

MES Reminder, Annual Reports Guide, and Long-Term Plan Stakeholder Feedback Requests

June 16, 2023

Program News

- **Minimum Equity Standard (MES) Compliance Plans** - MES Compliance Plans were due June 1, 2023 and **any plans that have not been submitted ARE OVERDUE.** Failure to comply with this Program requirement **may result in disciplinary action.** The Program Administrator is currently working to score submitted plans. AVs and Designees can expect to be notified of their MES Score by the end of June. If you have not submitted your MES Compliance Plan, please contact the Program Administrator at admin@illinoisabp.com for assistance.
- **Annual Reports** - AVs participating in Illinois Shines are required to submit an Annual Report pertaining to the contracts and systems in their portfolio. **Annual Reports will open on July 1, 2023 and are due no later than July 17, 2023. Failure to submit an Annual Report is an Event of Default under the REC Contract and could impact an Approved Vendor's standing in the Program.** To support Program participants, an [Annual Report Guide](#) has been published on the Program's website. An informational webinar was held Tuesday, May 9, 2023, and the [recording](#) and [presentation slides](#) have been uploaded to the [Program Year Updates page](#).
- **New Program Year** - The 2023-2024 Illinois Shines Program year began on June 1, 2023. A Program Year 2023-2024 Webinar was held May 25, 2023. The [recording](#), [presentation slides](#), [Q&A](#) are available at the Program website and provide links to the following resources.
 - [Program Guidebook – May 31, 2023 version](#)
 - [Consumer Protection Handbook – published April 17, 2023](#)
 - [Distributed Generation](#) and [Community Solar](#) Contract Requirements
 - Additional resources, such as [announcements](#), [Program Year 2023-2024 REC Prices](#), [REC Payments Calculator](#), [block capacity dashboard](#), updated [Distributed Generation](#), [Community Solar](#) Program brochures, and [Project Map](#), can be found on the [Program's website](#).
 - New Disclosure Forms and [guides](#) were released for the new Program year 2023-2024. Please see the [May 5, 2023](#) and [May 18, 2023](#) announcements for more information.
 - In addition, the Agency released a [rationale document](#) on June 13, 2023 that outlines the process for the reallocation of uncontracted capacity from the 2022-2023 Program year.
- **Long-Term Plan Update** - The Illinois Power Agency has issued two sets of requests for stakeholder feedback as the Agency prepares to develop its 2024 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan. The linked information in the Stakeholder Feedback table provides due dates, background on the various feedback requests for stakeholder input, additionally the links provide details for how to submit responses. Stakeholders may respond to any of these subjects or submit feedback on any other topic related to the Agency's work. Chapters 7 and 10 are directly applicable to Illinois Shines program requirements.

The [June 8 stakeholder feedback request subjects](#) are listed below. Comments are due **June 29, 2023**, and the draft of the Plan will be released for public comment on August 15, 2023.

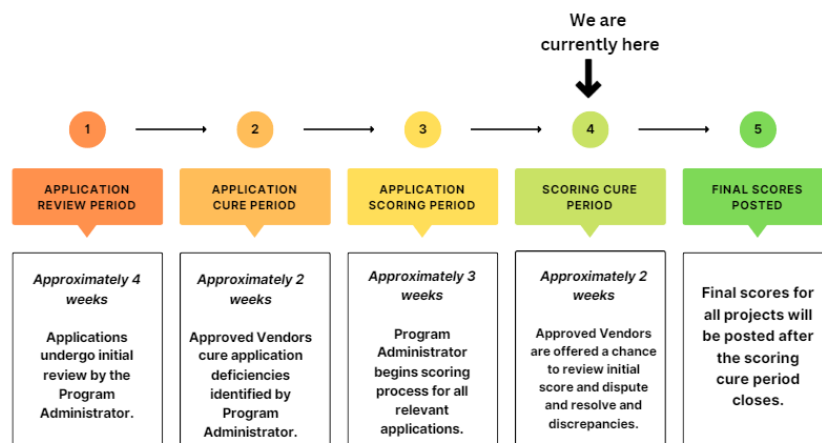
- [Chapter 7: Illinois Shines](#)
- [Chapter 8: Illinois Solar For All](#)
- [Chapter 10: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#)
- [REC Pricing Study by Sustainable Energy Advantage](#)

Ongoing Operations Updates

- **Part II Verification Cut Off for June** - To allow time for invoice calculation and generation, the last valid Part II verification date for June will be June 25, 2023. Applications that are Part II verified on or before June 25 will be on the July invoice. Application processing will continue throughout the last week of the month and any applications that are reviewed between June 26, 2023 and July 24, 2023 will be invoiced in August.

Application Processing Updates

- **Application Processing Tables** - The Program Administrator updates the application processing tables at IllinoisABP.com/project-application-reports/ on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. On June 15, 2023, the Program Administrator published its newest [Weekly Detail on Application Processing Progress announcement](#), including updated processing tables and staffing and portal improvements. For questions about specific project applications, please contact the Program Administrator at admin@illinoisabp.com.
- **Community-Driven Community Solar Application Review and Scoring Process** - The Program Administrator has completed the application scoring period. Community-Driven Community Solar projects entered the scoring cure period on [May 26, 2023](#). AVs, please check your SharePoint folders for more information regarding the curing of any *Need Info* requests related to project scores. Please respond promptly so the scoring cure process be completed on time. The Agency anticipates the next steps in this process with the following schedule in effect, pending prompt responses from AVs:
 - June 23, 2023 – Release Scores, begin two-week appeal period
 - July 7, 2023 – Deadline for AVs to submit appeals to Program Administrator
 - July 17, 2023 – Appeals determinations released to Approved Vendors
 - July 26, 2023 – Random selection event for tied scores (if necessary)
 - July 29, 2023 – Final scores published



The Community-Driven Community Solar application window for the 2023-2024 Program year closes August 30, 2023 (90 days after start of Program year). Please see Section 5 of the [Program Guidebook for more information](#). Applications will not be accepted after close of the application window.

