

ComEd Electric Choice ID Implementation Key Dates, IPA Power Hour - Clean Energy Future for Public Schools

February 2, 2024

Next Week in Illinois Shines (Program events & due dates found at the [Vendor Forums & Key Dates webpage](#))

- **Events**
 - Upcoming: Friday, February 23, 2024 - **Illinois Power Agency Power Hour - Clean Energy Future for Public Schools** at 12:00 p.m. CPT. Please visit this [link](#) to register for the event.
 - No events next week
- **Due Dates**
 - Saturday, February 10, 2024 - Invoices must be submitted to the utility

Stakeholder Support

- **Program Administrator Office Hours** – February 7, 2024 - 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CPT - individual AV or Designee support for Program requirements, portal, application, or other questions. Zoom join link: <https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/95588710302Co>
- **Application Tips and Tricks** - Supplementing previous guidance, the Program Administrator seeks to continue supporting stakeholders in the avoidance of project applications entering *Need Info* status.
 - **Mounting Location:** Ensure that the mounting location indicated on the application is the same as what is indicated on the plot map. If the information is different between the application and the plot map, this will result in a *Need Info* request.
 - **Module Count:** Conflicting module counts between the application, plot map, and photographs is a common *Need Info* reason. Ensuring each of these data sources match will prevent unnecessary delays in application processing.

Program News – New or Updated Items (All Program updates can be found on the [Program Updates webpage](#))

- **Draft Policy Study Open for Public Comment** – The IPA released a draft version of its 2024 Policy Study on January 22, 2024 for public comment. Stakeholder can visit [this webpage](#) for links to the draft Policy Study, information on the development of the Policy Study, background, approach, and key dates. **Comments are due to the Agency on Monday, February 12, 2024.** Please email all comments to IPA.ContactUs@illinois.gov.
- **ComEd Electric Choice ID Implementation and the CS March Quarterly Reporting Period Key Dates** - On [January 16, 2024](#), the Program published information on ComEd's switch from Account Numbers to Electric Choice ID Numbers, including implementation details and relevant impacts. Key dates for the Illinois Shines CS March Quarterly Reporting Period:
 - **February 14, 2024** – Last day to access ComEd Community Solar Portal prior to planned outage
 - February 15 – 19, 2024 – Planned outage of ComEd Community Solar Portal
 - February 20, 2024 – Planned return of ComEd Community Solar Portal access
 - February 29, 2024 – Deadline for subscription data to be updated
 - March 1, 2024 – Program Administrator pulls reports from ComEd for March 2024 quarterly reporting period
 - March 10, 2024 – Updated subscriber reports due to Program Administrator, which should reflect subscribers as of March 1, 2024
- **Consumer Protection Working Group** - The Agency and its Program Administrators for Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All hosted the February Consumer Protection Working Group meeting today. The presentation and

notes from the Working Group will be published on the on the [Program website](#), where meeting agendas are also added. The Working Group meets the first Friday of each month, with the next meeting to be held on Friday, March 1, 2024, 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.

- **New to the Program Website** - The following key additions to www.IllinoisShines.com have been shared:
 - Banners were added indicating which blocks have closed and which are close to reaching capacity for the 2023-24 Program Year ([Block Capacity Dashboard](#) page)
 - Program Support and Consumer Complaint Center hours ([Contact](#) page)
 - [February 2, 2024 - Consumer Protection Working Group Agenda](#) ([Consumer Protection Working Group](#) page)

Program News – Previously Published Items (All Program updates can be found on the [Program Updates webpage](#))

