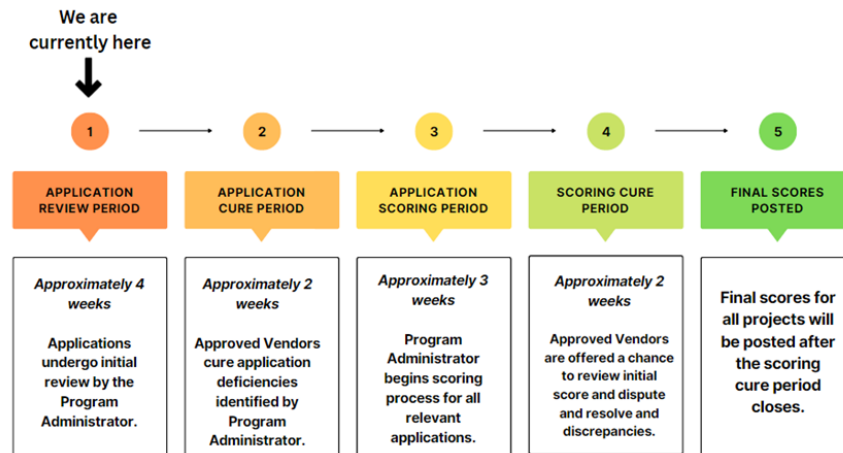# Community-Driven Community Solar Applications, 2023-2024 TCS Timeline, Portal Roadmap Posted

September 1, 2023

Program News

- **Program Year 2023-2024 Community Driven Community Solar (CDCS) -** August 30, 2023 concluded the 90-day project application window for CDCS applications as outlined in Section 5 of the Program Guidebook. A total of 63 applications were received during the application window, including 11 project applications totaling 25.70 MW AC for Group A, and 52 project applications totaling 64.95 MW AC for Group B. **Applications for CDCS projects will not be accepted until the next Program Year (2024-2025).** Waitlisted projects from the 2022-2023 Program Year will receive 2023-2024 capacity. After capacity is awarded to those projects, there will be 1.5 MW of capacity available for Group A (all 2023-24 projects will go on a waitlist if point minimum is reached) and 17.53 MW of capacity available for Group B projects submitted in the 2023-2024 Program Year.

  The Program Administrator will start the initial review of project applications and continue to share updates as they move through the process of application review and scoring. Detailed information and expected timeline dates for the following stages will soon be shared and posted to the Program website's CDCS Hub.

- **Traditional Community Solar (TCS) Timeline for Projects submitted June 1, 2023 -** As announced on August 24, 2023, all projects submitted in the 2022-2023 Program Year have been processed and scored. The anticipated schedule of next steps for applications submitted for the 2023-24 Program Year is the following:
  - September 8, 2023, 11:59 p.m. CPT - Deadline for AVs to submit appeals to Program Administrator
  - September 18, 2023 - Appeal determinations released to AVs and any changes to scores will be published on the website
  - September 20, 2023 - Random selection event for projects with tied scores
  - September 22, 2023 - Final scores published
- **Portal Development Roadmap -** A Portal Development Roadmap has been added to the Program website at the Portal Updates & Help Guides page. The Portal Development Roadmap is designed to preview upcoming, planned development for the Illinois Shines portal. Updates on the planned activities will be provided in weekly Program announcements, and detailed in the page's Portal Updates Blog in conjunction with software releases.
- **Long-Term Plan Update -** As announced on August 15, 2023, the Agency has released the draft 2024 Long-Term Plan for public review and comment. The Agency anticipates the next steps in this process with the

following schedule. The IPA welcomes public comments on the draft 2024 Long-Term Plan. **Written comments are due on <mark>Friday, September 29, 2023</mark>. T**he Agency will also hold virtual public hearings for the draft 2024 Long-Term Plan on September 15.

- o Final Draft Release for stakeholder feedback - August 15, 2023
- o Virtual public hearings - September 15, 2023. Meeting information for public hearing for each utility's service area can be found [here](#).
- o Stakeholder comments due to IPA - September 29, 2023
- o Filing with ICC - October 20, 2023
- o ICC Order Expected - February 19, 2024

- **Mentorship Pilot -** The Agency and Program Administrator will launch a Mentorship Pilot program in Fall 2023, with the goal of fostering relationships between market participants and empowering small businesses, Diverse Business Enterprises (DBEs), and Equity Eligible Contractors (EECs) with the tools and training to successfully participate in Illinois Shines. Participation for the first cohort of the Mentorship Pilot has been filled. Registration is now closed until the next mentorship cohort is announced. **The Program Administrator will soon issue a survey to gauge interest from prospective mentors.**

- **Designee Management Plans -** Section X.B.1 of the Consumer Protection Handbook states that "[e]very Approved Vendor that works with or uses Designees is required to have and follow a Designee Management Plan as of September 1, 2023," and provides details on required plan components. The Program Administrator shared additional guidance on this requirement on [August 9, 2023](#). The deadline for relevant AVs to create and maintain a Designee Management Plan is <mark>today, September 1, 2023</mark>. **Please note: AVs need NOT submit these Plans unless requested by the Program Administrator.**

- **EEC Program News -** Recent Equity Eligibility Contractor (EEC) updates have included the following:
  - o **EEC Waitlists –** The EEC Group A and B waitlists have been published on the Program website's and are now available on the [Block Capacity Dashboard](#) page. Projects that exceed a given EEC's developer cap of 36.088 MW are indicated as such and are not eligible for capacity allocation until the 2024-2025 Program Year, regardless of whether additional capacity exists in the 2023-2024 Program Year.
  - o **Update on Certification of EEC AVs and Designees -** Initially posted on [August 11, 2023](#)
  - o **EEC Developer Cap -** Initially posted on [July 14, 2023](#)
  - o **Update on Certification of EECs -** Initially posted on [July 21, 2023](#)
  - o **Clarification on Advance of Capital Requests for EECs -** Initially posted on [July 28, 2023](#)

