ **Traditional Community Solar Application Review and Scoring Process**

The Program Administrator completed initial review of submitted TCS applications and concluded the Application Scoring period on January 17, 2023, and the process is now in the Scoring Cure Period. On January 17, 2023, the Program Administrator sent initial project scores to AVs, who have the opportunity to review, dispute, and resolve discrepancies. The phase is expected to last approximately two weeks pending responsiveness from AVs, with further information to follow.



- **Community-Driven Community Solar Application Review and Scoring Process**  
On January 19, 2023, review and scoring for CDCS applications moved into the Application Cure Period, as the Program Administrator sent initial Need Info requests via email for CDCS applications submitted to the Program during the application window, which closed on November 29, 2022. The PA will continue to share updates as we move through the process of application review and scoring.



### Transition Updates

- **Program Administrator Office Hours**

AVs and Designees experiencing technical difficulties with use of the portal or in resolving other challenges are invited to utilize open Office Hours that the Program Administrator offers via Zoom. Office Hours use a waiting room format to support meetings with individual AV or Designee teams for privacy. Upcoming Office Hours are planned for the following dates and times with more dates expected to follow:

- Wednesday, February 1 – 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CPT - Join link: <https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/95588710302Co>
- Wednesday, February 8 – 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CPT - Join link: <https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/95588710302Co>
- Wednesday, February 15 – 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CPT - Join link: <https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/95588710302Co>

**REMINDER:** All transition updates can be found on the [ABP Transition Hub webpage](#), and a new [Events & Engagement](#) page at the Program website provides a calendar of upcoming webinars, meetings, support, feedback requests, key dates, holidays, and more. Please visit [IllinoisABP.com/events-engagement/](https://illinoisabp.com/events-engagement/) for continuous updates.

**CONTACT US:** For portal, application, or Program-specific questions and inquiries, please contact [admin@illinoisabp.com](mailto:admin@illinoisabp.com) or call 877-783-1820.

## **Requirements and Reminders**

- Stakeholder Feedback – Consumer Protection, Public Schools Category, MES Compliance Plan Waiver**  
 The Agency seeks feedback and public comment from stakeholders on multiple topics as outlined in the 2022 Final Long-Term Plan. This table outlines current and forthcoming proposals and feedback requests:

<b>Proposal or Feedback Topic</b>	<b>Request for Comment Released</b>	<b>Deadline for Comment</b>	<b>Details of Proposal/Feedback Request Available at:</b>
Consumer Protection Proposals #2 - 13	December 2, 2022	<b>Today, January 27, 2023</b>	<a href="https://illinoisabp.com/consumer-protection/">https://illinoisabp.com/consumer-protection/</a> and <a href="#">Proposal Packet</a>
Minimum Equity Standard (MES) Compliance Plan Waiver Process	Expected release in early February 2023	TBD	TBD
Public Schools (Multiple topics, including anchor tenant requirement)	Expected release in February 2023	TBD	TBD

- Input Requested: Survey for Installers on Disposing and Recycling Solar Panels**  
 The Illinois Sustainable Technology Center’s (ISTC) Renewable Energy Equipment Recovery-Reuse Program focuses strategies for recovering and recycling of solar modules, wind turbine blades, energy storage systems and electric-drive vehicle batteries. ISTC wants to hear from solar installers about their approach to disposing and recycling of solar panels through a short survey. This will help our state to better anticipate the amount of decommissioned solar panels that will need to be managed in the near future. The survey takes 10-15 minutes to complete, and it is expected to remain open through the end of January 2023. Participation in the survey is optional for all Program participants. The survey can be accessed with this link: <https://surveys.illinois.edu/sec/43453876>.
- Group B EEC Block Now Closed**  
 As [previously communicated](#), on January 12, 2023 the annual block of capacity for the Group B Equity Eligible Contractor (“EEC”) block was filled. The soft close period which allows the block to remain open for seven calendar days or when the next project application submitted to the block would exceed capacity by 10 megawatts began on January 19, 2023. On January 23, 2022 the soft close limit of 10 additional megawatts of capacity was reached through projects batched and submitted to the block. As a result, in accordance with the Program Guidebook, any applications batched and submitted to the Program under Group B EEC block after the soft close capacity was reached will be placed on a waitlist. The Group B EEC block is now closed, and a project waitlist for this category will be posted within at the Program website at <https://illinoisabp.com/block-capacity-dashboard/>. At this time, new capacity for this Group/category is planned for the 2023-24 Program year and will become available on June 1, 2023.
- EEC Block Capacity – Long-Term Plan Reopening**  
 The Illinois Commerce Commission approved the request to re-open the 2022 Long-Term Plan in [Docket No. 22-0231](#), and stakeholders are invited to interact with the docket in accordance with the ICC’s rules of practice, with the following schedule in effect:
  - Objections to the Agency’s proposal – Due February 2, 2023
  - Responses to objections – Due February 16, 2023

