



# Illinois Shines/Adjustable Block Program Program Year 2022-2023 Resource Guide

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# Today's Presenters



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A photograph of a sunflower field at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The sunflowers are in various stages of bloom, with some in sharp focus and others blurred in the background. A semi-transparent white banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text "Program Administration" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

# Program Administration











# New Program Administrator, Energy Solutions

On July 1, Program Administrator officially transitioned to Energy Solutions, an experienced provider of clean energy consultancy and implementation services. In support of the Program’s growth and stakeholder success, we have a vision and team designed and built to enhance support:

Energy Solutions’ Vision for the Program's next phase:

- Increased Collaboration – AVS and AVDs, IPA, Energy Solutions and its world-class teammates
- Functionality and process enhancements
- Increased stakeholder collaboration, forums, communications and engagement
- Skilled Program Management, Operations, Software, Support and Communications
- Concierge Service (Sector Strategists and Self-operated Call Center)
- Experienced engineers providing tech review & project support



Operations Team	Technical Team	Transition SMEs
  	  	   

# Energy Solutions Support of the Program

In April 2022, Energy Solutions was awarded a contract to become the Program Administrator, effective 7/1/2022. In its role, Energy Solutions has full responsibility for administering the program, including:

Operational and Technical	Strategic Domains	Plans, Reporting and Messaging
<p><b>Enrollment</b> - Process Program applications from interested Approved Vendors and Designees</p> <p><b>Project Portal</b> - Re-establish a web-based Portal whereby approved AVs and Designees can access data and forms in support of initiating dialog and contacts with customers, lookup records, and more</p> <p><b>Technical Tools and Documentation</b> - Provide technical materials, tools and processes to support AVs and Designees</p> <p><b>Operations and Support</b> - Provide robust operational and contact center support for both AVs and the public</p>	<p><b>Consumer Protection</b> - Manage a consumer complaint, investigation and disciplinary reporting processes/systems</p> <p><b>DEI Commitments</b> - Support diversity, equity and inclusion including outreach to and support of Equity Eligible Contractors, support AVs in understanding and meeting the state's Equity Accountability Standards including workforce composition</p> <p><b>Sector Strategy</b> - Provide segmented support, reports, technical expertise, and insights to support specific AV audiences</p>	<p><b>Plans and Reporting</b> - Provide a variety of management, operational, and strategic reports and KPI dashboards that communicate plans, projects, tasks, updates, challenges and resolutions, results, impact, and more</p> <p><b>Marketing and Communications</b> – For all areas, provide external and internal messaging and communications solutions, materials creation, branding, support of training materials and documentation, campaigns, and more.</p>



# New Resources

# Final 2022 Long-Term Plan Filed

The **2022 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan** was filed on August 23, 2022.

It helps Illinois meet the state's renewable energy goals of:

**40%** by 2030

**50%** by 2040

**100%** by 2050

## The plan includes:

- A distinct focus on diversity and equity, including:
  - The creation of three new project categories: Public Schools, Community-Driven Community Solar, and projects submitted by Equity Eligible Contractors
  - The introduction of an Equity Accountability System framework, including minimum diversity and equity benchmarks for all renewable energy procurements, and Minimum Equity Standards of project workforces and the employment of Equity Eligible Persons
- New chapter on Consumer Protection, including a Consumer Protection Handbook that replaces previous Marketing Guidelines.



# Program Guidebook

- New Annual Block approach
  - 2022-23 Program year: Blocks opening Sept. 1/Nov. 1
  - All subsequent years: Blocks opening June 1
- Details on uncontracted capacity rollover at the end of each delivery year
- Community-Driven Community Solar selection criteria
- Equity Eligible Contractor (EEC) advance of capital request
- Equity Eligible Contractor (EEC) Designees
- Minimum Equity Standards Compliance Plans



# Final Block Sizes Including Reallocated, Uncontracted Capacity

Due to requirements for reallocation of uncontracted capacity from previous program years outlined in the Agency's 2022 Long-Term Plan, the block sizes above will be amended slightly with reallocated capacity from the 2021-2022 program year. The reallocation process is outlined further in Section 1.D. of the Program Guidebook.

