

Changes to Net Metering Bill Credits – Update to Project Submission Deadline, Annual Report Cure Deadline, 2024 Illinois Shines AV and Designee Program Satisfaction Survey

October 11, 2024

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

- **Events**
 - October 21, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. CPT - Free Renewable Energy Contractor Clinic
 - November 15, 2024 from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. CPT - Illinois Power Agency Power Hour – *Upcoming Illinois Net Metering Changes*
- **Due Dates**
 - October 15, 2024 - Annual Report cure deadline
 - October 17, 2024 - Election Deadline: Project Re-Batch or Withhold (for October 31, 2024 ICC Meeting)
 - October 23, 2024 - Part II Verification date for October deadline
 - October 25, 2024 - Last day to submit response to the [2024 Illinois Shines Approved Vendor and Designee Program Satisfaction Survey](#)
 - October 25, 2024 by 5:00 p.m. CPT - CDCS Scoring Cure Period concludes

Stakeholder Support

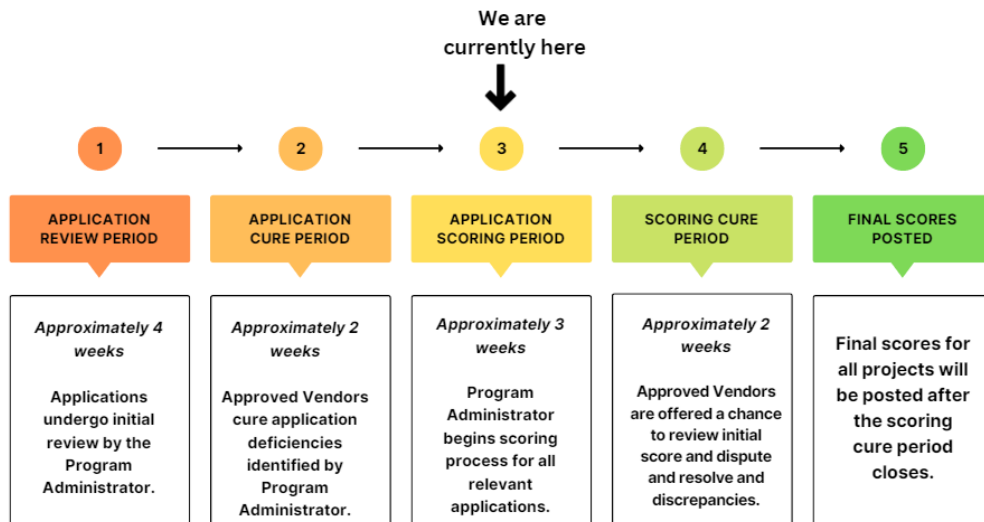
- **Program Administrator Office Hours** – October 16, 2024 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CPT - Individual AV or Designee support for Program requirements, Portal, application, or other questions. **Please note that there is a new Zoom link for Office Hours going forward:**
<https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/8678382503?omn=98063266350>.
- **Upcoming Illinois Shines Holiday Hours** - The Program will have limited services and updates on October 14, 2024, in observance of the Columbus Day holiday. The Program Call Center will be closed, and updates to the Block Capacity Dashboard, application tables, application project reports, and waitlists will resume October 15, 2024.
- **Application Tips and Tricks** - The Program Administrator publishes [Tips and Tricks](#) to help support stakeholders in avoiding project applications from resulting in a *Need Info* request and delaying their review and approval.
 - *Need Info* emails are typically sent out twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays. Due to the holiday on Monday, October 14, 2024 *Need Info* emails will not be sent on Monday next week, but will resume on Wednesday, October 16, 2024.
 - As a reminder, prompt responses to *Need Info* requests will accelerate the project verification process.