Ongoing Program Portal Updates

- Ongoing portal updates can be found at IllinoisABP.com/portal-updates/, and a library of portal help guides can be found at IllinoisABP.com/portal-help/.

Updates on Portal Issues, Improvements, and Future Releases

- The planned system maintenance windows on **Tuesday and Thursday evenings (from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. CPT) will extend through June**. During these maintenance windows, the Portal is expected to be unavailable to users, which the Program Administrator and Agency hope will be minimally disruptive to Program participants. **Any users working in the portal should save their work prior to the 8:00 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 10:00 p.m. CPT on a given evening, an update notice will be sent to AVs and Designees.

Development Focus	Details	Planned or Actual Delivery
Enhancements, Features and Bug Fixes		
New DFs for 2023 Program Year	All DF have been updated for the 2023 Program year. The revised DG DF PDF is shorter (4 pages) and now includes efficiency information and infographics. The CS form PDFs have been enhanced as well and is now two pages. Visit https://illinoisabp.com/portal-help/ for updated user guides.	June 1, 2023
Capacity Management for 2023 Program Year Blocks	Capacity Management logic has been updated for the 2023 Program Year Blocks. Block limits are configurable by administrators within the portal. The portal will automatically close blocks once the maximum allocation is reached and start waitlisting projects. Application Processors can view live capacity data from the "Capacity Block" tab under Administration > Capacity Block Workbench.	June 1, 2023
API for Community Solar Disclosure Forms	An API has been released for AV and Designees who wish to build automated integrations between their systems and the IL Shines portal. This API is specific to Community Solar DFs and includes functionality to create a DF, retrieve status and calculated values from a DF or it's associated Project Application, retrieve a PDF copy of the DF for signature, and upload a signed PDF of the DF. Details of API functionality have been shared with members of the API Working Group. Any new AVs or Designees interested in developing their own integration between their applications and the IL Shines portal are encouraged to register for the API Working Group by completing the intake form (https://forms.office.com/r/ZsDHWSaYH), and then emailing admin@illinoisabp.com to request API Access.	June 1, 2023
Identified Application and Disclosure Form Issues - Launch Related	A variety of project application, API, and Disclosure Form items have been remedied following June 1, 2023 Program year opening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated Character limits for Disclosure Form CSV upload process • The character limits of five fields in the Disclosure Forms have been updated to match the portal versions of the forms. • A corrected CSV Template for "Distributed Generation - Project Lease" button was updated to properly provide the template. • The project application form was updated to ensure a required response only applicable to CDCS was corrected. • Other project application field validation issues have been corrected, and additional data field validation and auto-population issues are being addressed. More information on outstanding items and other portal enhancements will be added to the Portal Updates page of the Program website and in upcoming announcements. 	June 3, 2023
Re-batching Functionality	On/off toggle, ability to create batches by project and by batch Screen, export Batch Shuffling and Batch Audit Log.	Tentatively planned for Q3 2023.
Development Focus	Details	Planned or Actual Delivery
Required Functionality		
Program year (PY) 2023-2024 Updated Disclosure Forms	Implementation of updated English covering all DG and CS.	June 1, 2023 for Program year opening.

Requirements and Reminders

- **Stakeholder Feedback** - This table outlines current and forthcoming proposals and feedback requests:

Proposal or Feedback Topic and Link to Details	Request for Comment Released	Deadline for Comment	Results or Updates to Request
Long-Term Plan: Chapter 3: REC Portfolio/RPS Budget and Goals Chapter 4: REC Eligibility Chapter 5: Competitive Procurements Chapter 6: Self-Direct program Chapter 9: Consumer Protection	May 26, 2023	Today, June 16, 2023	Draft Plan to be released expected August 15, 2023.

<p><u>Long-Term Plan:</u> Chapter 7: Illinois Shines Chapter 8: Illinois Solar For All Chapter 10: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion REC Pricing Study by Sustainable Energy Advantage</p>	<p>June 8, 2023</p>	<p>June 29, 2023</p>	<p>Draft Plan to be released expected August 15, 2023.</p>
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- **Illinois Solar for All Extends Deadline for Residential Solar Pilot RFP Submissions** - The Illinois Solar for All Program Administrator is extending the deadline to submit responses for the re-issued [Residential Solar Pilot RFP](#) to **Tuesday, June 27, 2023, by 5 p.m. CPT**. Responses must be submitted using the [Online Response Form](#). Qualified and eligible solar companies are encouraged to apply as Approved Vendors for the Waukegan and Carbondale-Marion Micropolitan areas. [Watch the webinar](#) for more information on Residential Solar Pilot RFP.
- **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, using a waiting room format to support meetings with individual AV or Designee teams for privacy. Upcoming Office Hours include the following dates and times with more dates expected to follow, using Join link: <https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/95588710302Co>
 - Wednesday, June 21, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CPT
 - Wednesday, June 28, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CPT

REMINDER: All Program updates can be found on the [Program Updates 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 or call 877-783-1820.