### Capacity to be Reallocated from 2021-22 Program Year:

Uncontracted Capacity from the 2021-22 Program Year (in MW)						
	Small DG	Large DG	Traditional Community Solar	Community Driven Community Solar	EEC	Public Schools
<b>Group A</b>	2.465	0	0	0	22.5	49.395
<b>Group B</b>	8.587	39.675	1	0	52.5	
Sum of Small DG, Large DG, TCS Unallocated 2021-22 Capacity					51.72 MW	
Group A Large DG Waitlist Capacity					15.4 MW	
<b>Remaining Unallocated Capacity After Addressing Waitlists</b>					<b>36.327 MW</b>	

### Final Block Size for the 2022-23 Program Year with Addition of Uncontracted Capacity Allocation

Total Block Sizes for 2022-23 Program Year (in MW)						
	Small DG	Large DG	Traditional Community Solar	Community Driven Community Solar	EEC	Public Schools
<b>Group A</b>	42.18	57.58	51.27	10.55	43.59	154.85
<b>Group B</b>	8.587	39.675	1	0	52.5	

# New Consumer Protection Handbook and Expanded CP Working Group

The Illinois Commerce Commission's July 14 Order approving the Long-Term Plan with modifications including the approval of consumer protection documents filed with the Plan.

- An updated Consumer Protection Handbook and Contract Requirements were approved, and effective August 28, 2022. Approved Vendors and Designees must be in full compliance with these documents, which are available at [www.IllinoisABP.com](http://www.IllinoisABP.com).
- The Plan also included approval of an Expanded Consumer Protection Working Group for Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar For All. IPA hopes to engage a diverse set of stakeholders to create a more robust discussion of consumer protection. This is an opportunity for consumers, solar companies, community and nonprofits organizations, and other members of the public to directly provide their insights to IPA and its Program Administrators.



## Quick Links:

- [Consumer Protection Handbook\\*](#)
- [ABP Contract Requirements – Distributed Generation](#)
- [ABP Contract Requirements – Community Solar](#)

\*This document replaces both the DG and CS Marketing Guidelines

A photograph of a forest in autumn. The trees have yellow and orange leaves, and the ground is covered in fallen leaves. Sunlight is streaming through the trees, creating a bright, hazy atmosphere. A semi-transparent white banner is overlaid across the middle of the image.

# CEJA Requirements

# Prevailing Wage Compliance

In March 2022, a [Prevailing Wage Compliance hub](#) was added to the Program website, to provide information and resources on prevailing wage requirements for renewable energy projects participating in Illinois Shines\*.

- Prevailing wage requirements ensure that all employees, contractors, and subcontractors are receiving local prevailing wages set by the Illinois Department of Labor.
- The website's Prevailing Wage Hub home provides further information, links to IDOL resources, and contact information.
- Limited exceptions to paying prevailing wage exist. For more information on exceptions, visit the compliance hub.



# Equity Eligible Contractors and the EAS

The Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (Public Act 102-0662) amended the Illinois Power Agency Act to expand the “priority access to the clean energy economy for businesses and workers from communities that have been excluded from economic opportunities in the energy sector, have been subject to disproportionate levels of pollution, and have disproportionately experienced negative public health outcomes.”

- A resulting Equity Accountability System (EAS) incorporated into the Plan includes:
  - Minimum Equity Standards (MES) applicable to all applicants to the Agency’s renewable energy procurements, including the Adjustable Block Program and competitive procurements
  - Establishes the Equity Eligible Contractor category within the Program
- To achieve its goals, the Act introduces required monitoring, reporting, facilitation, and compliance requirements, to support assessment of the Equity Accountability System. → All Approved Vendors aside from EECs will be required to submit Minimum Equity Standards Compliance Plans for the 2023-24 program year.



