# Illinois Shines Program Resources and Ongoing Opportunities

Presented by Energy Solutions

# AGENDA
# Illinois Shines Program Resources and Ongoing Opportunities

**1**  AV Forums and Support

**2**  Program Resources Overview

**3**  Program Announcements

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# 1. AV Forums and Support

# Working Groups and AV Roundtables

Forums are hosted by the Program Administrator on topics for Approved Vendor input and further discussion.

- Consumer Protection Working Group
  - Occurs monthly to discuss market trends, best practices, consumer education, updates to Program requirements and documents and other consumer protection issues for both Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All

- Disclosure Form Application Programming Interface (API) Working Group
  - Previous groups formed for the CS and DG Disclosure Form API development, to gain Approved Vendors and Designee input, understand usage, develop requirements, and provide support

- AV Roundtables
  - The Program Administrator has held two rounds of AV Roundtables, designed to solicit sector-specific input, feedback, and dialog to understand opportunities for the Program to better support participating entities

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# Approved Vendor Support

**Help Guides (under AV & Designee Resources menu)**

Resources for specific topics and guidance (more one-pagers to come in 2024).

- o Portal Guides – Password Reset, Applications, Batching
- o Disclosure Forms
- o REC Contracts
- o Annual Report
- o Annual Checklist

**Program Year Webinars (under Vendor Updates menu)**

Recordings and slides available of past webinars to be used for reference and review.

- o Minimum Equity Standard Compliance Plan and Waiver Request
- o Annual Report and Delivery Year REC Evaluation
- o New Disclosure Form
- o Program Year 2023-24



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# Approved Vendor Support

## Program Administrator General Contact
Approved Vendors are encouraged to email or call the Program Administrator with any
questions:  admin@illinoisshines.com and (877) 783-1820

## Sector Strategist 1:1 Support
Approved Vendors may set up a 1:1 meeting with a sector strategist, either one-time or recurring occurrence for Programmatic support.

## Office Hours
The Program Administrator has availability weekly on Wednesdays from 10am-11am CT for Approved Vendors  who have Programmatic questions, project application inquiries, are experiencing technical difficulties with the Program portal, or seek support in resolving other challenges. See Program Announcements for join links.

### Small DG
Julie Hurewitz
smalldg@illinoisshines.com

### Large DG
Julie Hurewitz
largedg@illinoisshines.com

### Community Solar
Jess Blue
communitysolar@illioisshines.com

### EEC
Conner Rettig
eec@illinoisshines.com

### Public Schools
Jozsef Raduly
schools@illinoissines.com

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# Knowledge Check!

# Q1. Which of the following is a forum offered to AVs to share input and feedback on Illinois Shines?

a. Stakeholder feedback requests

b. AV Roundtables

c. Working Groups

d. All of the Above

**Q1. Which of the following is a forum offered to AVs to share input and feedback on Illinois Shines?**

a. Stakeholder feedback requests

b. AV Roundtables

c. Working Groups

d. All of the Above

**Q2. True or False: The Program offers weekly office hours and 1:1 appointments with Sector Strategists to assist vendors?**

a. True

b. False

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**Q2. True or False: The Program offers weekly office hours and 1:1 appointments with Sector Strategists to assist vendors?**

True. Both of these forums are available to vendors, in addition to support email and other channels.

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# 2. Program Resources Overview

# Program Resources Overview

One of the Program Administrator's key roles is to support the successful, compliant participation of Approved Vendors and Designees, and to provide valuable information and updates for these entities, their customers, and other stakeholders.
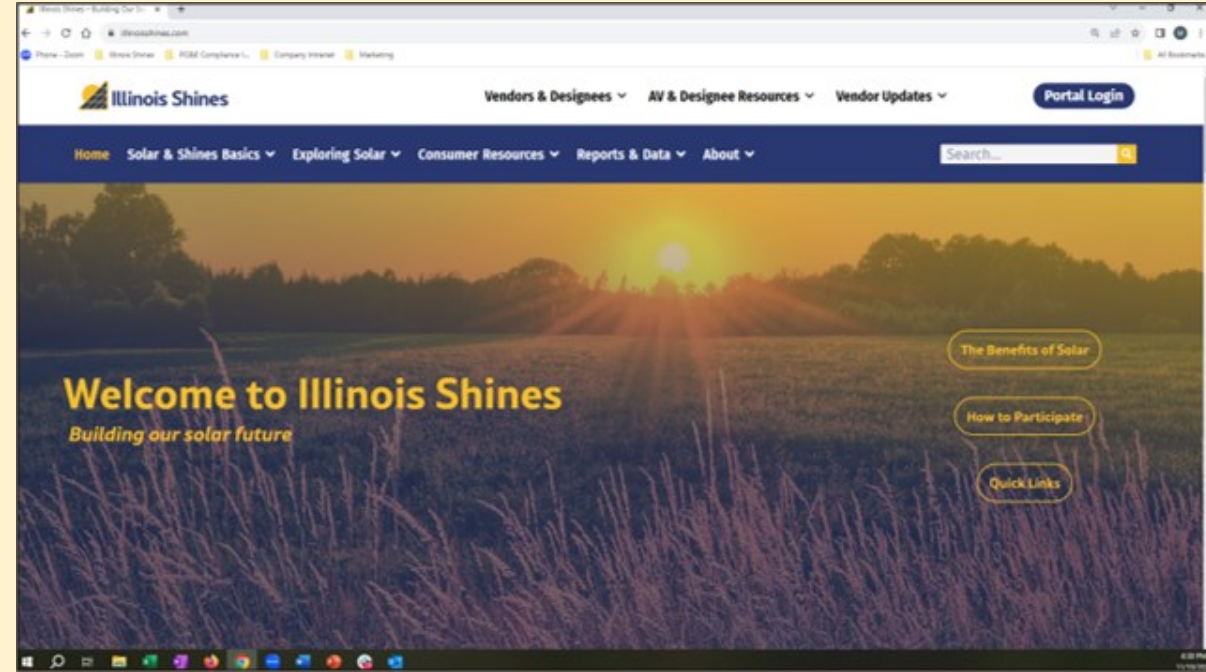
**Brand Refresh:**

