

Community-Driven Community Solar Application Deadline – September 3, Consumer Protection Working Group – September 6, TCS Random Selection Event – September 10

August 30, 2024

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

- **Events**
 - September 6, 2024 at 10:00 p.m. CPT - Consumer Protection Working Group. Join with this [link](#)
 - September 10, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. CPT - TCS Random Selection event. Register with this [link](#)
- **Due Dates**
 - September 1, 2024 - September REC Invoicing opens
 - September 3, 2024 - CDCS Application Submission Deadline for Program Year 2024-25
 - September 6, 2024 - [Stakeholder Feedback for Net Metering Changes to Disclosure Forms](#) deadline

Stakeholder Support

- **Program Administrator Office Hours** - September 4, 2024 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CPT - Individual AV or Designee support for Program requirements, Portal, application, or other questions. Zoom link: <https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/95588710302Co>.
- **Illinois Shines Holiday Hours** - In observance of Labor Day, the Program will have limited services and updates on September 2, 2024. The Program Call Center will be closed, and updates to the Block Capacity Dashboard, application tables, application project reports, and waitlists will resume Tuesday, September 3, 2024.
- **Application Tips and Tricks** - The Program Administrator publishes [Tips and Tricks](#) to help support stakeholders in avoiding project applications entering *Need Info* status and delaying their review and approval.
 - **Need Info emails** are typically sent twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays. Due to the Labor Day holiday next week and staff availability, *Need Info* emails will go out only once next week on Tuesday, September 3, 2024.

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

- **Community Solar Program News** - See [TCS](#) and [CDCS](#) hubs on Program website for all CS updates.
 - **Community-Driven Community Solar Application Deadline is September 3** - As outlined in Section 5 of the Program Guidebook, the Community-Driven Community Solar (“CDCS”) application window closes 90 days after the start of the Program Year. With the Program Year commencing on June 3, 2024, the application submission deadline for Program Year 2024-25 CDCS projects is **September 3, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. CPT. Applications are not accepted after the close of the application window.** Additional information about the review and scoring and CDCS project applications will be published following the close of the application window.
- **September 2024 Consumer Protection Working Group** - The Agency and its Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All Program Administrators will host the next Consumer Protection Working Group meeting on September 6, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. CPT. The Working Group’s meeting agendas, Zoom links, and a participation interest form can be found on the [Consumer Protection Working Group](#) page on the Program website.
- **Illinois Shines API Test Environment: New Quarterly Test Data Refresh Process** – The Program has alerted current test users of the Portal’s API that on that on October 1, 2024 the Program Administrator will purge all test data from the API Test Environment, and refresh the database with the latest copy from Production. Program participants planning to submit a Production Access Review in the September timeframe, must either

submit prior to **September 13, 2024**, or perform your final test run after October 2, 2024. Please see the [full announcement](#) for more details or contact the Program Administrator with questions.

- **New to the Program Website** – The following key additions to <http://www.IllinoisShines.com> have been shared:
 - Program Year 2023-24 Mentorship Pilot resources added ([Mentorship Program](#) page)
 - AV, Designee, and Subcontractor rosters restored ([Find an AV, Designee, or Subcontractor](#) page)

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

- **August 2024 - Stakeholder Feedback Request: Updating DG Disclosure Forms for Supply-Only Net Metering** - On [August 21, 2024](#), the IPA released a request for stakeholder feedback on a proposal by the Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All (“ILSFA”) programs to update Distributed Generation Disclosure Forms to reflect the change for residential and small commercial customers from “full retail rate” net metering to “supply only” net metering in the ComEd, Ameren, and MidAmerican service territories. This change will be in effect for new net metering customers starting in 2025, and the proposed updates would change the approach for calculating the value of electricity from solar projects. This [linked document](#) describes separate proposals for Illinois Shines and ILSFA and breaks down each proposal into three sections: changes to the user inputs into the Portal; changes to the Portal calculations related to the value of electricity, and utility rebate payments; and changes to the Disclosure Form PDF presented to the customer. Please see the full announcement for additional information. Comments should be provided **via email attachment to IPA.Solar@illinois.gov with the subject “[Responder’s Name] – Stakeholder Feedback on DF Updates” by [September 6, 2024](#)**.
- **IPA Released Part I of its Equity Accountability System Assessment** - On [August 6, 2024](#), the IPA released [Part I of its Equity Accountability System \(“EAS”\) Assessment](#). The EAS Assessment is an IPA-authored report assessing the effectiveness of statutory EAS provisions in promoting equity across the clean energy economy in Illinois. In the announcement, the Agency provided components of the EAS and next steps. Additional information on IPA initiatives to promote equity across the clean energy economy can be found on the [Equity Accountability System](#) page at the Illinois Shines website and at the IPA’s [Energy Workforce Equity Portal](#).
- **Community Solar Program News** - See [TCS](#) and [CDCS](#) hubs on Program website for all CS updates.
 - **Traditional Community Solar Scoring Update** - Preliminary scores for all Traditional Community Solar (“TCS”) projects submitted during the “first day” application window on June 3, 2024 were shared individually with each AV on July 19, 2024 and following a subsequent Scoring Cure Period, Scores Publication, and Appeals period which concluded on August 23, 2024, project scores have been finalized and will be used to determine the waitlist order following a random selection event and the application of a 20% developer cap . Please see [the full announcement from August 9, 2024](#) for more detail including the completed phases of the scoring schedule.

