

Results of CDCS Random Selection Event, New Program Website, Changes to Block Capacity Dashboard

July 28, 2023

Program News

- **Results of Program Year 2022-2023 Community-Driven Community Solar Random Selection Event** - On [July 27, 2023](#), the Agency published the results of the CDCS Random Selection event, used to break ties between CDCS projects submitted for the 2022-2023 Program Year. The event was hosted on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, and the [recording](#), [presentation slides](#), and the [results spreadsheet](#) detailing Group A and Group B project awards and waitlists for each Group (projects receiving scores of at least 10 points), are posted to the [Community-Driven Community Solar page](#) of the Program website [Project Category Hub](#).
- **Illinois Shines Introduces New Program Website** - As previously [announced](#), the new [www.IllinoisShines.com](#) public website was launched July 27, 2023. The site combines, transforms, and expands information previously available at the Program's two public web sites, combining [www.IllinoisABP.com](#) and [www.IllinoisShines.com](#) both into a singular site for all users. The re-designed [site](#) offers an inclusive and resource-rich website to better serve stakeholders and share Program information, with dynamic educational materials for prospective and current solar customers, and in-depth Program information for existing and potential Approved Vendors, Designees, and other interested stakeholders. Please note that the new website does not impact the [Program portal](#).
- **Changes to Block Capacity Dashboard Corrected** - On [July 25, 2023](#), the Program Administrator notified stakeholders that in the course of re-batching a subset of Program Year 2022-23 Small and Large DG and TCS projects, a re-batching date incorrectly placed these projects in the 2023-24 Program Year and therefore subtracted capacity against 2023-2024 block capacity allocations. The error has been corrected, and proper capacity reflections have been restored in the dashboard for Small DG Groups A and B, Large DG Group B, and TCS Group B.
- **Community Solar Interconnection Costs** - On July 19, 2023, the Program Administrator sent out a survey to AVs with Part II verified community solar projects seeking updated data for interconnection costs for community solar projects. This data will be used as an input into the updated REC Pricing Model which will be released in draft form on August 15, 2023, as part of the draft 2024 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan. If you received this survey, please provide feedback by **today, July 28, 2023**.
- **Program Year 2023-2024 Community-Driven Community Solar** - The CDCS 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 until the next Program Year. Waitlisted projects from the 2022-2023 Program Year will receive 2023-2024 capacity. Any remaining capacity will be allocated to projects submitted in the 2023-2024 Program Year after all projects are processed and scored.
- **Update on Certification of EECs** - The Equity Eligible Contractor category is intended to "advance[e] equity across Illinois by providing access to the clean energy economy for businesses and workers from communities that have been historically excluded from economic opportunities," and that purpose is best served by ensuring a level playing field across Equity Eligible Persons (EEPs). The IPA has concluded that it does not further the objectives of the Equity Accountability System or the Equity Eligible Contractor category of Illinois Shines for an individual EEP to serve as the majority-owner for multiple Equity Eligible Contractors. EEPs that currently serve as the majority-owner of an Equity Eligible Contractor may not submit additional requests to certify Equity Eligible Contractors for which they serve as the majority-owner EEP. However, this policy does not apply to Single-Project AVs, as the Agency recognizes the important role Single-Project AVs can play in successful financing of projects and does not want to limit an EEP's ability to employ business practices available to non-EEPs. The IPA will incorporate this approach into the Draft Long-Term Plan being published for public comment on August 15, 2023, but will also apply it immediately, so as to avoid having to revoke any Equity Eligible

Contractors certifications that may otherwise be approved before consideration of the issue by the ICC. Stakeholders are welcome to provide feedback through comments on the Draft Long-Term Plan.

- **EEC Developer Cap** - As noted in Section 7.4.6.3.7 of the [Modified 2022 Long-Term Plan](#), a 20% developer cap will be applied to the EEC category should that category become oversubscribed on Day 1 of the block opening. On Day 1 of category opening on June 1, 2023, the initial review of the applications batched and submitted did not immediately lead the Program Administrator to conclude that the developer cap was triggered.

After a full follow-up and review of the applications batched and submitted on June 1, 2023, the Program Administrator has determined that the EEC category was in fact oversubscribed on Day 1 of the Program Year, triggering the application of the developer cap for the 2023-2024 Program Year. Thus, any projects submitted by an AV that result in a cumulative allocation within the category that exceeds 36.088 MW (20% of the entire category capacity, across both Groups) will be waitlisted by the Program Administrator.

If an AV has a question about the amount of MW already submitted or how close they are to reaching the cap, please reach out to admin@IllinoisShines.com for support.