- **General Program**
 - **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.
 - **Minimum Equity Standard (MES) Year End Report Due July 15, 2024** - Information on the MES Year End Report will be released soon by the Program Administrator, including details on a stakeholder webinar being developed. The MES Year End Report is due July 15, 2024, following the close of this Program Year, and encompasses reporting related to participating entities' workforce across the 2023-24 Program Year. In addition, information on the 2024-25 Program Year MES report requirements will be forthcoming.
 - **AV Application Stakeholder Feedback Request** – Following a stakeholder feedback request proposing to update the current AV application, the current AV Application will be updated based on the Program Administrator's proposed changes on Section 2 of the Program Guidebook. The new AV application will take effect June 1, 2024, for the 2024-25 Program Year.
 - **Illinois Power Agency Updates Energy Workforce Equity Portal** - On [January 19, 2024](#) the IPA updated the [Energy Workforce Equity Portal](#), with a banner to guide individuals currently employed with clean energy companies participating in IPA-administered programs who seek certification as Equity Eligible Persons (EEPs).
- **Traditional Community Solar (TCS)** - See full TCS [hub on Program website](#)
 - **TCS – Part II Demonstration of Project Commitments and Permissible Changes** - As shared on [January 18, 2024](#), TCS Part II project applications submitted during or after the 2022-23 Program Year require demonstration and confirmation that commitments made in the Part I application, including those that resulted in higher project scoring and thus greater likelihood of contract award, were fulfilled throughout project development and installation. Please see the full announcement for documentation to be submitted to demonstrate fulfillment of Part I commitments, including permissible changes, as well as information on the forfeiture of collateral and the removal of the system from the REC contract resulting from the failure to do so.
- **Public Schools Program News** - See full Public Schools [hub on Program website](#)
 - **Public Schools Category Update: Public Act 103-0580 Passed; Higher Education Institutions May Apply** - On December 8, 2023, Governor Pritzker signed Senate Bill 1699 into law as [Public Act 103-0580](#).

This statute went into immediate effect on December 8, 2023 and expands the definition of “Public Schools” eligible for the Public Schools category to include Illinois public higher education institutions as defined by the Illinois Board of Higher Education Act. It also requires projects for this category to be located on public school land. The Program is addressing necessary updates to project applications, application processes and support, and other data and reporting impacts for the Public Schools project category resulting from the Public Act. Higher education institutions may apply to this category now, even as updates to the application portal are in process.

- **Illinois Power Agency Power Hour - Clean Energy Future for Public Schools: Benefits and Challenges -** The Agency will host the February Power Hour on Friday, **February 23, 2024** at 12:00 p.m. CPT. The Power Hour will cover the following topics: Challenges, opportunities, the Carbon Free Assessment Program, higher education in regards to the [Public Act 103-0580](#), and including solar curriculum in schools. The IPA will present along with other speakers. Please visit this [link](#) to register for the event.
- **Distributed Generation (DG) Program News -** See full [Small DG](#) and [Large DG](#) hubs on Program website
 - **Guidance on Group A Distributed Generation (DG) Capacity and Waitlists -** As [previously shared](#), guidance on Group A DG capacity and waitlists was provided for [AVs](#) and [Consumers](#).

Ongoing Operations Updates

- **February REC Invoicing Opened February 1, 2024 -** REC invoices and Quarterly Netting Statements were made available for download from AV SharePoint folders on February 1, 2024. Invoices must be submitted to the utility by **February 10, 2024** to receive payment for the February invoice period. Any invoice amounts not submitted to the utility by February 10, 2024 will be carried forward and included in the next invoice period (May 2024).
- **Part II Verification Cut Off for February -** To allow time for invoice calculation and generation, the last valid Part II Verification date for January will be **February 22, 2024**. Applications that are Part II verified on or before February 22, 2024 will be included in the March invoicing period. Application processing will continue throughout the last week of the month and any applications that are reviewed between February 24, 2024 and February 29, 2024 will be invoiced in April 2024.
- **Re-Batching for ICC Meetings -** In advance of each submission of batches to the ICC for approval, AVs are provided 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 first half of 2024:

| Re-Batching Opens for AVs | Election Deadline – 12:00 p.m. CPT (Re-batching closes for AVs) | Trade Date (ICC Meeting Date) |
|---------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 2/20/2024 | 2/22/2024 | 3/7/2024 |
| 3/5/2024 | 3/7/2024 | 3/21/2024 |
| 3/19/2024 | 3/21/2024 | 4/4/2024 |
| 4/2/2024 | 4/4/2024 | 4/18/2024 |
| 4/16/2024 | 4/18/2024 | 5/2/2024 |
| 4/30/2024 | 5/2/2024 | 5/16/2024 |
| 5/13/2024 | 5/15/2024 | 5/30/2024 |
| 5/17/2024 | 5/21/2024 | 6/5/2024 |
| 6/3/2024 | 6/5/2024 | 6/20/2024 |