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

- **Illinois Power Agency Power Hour – Upcoming Illinois Net Metering Changes** - Please join the IPA for an educational Power Hour webinar, titled “Upcoming Illinois Net Metering Changes,” on Friday, November 15, from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CPT. Net metering, one of the key drivers of solar energy in Illinois, will be undergoing significant changes effective January 1, 2025. With this development coming down the pike, the IPA will be hosting an educational webinar to discuss net metering policy changes and potential impacts to ComEd, MidAmerican, and Ameren customers. The speakers for the webinar include IPA Chief Legal Counsel Kelly Turner and Environmental Law & Policy Center Senior Attorney Brad Klein. Register [here](#).
- **Changes to Illinois Net Metering Bill Credits - Update to Project Submission Deadline** – On [October 10, 2024](#), the Agency provided updated information on changes to the net metering bill credits. **The project submission deadline for ComEd and Ameren has changed from December 13 to December 31, 2024.** For MidAmerican

projects, the net metering application must be submitted before January 1, 2025. Please see the ‘Disclosure Form Updates: New Fields Launching in October’ item below for details on new fields that will be added to support the changes to net metering. The Agency has updated the [Frequently Asked Questions \(“FAQs”\) document](#) to provide information to AVs/Designees and consumers about the Net Metering Bill Credit changes, which can be found in the linked document and on the Program’s website:

- [FAQs Related to Changes in Net Metering in Illinois \(AVs and Designees\)](#) – July 26, 2024 on the [Net Metering Credits](#) page and AV-and Designee-Facing FAQs on the [Vendor FAQs](#) page
- Consumer-Facing FAQs on the [Consumer FAQs](#) page
- **Designee Renewals** - To prepare for Designee renewals, the Program Administrator will email a link to a secure folder to Designees in mid-October. This link will provide Designees access to the Illinois Shines folder where Designees will upload the required items for their Designee renewal.
- **Request for Stakeholder Feedback on Consumer Protection Initiatives** - The Agency thanks stakeholders for comments submitted on the feedback request on the escrow process, stranded customer REC adder, and restitution program. The comments have been posted to the [Consumer Protection Initiatives](#) page.
- **Community Solar Program News** - See [TCS](#) and [CDCS](#) hubs on Program website for all CS updates.
 - **Community-Driven Community Solar Update** - The application submission deadline for Program Year 2024-25 CDCS projects was September 3, 2024. Applications are not accepted after the close of the application window. **Applications are now in the application scoring period and AVs can expect preliminary scores to be shared today, October 11, 2024. The scores will be shared individually with each AV via email. Please see the proposed schedule below for application review and scoring:**
 - Application Scoring Period - Program Administrator begins scoring process for all relevant applications (those submitted without deficiencies and those that successfully cure deficiencies during the 2-week cure period). Preliminary Scores will be shared today, October 11, 2024.
 - Scoring Cure Period - AVs are offered a chance to review initial score and dispute and resolve any discrepancies. Please resolve all *Need Info* requests by **5:00 p.m. CPT on October 25, 2024.**
 - Scores Published: AVs wishing to appeal their project score will have two weeks from the receipt of scores to submit an appeal to the Program Administrator. Scores are expected to be published November 8, 2024.
 - Random selection event to ordinally rank projects with tied scores. The Agency expects that random selection of projects within tied score brackets will be necessary based on the current scoring, but this process cannot occur until the appeal process is complete and all scores are confirmed.



- **New to the Program Website** - The following key additions to <http://www.IllinoisShines.com> have been shared:
 - Updated dates, to December 31, 2024 from December 13, 2024, for the net metering deadline to have all required documentation to be received by utilities ([Consumer FAQs](#), [Vendor FAQs](#), [Consumer Protection Requirements & Resources](#), [Consumer Program Updates](#), and [Net Metering Credits](#) pages)
 - Comments received for September Request for Stakeholder Feedback Consumer Protection Initiatives ([Stakeholder Feedback](#) and [Consumer Protection Initiatives](#) pages)
 - [October 4, 2024 Consumer Protection Working Group meeting minutes](#) ([Consumer Protection Working Group](#) page)
 - Updated Large Distributed Generation Sector Strategist contact information ([Large Distributed Generation Hub](#) and [Program Help Guides and Application Tips](#) and pages)