- **Clarification on Advance of Capital Requests for EECs** - It has come to the Agency's attention that there is a typographical error on page 97 of the Program Guidebook causing confusion around the availability of Advance of Capital for Equity Eligible Contractors. The Agency would like to clarify that Advance of Capital is only available for projects submitted to the EEC category and is not extended to projects submitted by EECs into other Program categories. A limited exception which allowed DG projects submitted by EECs to the Small or Large DG categories in the 2022-2023 Program Year has ended in accordance with the Commission's approval of the 2022 Modified Long-Term Plan. The Agency apologizes for any confusion this has caused and will correct this error in the Guidebook as soon as practicable.
- **Consumer Protection Working Group** - The Agency and the Program Administrators for the Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All programs will host the August Consumer Protection Working Group meeting on August 4, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. CST. If you are interested in participating in the group and future meetings, please submit the form at the [website](#).
- **Long-Term Plan Update** - As previously [announced](#), the IPA issued the first two sets of requests for stakeholder feedback on various chapters of the Long-Term Plan (see Stakeholder Feedback chart below for chapter details). The Agency anticipates the next steps in this process with the following updated schedule:
 - Final Draft Released for stakeholder feedback- August 15, 2023
 - Stakeholder comments due to IPA - September 29, 2023
 - Filing with ICC - October 20, 2023
 - ICC Order Expected - February 19, 2024
- **August REC Invoicing Opens August 1, 2023** - REC invoices and Quarterly Netting Statements will be made available for download from AV SharePoint folders on the morning of August 1, 2023. Invoices must be submitted to the utility by August 10, 2023 to receive payment for the August invoice period. Any invoice amounts not submitted to the utility by August 10, 2023 will be carried forward and included in the next invoice period (November 2023).

Application Processing Updates

- **Application Processing Tables** - The Program Administrator updates the application processing tables at IllinoisShines.com/project-application-reports/ on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. For questions about specific project applications, please contact the Program Administrator at admin@IllinoisShines.com.
- **Traditional Community Solar Application Review and Scoring Process** - Applications submitted to date have been processed in the order they were submitted, and scores will be issued to AVs approximately two weeks after projects are reviewed. Projects in Group A that have scored a minimum of five points will be added to the waitlist in the order they were submitted. Projects in Group B that have scored a minimum of five points will be awarded capacity for the 2023-24 Program Year as long as capacity remains available. If a project does not receive a minimum score of five points, the application is not eligible to be waitlisted but can reapply to the Program at any time. A weekly waitlist publication for Group A is available at the [Block Capacity Dashboard](#).

Ongoing Program Portal Updates

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

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 August**. 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		
CSV Validation on DG Purchase DF should not allow entry of 0 (zero) for Collateral Amount when Collateral Amount is required.	The CSV Upload Process to create a DG Purchase DF has been updated to verify that the Collateral Amount (Amount of collateral fee (\$)) is greater than 0 when this field is required. This change is specific to the CSV Upload creation method, as the Portal creation method already includes this requirement.	July 28, 2023
Allow AVs to download documents attached to Part II Project Applications regardless of application status.	Previously AVs could download all documents in Part I, regardless of status, and they could also download documents for Part II applications once the project was submitted but not while the application was 'In Progress'. Now AVs will have the ability to download all Project Application documents regardless of status including documents for Part II applications while the application is 'In Progress'.	July 26, 2023
Community Solar DF API not saving Termination_Application field.	Previously, when new Community Solar DF were submitted via the API (an integration from AV's software) and they included a value for Termination_Application, that field was not being saved in the DF. This has been corrected and values sent for Termination_Application on new create_disclosure API requests will be saved in the DF created.	July 26, 2023

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	June 16, 2023. Comments have been shared at the Agency's website .	Draft Plan to be released expected August 15, 2023.
Long-Term Plan: Chapter 7: Illinois Shines Chapter 8: Illinois Solar For All Chapter 10: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion REC Pricing Study by Sustainable Energy Advantage	June 8, 2023	June 29, 2023 Comments have been shared at the Agency's website .	Draft Plan to be released expected August 15, 2023.

- Annual Reports** - Submission of Annual Reports, a Program requirement, were due July 17, 2023.
 - AVs will receive further confirmation of their submission's status by September 15, 2023. This may include requests for further clarification and documentation where data discrepancies are found. All discrepancies must be cured by October 13, 2023.
 - AVs who failed to respond when required, received a Notice of Potential Violation, with further disciplinary action defined.
 - For any systems which have been delivering RECs for three full delivery years (First REC delivery on or prior to May 31, 2020), the Program Administrator will use the 2023 REC Annual Report data to

calculate any potential collateral drawdowns and send the results to the contracting utility by November 15, 2023. The contracting utility will share the results with the AVs.

- Community solar systems will additionally be assessed by the Community Solar Subscriber parameters, as outlined in the Program Guidebook, to calculate any potential collateral drawdowns. The Program Administrator will send the results to the contracting utility by November 15, 2023. The contracting utility will share the results with the AVs.
- Additional information on collateral drawdown evaluations can be found in the [Annual Reports Webinar](#), held May 9, 2023, and available at the [Program Year Webinars page](#).
- **Illinois Power Agency Issues Request for Approved Vendors and Installer Designees Interested in Serving Stranded Illinois Shines Distributed Generation Customers** - As previously [announced](#), the Program Administrator continues to review submissions on a rolling basis for entities interested in serving stranded customers. The Program Administrator is especially interested in identifying AVs and/or installer Designees that are willing to assist stranded customers specifically with project maintenance/repair work. Please see the full [Request for AVs and Designees](#), including details regarding the opportunity to support stranded customers, eligibility requirements, and anticipated responsibilities.
- **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, August 2, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CPT
 - Wednesday, August 9, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CPT

REMINDER: All Program updates can be found on the [Program Updates webpage](#), and a new [Vendor Forums & Key Dates](#) page at the Program website provides a calendar of upcoming webinars, meetings, support, feedback requests, key dates, holidays, and more. Please visit [IllinoisShines.com/vendor-forums-feedback/](https://illinoisshines.com/vendor-forums-feedback/) for continuous updates.

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