Application Processing Updates

- **Reminder that Project Submissions to Group A Still Encouraged** – See prior [announcement](#).
- **Extended Application Processing Times** – The Program Administrator has returned Part II application processing times back to within the two-week expected turnaround time. Part I application processing times remain extended, and the Program Administrator anticipates processing all remaining Part I applications for this Program Year near the end of February. As a reminder, AVs may continue to submit Part I applications to be placed on the waitlist for next Program Year.
- **Application Processing Tables** - Application processing tables are maintained at IllinoisShines.com/project-application-reports/. These tables are updated daily. For questions about specific project applications, please contact the Program Administrator at admin@IllinoisShines.com.

Ongoing Program Portal Updates

- **Portal Upgrade to PVWatts API Version 8 Completed December 21, 2023** – See [prior announcement](#).
- Ongoing portal updates, a Portal Development Roadmap, and a library of help guides can be found at <https://illinoisshines.com/portal-updates/>. Portal releases will take place on Tuesday nights. Stakeholders can refer to the Portal Updates page to view the latest market facing enhancements.
- **Updates on Portal Issues, Improvements, and Future Releases** – Scheduled system maintenance windows continue on **Tuesday and Thursday evenings (from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. CPT)**, during which times the Portal is expected to be unavailable to users, which the Program hopes is minimally disruptive to Program participants. **Users working in the portal should save their work prior to the 8:00 p.m. CPT start of system maintenance window, as any unsaved information will be lost when the system is moved into maintenance mode.** In some cases, Portal availability may resume earlier than 11:00 p.m. CPT, though **AVs and Designees should plan on the full three hours.**

Requirements and Reminders

- **Stakeholder Feedback** - This table outlines current and forthcoming proposals and feedback requests, which can also be found [at the Program website](#):

| Proposal or Feedback Topic and Link to Details | Request for Comment Released | Deadline for Comment | Results or Updates to Request |
|---|------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Draft Policy Study Open for Public Comment | January 22, 2024 | February 12, 2024 | On January 22, the IPA released the preliminary draft version of its 2024 Policy Study for public comment. Comments are due to the Agency on Monday, February 12. Please email all comments to IPA.ContactUs@illinois.gov . |
| AV Application Stakeholder Feedback | December 8, 2023 | January 11, 2024 | AV Application will be updated once the final 2024 Long-Term Plan is published. |
| Draft 2024 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan | August 15, 2023 | September 29, 2023 | The filed 2024 Long-Term Plan and Redline between the Draft 2024 Plan and Filed 2024 Plan, along with stakeholder comments for Chapter 7, 9, and 10 have been posted at the Program's website; all other comments have been shared at the Agency's website. |

- **Long-Term Plan Update** - As announced on [October 23, 2023](#), the IPA filed the 2024 Long-Term Plan with the ICC on October 20, 2023. Stakeholders can engage with the filed 2024 Long-Term Plan in [Docket 23-0714](#) following the ICC's rules of practice. Please keep in mind that the filed 2024 Plan is not finalized upon filing and anything contained within the Plan should be considered preliminary. On January 16, 2024, the Commission issued a [Proposed Order](#), which can be accessed via its eDocket. The Agency expects a final order from the ICC approving the 2024 Long-Term Plan no later than February 20, 2024, which will contain the final determination on any contested issues. The Agency will subsequently publish a final 2024 Long-Term Plan in compliance with that final order, marking the conclusion of this process. Stakeholders can access the [filed 2024 Long-Term Plan](#) and [Redline between Draft 2024 Long-Term Plan and Filed 2024 Long-Term Plan](#) on the [Program Documents page](#) on the website.

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