Further training, guidance, education, and materials, timelines, MES waivers, and information on becoming an EEC, will be introduced to stakeholders in the coming weeks.



# REC Pricing and REC Contracts

# REC Prices and Updated REC Contracts

**New REC prices were published on August 1, 2022.**

- On August 1, [new REC prices](#) were announced, pursuant to the approval of the 2022 Long-Term Plan. The Agency addressed stakeholder inquiries about impacts of the Inflation Reduction Act and its modifications to the federal solar Investment Tax Credit on REC prices, announcing that out of interest to Program participant reliance of published REC prices and the value of REC price stability to the market, the published REC prices would remain in place for the duration of the 2022-2023 delivery year. The Agency will update REC pricing for the 2023-2024 delivery year.
- On August 3, 2022, the Agency posted drafts of the updated 15-year and 20-year REC Contracts, in light of the ICC approval of the 2022 Long-Term Plan, and invited Stakeholder Comments.



## Quick Links:

[New REC prices](#) can be found here

The final versions of REC contracts can be found at

<https://illinoisabp.com/rec-contract/>.



# REC Prices for 2022-23 Program Year Group A

Block Group	Block Category	2022-2023	
Group A (Ameren Illinois, MidAmerican, Mt. Carmel, Rural Electric Cooperatives, and Municipal Utilities located in MISO)	Small DG	≤10 kW	\$78.51
		>10 - 25 kW	\$66.39
	Large DG	>25 - 100 kW	\$57.94
		>100 - 200 kW	\$58.85
		>200 - 500 kW	\$52.35
		>500 - 2,000 kW	\$50.42
		>2,000 - 5,000 kW	\$40.90
		Traditional Community Solar	≤25 kW
	>25 - 100 kW		\$59.19
	>100 - 200 kW		\$60.85
	>200 - 500 kW		\$57.22
	>500 - 2,000 kW		\$51.32
	>2,000 - 5,000 kW		\$45.50
	Community-Driven Community Solar	≤25 kW	\$71.60
		>25 - 100 kW	\$75.34
		>100 - 200 kW	\$77.27
		>200 - 500 kW	\$72.47
		>500 - 2,000 kW	\$64.76
		>2,000 - 5,000 kW	\$56.85
	Public Schools	≤25 kW	\$74.95
>25 - 100 kW		\$65.57	
>100 - 200 kW		\$66.40	
>200 - 500 kW		\$58.94	
>500 - 2,000 kW		\$56.73	
>2,000 - 5,000 kW		\$45.72	



# REC Prices for 2022-23 Program Year Group B

Group B (ComEd, and Rural Electric Cooperatives and Municipal Utilities located in PJM)	Small DG	≤10 kW	\$82.28
		>10 - 25 kW	\$71.89
	Large DG	>25 - 100 kW	\$62.23
		>100 - 200 kW	\$59.02
		>200 - 500 kW	\$53.11
		>500 - 2,000 kW	\$47.63
		>2,000 - 5,000 kW	\$33.31
		Traditional Community Solar	≤25 kW
	>25 - 100 kW		\$64.39
	>100 - 200 kW		\$65.23
	>200 - 500 kW		\$62.09
	>500 - 2,000 kW		\$55.50
	>2,000 - 5,000 kW		\$47.78
	Community-Driven Community Solar	≤25 kW	\$78.27
		>25 - 100 kW	\$82.16
		>100 - 200 kW	\$83.42
		>200 - 500 kW	\$79.19
		>500 - 2,000 kW	\$70.12
		>2,000 - 5,000 kW	\$59.44
	Public Schools	≤25 kW	\$81.16
>25 - 100 kW		\$70.42	
>100 - 200 kW		\$66.59	
>200 - 500 kW		\$59.81	
>500 - 2,000 kW		\$53.59	
>2,000 - 5,000 kW		\$37.23	





**Portal Updates:  
September and November**

# Portal Capabilities – 9/1 and Future

Through the transition period and as part of the September 1st re-opening, the Program Administrator has been building a new Portal, with the goal of strengthening the user experience. Core functionality will be available on September 1, with ongoing development and enhancements in the coming months.