Random Selection event is used to ordinaly rank projects with tied scores. With the application, scoring, and appeals stages complete, the Agency will hold a random selection event on **[September 10, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. CPT](#)**. During this process, the 20% developer cap will be applied, and the project waitlist position will be determined. TCS Random Selection Event webinar registration link: https://energy-solution.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wUfQciTZQ_K9nTbTXOaxgQ#/registration Following the Random Selection event, final scores and project selection published.

- **Community-Driven Community Solar – Local Subscriber Verification** - See [previous](#) announcement
- **General Program**
 - **IPA Issues Illinois Shines Program Year 2023-24 End of Year Report** - See [previous](#) announcement
- **Minimum Equity Standard (“MES”) Reminders**
 - **2024-25 Program Year MES Compliance Plans and 2023-24 MES Year-End Reports** - The 2024-25 Program Year MES Compliance Plans were due June 3, 2024, and 2023-24 Program Year MES Year-End Reports were due July 15, 2024. The Program Administrator is currently reviewing submitted Compliance Plans and Year-End Reports.

Ongoing Operations Updates

- **Re-Batching for ICC Meetings** – Due to an increase in late requests to withhold projects from submission to the ICC, the Program Administrator would like to remind AVs of the important information below.

In advance of each submission of batches to the ICC for approval, AVs are provided the opportunity to withhold or re-batch projects. AVs must indicate any requests to withdraw or withhold projects during the two day re-batching window. 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 the next re-batching windows:

Re-Batching Opens for AVs	Election Deadline – 12:00 p.m. CPT (Re-batching closes for AVs)	Trade Date (ICC Meeting Date)
9/10/2024	9/12/2024	9/26/2024
9/24/2024	9/26/2024	10/10/2024
9/30/2024	10/2/2024	10/17/2024
10/15/2024	10/17/2024	10/31/2024
10/21/2024	10/23/2024	11/7/2024
11/1/2024	11/6/2024	11/21/2024
11/15/2024	11/19/2024	12/5/2024
12/3/2024	12/5/2024	12/19/2024

- **September REC Invoicing Opens September 1, 2024** - REC invoices and Quarterly Netting Statements will be made available for download from AV SharePoint folders on September 1, 2024. Invoices must be submitted to the utility by September 10, 2024 to receive payment for the July invoice period. Any invoice amounts not submitted to the utility by September 10, 2024 will be carried forward and included in the next invoice period (December 2024).
- **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 25, 2024**. Applications that are Part II verified on or before September 25, 2024 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 26, 2024 and September 31, 2024 will be invoiced in November 2024.

Application Processing Updates

- **Application Processing Update** - The Program Administrator has completed the review of all Small DG waitlisted applications and is currently reviewing applications from the 2024-25 Program Year across all project categories. The Program Administrator expects to be within a two-week turnaround time for review of applications submitted in the 2024-25 Program Year at the end of September for all application categories.

This forecast is subject to change, and updates will be provided in each weekly announcement until processing times are back within a normal range.

Ongoing Program Portal Updates

- The latest Portal updates and enhancements, a Portal Development Roadmap, and portal help guides can be found at <https://illinoisshines.com/portal-updates/>.
- **Portal Maintenance and 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 typically unavailable to users; the Program hopes these windows are 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. Details on previous proposals and feedback requests can 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
Updating DG Disclosure Forms for Supply-Only Net Metering	August 21, 2024	September 6, 2024	

- **IPA Request for AVs and Installer Designees Interested To Serve Stranded Illinois Shines DG Customers** - As previously [announced](#), the Program seeks entities interested in serving stranded customers, and [updates the lists](#) of participating vendors on a rolling basis. The original announcements include details regarding the opportunity to support stranded customers, eligibility requirements, and anticipated responsibilities.
- **Free Renewable Energy Contractor Clinic** - The Illinois Shines program and HIRE360 will host a Renewable Energy Contractor Clinic on Tuesday, October 22, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. CPT. This free event will include presentations on how to register as an Equity Eligible Contractor (“EEC”), participate in the Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All programs, how to access free business advising and small business resources from the Cook County Small Business Source, and an overview of the grant opportunities by the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (“DCEO”) as well as information on working capital loans, certification support and other no cost resources for contractors that HIRE360 provides. Lunch will be provided, and the event includes a networking hour from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. CPT. The event will take place at 2540 South State Street, Chicago, Illinois 60616. [Register here:](#) <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=WhykgeRTDE2nqHQvI9dkUU00ZkZbI0FCv1XakYuDriFUNzc2RFE00U1UWTFfQjdDRjk5Q1dVVR1o3WS4u&origin=QRCode>
- **Notification of Email Phishing Attempts Posing as Illinois Shines Compliance** - On [August 19, 2024](#), the Program Administrator notified participants to a new email phishing attempt to AVs and Designees, urging vendors to review compliance to information by clicking a linked PDF document embedded in the email. The message represented that the sender was the Program and used a spoofed sender address of “kristenfernand@illinoisabp.com” **These emails have not been sent from the Program, are not legitimate notices, and recipients should neither respond to them nor click the link(s) in the message.**

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