In Spring 2023, Illinois Shines received a brand refresh, modernizing the logo, fonts, colors, and more, including the Program's new tagline, *Building Our Solar Future.* The new branding reflects the Program's promise to consumers, participants, and other stakeholders who are committed to the growth of an equitable, clean energy economy throughout Illinois. A centerpiece of the Illinois Shines brand refresh was the July 2023 re-launch of IllinoisShines.com.

**Illinois Shines**
*Building Our Solar Future*

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# IllinoisShines.com

- The new site combined, transformed, and expanded information previously available at the Program's two public web sites, **www.IllinoisABP.com** (vendor-facing) and **www.IllinoisShines.com** (customer-facing).

- The re-designed site is inclusive, organized, and resource-rich to better serve stakeholders and share Program information



- It provides dynamic educational materials for prospective and current solar customers, and in-depth Program information and resources for existing and potential Approved Vendors, Designees, and other interested stakeholders.

# How is IllinoisShines.com Organized?

| Information for Prospective and Existing Customers, and other Stakeholders | Details, Resources, and Updates for Prospective and Existing AVs and Designees |
|---|---|
| **Solar and Shines Basics** - Explains solar and Program basics and fundamentals, helping interested parties to understand the benefits of going solar, the incentives offered by Illinois Shines, and project types. | **Vendors & Designees Tab** – Explains what it means to be an Approved Vendor, Equity Eligible Contractor, or Designee, the Equity Accountability System to fulfill CEJA's equity provisions, and Prevailing Wage information. |
| **Exploring Solar** - Supports user journeys to understand Renewable Energy Credits, review the Program's project types, explore DG financing options, evaluate their circumstances, consider questions to ask vendors, and find AVs and Designees | **AV and Designee Resources tab** – Provides official Program documents, individual project category hubs, Consumer Protection tools for vendors, Portal updates and Program help guides, and vendor FAQs |
| **Consumer Resources** – Provides educational materials for consumers, and information on the Program's rigorous consumer protections, and help for stranded customers. | **Vendor Updates** – Organizes Program announcements, forums and key dates, Program webinars, and links to the Block Capacity Dashboard. |
| **Reports and Data** – Presents the Block Capacity Dashboard, Project Application Reports, the Project Map, and the DG Project Lookup Tool | **About** – Summarizes key information about the Program, and the Illinois Power Agency, information for Media, and all Stakeholder Feedback Requests |

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# 3. Program Announcements

# Illinois Shines Program Announcements

Program announcements provide critical information including Program news, updates, reminders, new resources, and special alerts that participating entities are expected to read. Sign up at:
www.illinoisshines.com/program-updates

- Weekly Program announcements
  - Outlining new and updated information, including category-specific news, requirements, calls for stakeholder input and more, as well as information on application processing, portal updates, and other important Program headlines
- Special Announcements
  - Special announcements are issued on an ad hoc basis to highlight critical Program alerts (block closures and soft closes, stakeholder feedback opportunities, portal maintenance alerts, and more.
- Segmented announcements
  - Delivered to specific stakeholder audiences including Working Groups, AV Roundtables, EEC Mentorship, or other category-specific communication as needed

To sign up for IPA announcements and newsletters, please visit ipa.Illinois.gov/recent-announcements/sign-up-for-our-announcements-and-newsletter.html

# Knowledge Check!

**Q3. The Program Guidebook, Consumer Protection Handbook, REC Contracts and other critical Program documents can all be found at which page?**

a. Program Documents

b. Portal Update and Program Help Guides

c. Become an AV or Designee

d. Equity Accountability System

Q4. Which Program website resource is designed to assist consumers whose AV and/or Designee is unable or unwilling to complete the solar project installation, and/or submit a project application to the Program?

a. Illinois Shines Incentives

b. Explore Distributed Generation

c. Help for Stranded Customers

d. Consumer Protection Working Group

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c.   Help for Stranded Customers

d.   Consumer Protection Working Group

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**Q5. Which section of the Program website provides tools to check block capacity, project application reports, project maps, and project status look up?**

a. Vendor Updates

b. Exploring Solar

c. Reports and Data

d. About

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**Q5. Which section of the Program website provides tools to check block capacity, project application reports, project maps, and project status look up?**

a. Vendor Updates

b. Exploring Solar

c. Reports and Data

d. About

**Q6. Which area of the Program website provides vendor updates specific to each Illinois Shines project category?**

a. Program Documents

b. Project Category Hub

c. Become an AV or Designee

d. Reports and Data

**Q6. Which area of the Program website provides vendor updates specific to each Illinois Shines project category?**

a.  Program Documents

b.  Project Category Hub

c.  Become an AV or Designee

d.  Reports and Data

# Thank you!

Comments or questions?

Email: Admin@IllionisShines.com

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