## Current & September 1 Portal Capabilities

- ✓ Generate and Sign Disclosure Forms
- ✓ CSV upload/import of Disclosure Forms for Community Solar
- ✓ Ability to submit Part I applications for Distributed Generation and Community Solar Projects
- ✓ Vendor Workbench to view submitted project applications - ability edit "in-progress" applications
- ✓ Spanish-language Community Solar Disclosure Forms

## Coming Soon: September

- CSV upload/import for DG projects
- New vendor workbench features- AVs edit legacy applications
- Batching of Part I project applications
- Accept Designee registration and enable permissions



# Support & Questions

# Support And How To Access It

The Energy Solutions team model represents an expansion of support to stakeholders, and with it, more staff resources for Approved Vendors, their Designees, customers and others, including:

- Sector Strategists and Technical Support (emails in following slides)
- Meeting Equity Accountability Standards: stakeholder information forthcoming
- Expanded Consumer Protection Working Group (<https://illinoisabp.com/cp-working-group/>)
- Operational and Technical Support
  - General and ongoing ([admin@illinoisabp.com](mailto:admin@illinoisabp.com))
  - Office hours (Tuesday 11am-12pm CT, Thursday 3-4pm CT)
    - Links at <https://illinoisabp.com/updates/>



# Strategy Team Focus and Goals

The team is already underway in reaching out to AVs, and goals include:

<b>Best Practices</b>	Provide AVs resources to best represent and adhere to program rules.
<b>Building the Illinois Shines Brand</b>	Spread awareness and establish the Program as an industry leader.
<b>Market Insights</b>	Build relationships with AVs to solicit market feedback and leverage gained insight to inform Program policy.
<b>Technical Support</b>	Work in tandem with the Operations and Technical teams to provide real-time communication and solutions to project and program questions.
<b>Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)</b>	Work with DEI team to increase participation of EECs and embed DEI plans into outreach practices.
<b>Policy Expertise</b>	Continuously research and track market dynamics and policy changes that affect each sector and establish an advisory meeting for major market actors that informs the Program. In August 2022, updated REC Prices and new REC Contracts were published.

# Sector Strategist Sign-Up

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**

<b>Small DG</b> <a href="mailto:smallDG@illinoisabp.com">smallDG@illinoisabp.com</a>	<b>Large DG</b> <a href="mailto:largeDG@illinoisabp.com">largeDG@illinoisabp.com</a>	<b>Community Solar</b> <a href="mailto:communitysolar@illinoisabp.com">communitysolar@illinoisabp.com</a>
<b>Community-Driven Community Solar</b> <a href="mailto:communitysolar@illinoisabp.com">communitysolar@illinoisabp.com</a>	<b>Public Schools</b> <a href="mailto:schools@illinoisabp.com">schools@illinoisabp.com</a>	<b>Equity Eligible Contractors</b> <a href="mailto:EEC@illinoisabp.com">EEC@illinoisabp.com</a>



# Frequently Asked Questions

During our AV communication and office hours, we have noticed certain frequent questions and have summarized a few below:

**Q. How can a Disclosure Form be edited after submission?**

A. At this time, Disclosure Forms cannot be edited after submission. A new form will need to be created if there are changes required. Additional guidance to clarify when a new Disclosure Form is required is currently being developed and will be shared.

**Q: How can I create a Community Solar TBD Vendor Disclosure?**

A: That feature is currently under development and will be part of a release later in September.

**Q: How do I add a Designee or become a Designee for an Approved Vendor?**

A: Email [admin@illinoisabp.com](mailto:admin@illinoisabp.com) and request a Designee Request Form. The form can be completed by the Designee and submitted back to us by the Approved Vendor. This relationship will be manually tracked until later in the month when Designees will be added to the portal.





**Thank you!**