- Replies to responses – Due March 2, 2023
- With the docket open, the Agency will seek to provide an update on the question of dealing with applications submitted on November 1, 2022 in EEC Group A once the above schedule has concluded; the Program Administrator may hold Group B applications for ICC approval if it appears possible that Commission action may impact Group B capacity.
- **Community Solar Projects – Requests for Data**

The IPA and Program Administrator seek updated Community Solar project information from developers to populate the [Find a Community Solar Project](#) list on the Program website. This list is valuable to potentially interested subscribers, the Agency, other developers, and other stakeholders. The PA has begun contacting AVs with Community Solar projects to confirm their interest to opt in and have projects included; those interested will be provided with a template to complete. Updates to this list will be made quarterly, and AVs are encouraged to reach out with any necessary updates between these releases. To submit a template, email [communitysolar@illinoisabp.com](mailto:communitysolar@illinoisabp.com) by **February 3, 2023**, for inclusion in the next update.
- **Nightly Portal Maintenance Plan**

In support of ongoing system maintenance, feature rollout, and with the help of portal users, **a nightly, planned Portal maintenance window from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. CPT is continuing each night from January 6, 2023, through January 31, 2023.** The PA and Agency hope these maintenance windows will be minimally disruptive to Program participants. While the portal may not be in maintenance mode every evening during this period, this notice is shared so that users may plan accordingly. **Any users working in the portal should save their work prior to the 6:00 p.m. CPT start of the system maintenance window each day, as any unsaved information will be lost when the system is moved into maintenance mode.** In the event that portal restoration is unexpectedly incomplete as of 8:00 p.m. CPT on a given evening, an update notice will be sent to Approved Vendors and Designees.
- **Systems Out of Compliance for Failure to Deliver RECs - 90 Days to Comply**

According to Section 6(a) of the [2019 REC Delivery Contract](#), and 4.1(a) of the [2021 REC Delivery Contract](#), all systems must be registered in either the GATS or M-RETS tracking registry. For systems larger than 5 kW, the first REC must be delivered within 90 days of the date the system is Energized/Part II verified. For systems equal to or less than 5 kW, the first REC must be delivered within 180 days of the date the system is Energized/Part II verified.

According to Section 12(e) of the [2019 REC Delivery Contract](#), and 2.3(e) of the [2021 REC Delivery Contract](#), “Seller shall upload meter readings to PJM-EIS GATS or M-RETS at least annually prior to the registry cutoff to produce RECs for generation occurring in May as well as all previous months for which generation has not been recorded.”

The Program Administrator has identified systems that are out of compliance with the REC contract for not delivering a REC and updating the tracking registry within one year of Part II verification. These systems have been communicated with Approved Vendors over SharePoint and/or email. Projects will be removed from the Program if they do not deliver a REC within 90 days of notice from the PA for failure to comply with requirements of the REC Contract.

- **Expanded Consumer Protection Working Group Meeting on February 3, 2023**

The next meeting of the Expanded Consumer Protection Working Group will take place on Friday, February 3, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. CPT via Zoom, in an unrecorded session scheduled for one hour. The meeting’s planned agenda topics include Community Solar Subscriber Sizing, and Program Requirement: Responsiveness to Customers and Program Administrator. The full agenda, including topic background, and issues/questions for discussion, and materials from previous meetings, can be found at <https://illinoisabp.com/cp-working-group/>. The meeting’s Zoom link is: <https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/96385037695>