- **Consumer Education and Protection**
  - o **Disclosure Forms (DFs) - When New DFs are Needed, Signatory Requirement Exceptions, and Portal Inputs -** In the [August 25, 2023](#) announcement, the Program Administrator provided guidelines for [when new DFs are needed](#) and [DF signatory requirement exceptions](#), and provided information regarding portal inputs including average retail rate (DG) and price to compare (CS).
  - o **Distributed Generation (DG) Disclosure Form (DF) Application Programming Interface (API) Working Group Underway -** In support of the development of a DG DF API, entities who expressed interest in participating were sent a schedule survey on August 30, 2023 for a kickoff meeting to be held September 15 or September 18, 2023. Follow up meetings are initially anticipated for the weeks of September 25 and October 2, with additional information to follow. Participation is still welcomed by interested AVs and Designees.
  - o **Consumer Protection Working Group -** The Agency and the Program Administrators for the Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All programs hosted the September Consumer Protection Working Group meeting today, September 1, 2023. The presentation and notes from the Working Group will be published on the Program's website. The next Consumer Protection Working Group will be held on

Friday, October 6, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. CPT. If you are interested in participating in the group and future meetings, please submit the form on the website.

Ongoing Operations Updates

- **August REC Invoicing Opens September 1, 2023** - REC invoices and Quarterly Netting Statements will be made available for download from AV SharePoint folders on the morning of September 1, 2023. Invoices must be submitted to the utility by September 10, 2023 to receive payment for the September invoice period. Any invoice amounts not submitted to the utility by September 10, 2023 will be carried forward and included in the next invoice period (December 2023).
- **Part II Verification Cut Off for September** - To allow time for invoice calculation and generation, the last valid Part II Verification date for September will be September 22, 2023. Applications that are Part II verified on or before September 22, 2023 will be included in the October invoicing period. Application processing will continue throughout the last week of the month and any applications that are reviewed between September 23, 2023 and September 30, 2023 will be invoiced in November 2023.
- **Re-Batching for ICC Meetings** - In advance of each submission of batches to the ICC for approval, AVs are provided the opportunity to review the projects that are about to be submitted for re-batching. During re-batching, AVs have the opportunity to withhold or re-batch projects. In the absence of any action by an AV, the Program Administrator will re-batch the projects at their discretion and submit eligible projects to the ICC.

  It is extremely important that AVs review their re-batching files on SharePoint to indicate any re-batching preferences, but especially requests to withhold projects from submission. The Program Administrator alerts AVs by email when they have projects that are eligible for re-batching and planned to be submitted to the ICC in the next memo. Unfortunately, sometimes these communications are missed and projects are submitted to the ICC despite an AVs intent to hold a project back.

  The Program Administrator requests that AVs who believe they may want to withhold or re-batch projects mark their calendars and review SharePoint folders for re-batching templates. This way, if any email alerts are missed, AVs are still aware of the dates that re-batching opens and can check if any projects are in the upcoming ICC submission. Below are re-batching windows for the rest of 2023:

Re-Batching Opens for AVs	Election Deadline – 12:00 CT (Re-batching closes for AVs)	Trade Date (ICC Meeting Date)
9/12/2023	9/14/2023	9/28/2023
9/19/2023	9/21/2023	10/5/2023
10/2/2023	10/4/2023	10/19/2023
10/17/2023	10/19/2023	11/2/2023
10/30/2023	11/1/2023	11/16/2023
11/13/2023	11/15/2023	11/30/2023
11/28/2023	11/30/2023	12/14/2023

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.

Ongoing Program Portal Updates

- Ongoing portal updates 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 September.== 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		
"Prevailing Wage" logic update	Please see Portal Updates Blog for detail	September 1, 2023
Make document downloads independent of application validations	Please see Portal Updates Blog for detail	September 1, 2023

Requirements and Reminders

- **Find a Community Solar Project Report Update -** As a reminder, the IPA and Program Administrator seek updated Community Solar project information from AVs to populate the Find a Community Solar project report at the Illinois Shines Program website, with project-specific information known to AVs. This report is valuable to interested subscribers, the Agency, other developers, and other stakeholders. A template to edit or add projects has been sent to community solar AVs. Please email your completed template to communitysolar@illinoisshines.com by ==today, September 1, 2023==. Updates to this list will be made quarterly, and AVs are encouraged to reach out with any necessary updates between these releases.
- **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
Draft 2024 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan	August 15, 2023	September 29, 2023	

- **IPA Issues Request for AVs and Installer Designees Interested in Serving Stranded Illinois Shines DG Customers -** As previously announced, the Program continues to review submissions on a rolling basis for entities interested in serving stranded customers, with particular interest in identifying AVs and/or installer Designees willing to assist stranded customers 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 -** Existing and prospective AVs and Designees who have Programmatic questions, project application inquiries, or are experiencing technical difficulties the portal or other Program or seek support in resolving other challenges are invited to attend open Office Hours offered by the Program Administrator via Zoom each week, using a waiting room format to support meetings with individual AV or

Designee teams for privacy. Upcoming Office Hours and join link: https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/95588710302Co

- o Wednesday, September 6, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CPT
- o Wednesday, September 13, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CPT
- o Wednesday, September 20, 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/ for continuous updates.

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