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

- **IPA Announces Phase I of the Clean Energy Dashboard Website** - On October 2, 2024, the Agency [announced](#) the Phase I launch of the Illinois Clean Energy Dashboard at cleanenergy.illinois.gov. The Dashboard tracks renewable energy projects within and outside of the Illinois Renewable Portfolio Standard and serves as an educational tool for stakeholders and policymakers to quickly answer common questions about the growth of renewable energy in Illinois. The full [announcement](#) provides an overview of the Dashboard website, key features of Phase I, and next steps for updates and Phase II.
- **General Program News**
 - **Disclosure Form Updates: New Fields Launching in October** - On [October 3, 2024](#) the Program Administrator provided additional guidance on new fields launching on Disclosure Forms. In the announcement, the Program provided answers to questions submitted in the stakeholder feedback process, what to expect with the changes to the Disclosure Forms and the new fields that will be added, and what API users can expect with the upcoming changes. Please see the full announcement for details.
 - **Annual Report Cure Deadline – October 15, 2024** - The REC Contract requires all Annual Report data to be cured no later than [October 15, 2024](#) (October 14 is a holiday). This means that if AVs reported any discrepancies in REC delivery information, community solar reports, or collateral balances, resolutions must be in place by October 15, 2024. The Program Administrator will be unable to accept updated subscriber data or update any Annual Report data beyond this deadline. In the absence of responses by AVs, the Program Administrator’s data will be accepted as correct and used for subsequent Drawdown calculations. Drawdown calculations will be finalized and shared with the contracting utilities by November 15, 2024. Contracting utilities will notify AVs of any necessary Drawdowns.
 - **MES 2023-24 Year End Report Next Steps** - The Program has reviewed all submitted Minimum Equity Standard (“MES”) Year-End Reports. Participating entities are being notified of their MES rating through email. Notices of Potential Violation (“NoPV”) were sent out on September 10, 2024 to entities that failed to submit. The Agency encourages non-compliant entities to respond and get into compliance.
- **Equity Eligible Contractor (“EEC”) News** - See the [EEC hub](#) on Program website for all EEC updates.
 - **Updates to the EEC Application Process** - The Program has updated the Equity Eligible Contractor (“EEC”) application process to ensure safe and secure submission of any requested sensitive data or personal identifiable information (“PII”). More information on becoming an EEC is available on the [Become an Equity Eligible Contractor](#) page.

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)
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

- **Part II Verification Cut Off for October** - To allow time for invoice calculation and generation, the last valid Part II Verification date for October will be **October 23, 2024**. Applications that are Part II verified on or before October 23, 2024 will be included in the November invoicing period. Application processing will continue throughout the last week of the month and any applications that are reviewed between October 24, 2024 and October 31, 2024 will be invoiced in December 2024.

Application Processing Updates

- **Application Processing Update** - The Program Administrator is within the expected processing turnaround time of ten business days in all categories, with the exception of Small DG Part II. The Program Administrator expects to be within expectations in all categories by the end of October. 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 will 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 noted, 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
Stakeholder Feedback on Consumer Protection Initiatives - Escrow Process, Stranded Customer REC Adder, and Restitution Program	September 16, 2024	October 7, 2024	Comments received are published here .

- **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 **Monday, October 21, 2024** from 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. CPT. Please see the [previous announcement](#) for event details.
- **Find a Community Solar Project’ Report Updates** – Please see [previous announcement](#)
- **2024 Illinois Shines AV and Designee Program Satisfaction Survey Deadline Extended to October 25** - The Program Administrator emailed AVs and Designees the [2024 Illinois Shines AV and Designee Program Satisfaction Survey](#). The survey is not limited to one responded per AV or Designee, as the Program recognized that multiple people per company may be involved in the Program. The [survey](#) deadline has been extended, as the Program seeks the valuable feedback of AVs and Designees. Please complete the survey by **October 25, 2024**.
- **Illinois Power Agency Launches Dedicated Small and Emerging Business Hub** – On September 26, 2024, the IPA [announced](#) the launch of a dedicated [Small and Emerging Business Hub](#), The [announcement](#) provides details on the Hub including resources available to AVs and Designees, the concept for the Hub, and highlights key features of the Hub.

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