

## CDCS Scoring Cure Period Concludes, Last Day to Respond to Illinois Shines AV and Designee Program Satisfaction Survey, Upcoming Consumer Protection Working Group

October 25, 2024

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

- **Events**
  - November 1, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. CPT. – Consumer Protection Working Group - Join with this [link](#).
  - November 15, 2024 from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. CPT - Illinois Power Agency Power Hour – *Upcoming Illinois Net Metering Changes* - Register [here](#).
- **Due Dates**
  - October 25, 2024 by 5:00 p.m. CPT - CDCS Scoring Cure Period concludes **and** last day to submit response to the [2024 Illinois Shines Approved Vendor and Designee Program Satisfaction Survey](#)
  - November 1, 2024 - November REC invoicing opens
  - November 4, 2024 by 5:00 p.m. CPT - [Bright Neighborhoods Initiative Request for Proposals deadline](#)

### **Stakeholder Support**

- **Program Administrator Office Hours** - October 30, 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 November 5, 2024, in observance of the General Election Day holiday, and November 11, 2024, in observance of Veterans' Day. On these days, the Program Call Center will be closed, and updates to the Block Capacity Dashboard, application tables, application project reports, and waitlists will resume the next business day.
- **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.
  - In August, the Program Administrator began sending *Need Info* requests for systems with arrays facing outside of installation best practices - those with an azimuth greater than 270 or less than 90, or with a tilt greater than 80 degrees. This is an effort to understand what's driving the design choices for such systems.
  - If an AV receives a *Need Info* request for this information, no substantiating documentation is required, just a brief explanation for why the array azimuth and/or tilt is not within generally accepted best practices for Illinois.
  - AVs may preempt this *Need Info* request by proactively providing a brief explanation in the 'Overview Comment' section of the application.

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

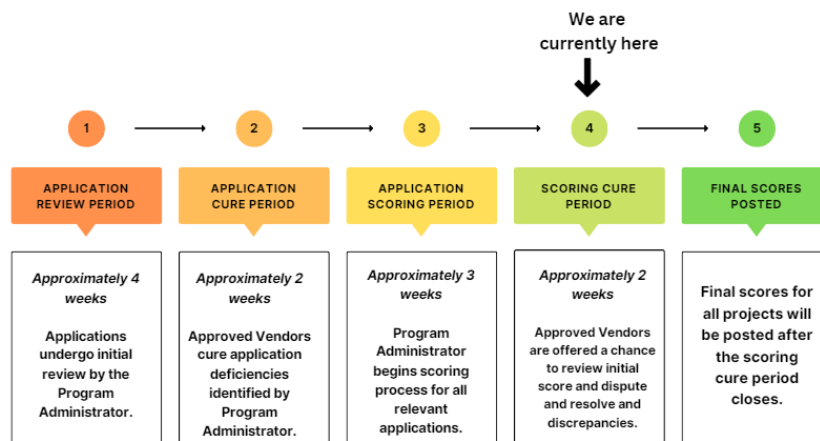
- **2024 Illinois Shines AV and Designee Program Satisfaction Survey Deadline is Today October 25** - The Program Administrator emailed AVs and Designees the [2024 Illinois Shines AV and Designee Program Satisfaction Survey](#). **The survey is not limited to one respondent per AV or Designee, as the Program recognizes that multiple people per company may be involved in the Program.** Please complete the [survey](#) by **today, October 25, 2024.**
- **November 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 **November 1,**

**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 Power Agency Office Relocation** – On [October 23, 2024](#), the Illinois Power Agency announced that it has relocated its office to the following address: 180 N Wabash Ave, Suite 500, Chicago, Illinois 60601. The Agency’s phone numbers and email addresses have not changed.

**Program News – Previously Published 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 Update** - Scores were shared individually with each AV via email on October 11, 2024. **Please see the proposed schedule below for application review and scoring:**
    - **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 **today, 5:00 p.m. CPT October 25**.
    - **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 ordinarily 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.



- **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 changed from December 13 to December 31, 2024. For MidAmerican projects, the net metering application must be submitted before January 1, 2025.** 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
- **Disclosure Form Updates: New Fields Now Launching October 29** - 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. **Please note that the new fields in the DG Disclosure Forms supporting net metering and batteries will now go live on October 29, 2024.** As explained in the [October 3, 2024](#) announcement, the information entered will not be used in actual Disclosure Form PDFs until 2025.

- **Annual Report** –The Program Administrator is preparing final report packages and will begin the REC Performance Evaluations and CS Parameters Evaluations to determine any Drawdown amounts. Please see the [REC Contract and Annual Report Help Guides](#) section of the website for more guidance on these processes and calculations.
- **Public School Program News** - See [Public School hub](#) on Program website for updates.
  - **180-Day Prioritization Window for Public Schools Subcategories Closes on November 30, 2024** - As stated in the [Program Guidebook](#) Section 1.E, Public Schools projects are allocated by Group, tier, location, and project size. If any of the allocations are not filled within the first 180 days of the Program Year, Public School projects will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis regardless of Tier, EJC location, or project size. The 180-day prioritization window closes on November 30, 2024.

**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)
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

- **November REC Invoicing Opens November 1, 2024** - REC invoices and Quarterly Netting Statements will be made available for download from AV SharePoint folders on **November 1, 2024**. Invoices must be submitted to the utility by **November 10, 2024** to receive payment for the November invoice period. Any invoice amounts not submitted to the utility by November 10, 2024 will be carried forward and included in the next invoice period (February 2024).
- **Part II Verification Cut Off for November** - To allow time for invoice calculation and generation, the last valid Part II Verification date for November will be **November 21, 2024**. Applications that are Part II verified on or before November 21, 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 November 22, 2024 and November 30, 2024 will be invoiced in January 2025.

**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** - There are no current proposals and feedback requests, but forthcoming proposals and feedback requests will be shared here. Details on previous proposals and feedback requests can be found [at the Program website](#).
- **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.
- **Illinois Power Agency Launches Dedicated Small and Emerging Business Hub** - Please see [previous announcement](#).
- **IPA Announces Phase I of the Clean Energy Dashboard Website** - Please see [previous announcement](#).
- **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.
- **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, 2024** 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, Environmental Law & Policy Center Senior Attorney Brad Klein, and Elevate Energy’s Chief Engineer Larry Kotewa. Register [here](#).
- **Illinois Solar for All is Re-issuing the Request for Proposals for Bright Neighborhoods AVs** - The Program Administrator of Illinois Solar for All (“ILSFA”) [is re-issuing](#) the Request for Proposals (“RFP”) for the Bright Neighborhoods initiative for the city of Waukegan and the Carbondale-Marion micropolitan area, including Jackson, Williamson, and Johnson counties. An AV has already been selected for the Chicago community area. Proposals are **due on November 4, 2024**.
- **Update to the Renewable Portfolio Standard Budget** - The Illinois Power Agency has released an [update to the Renewable Portfolio Standard \(RPS\) REC and Budget Forecast](#). It includes updated versions of the tables and figures related to the REC portfolio and the RPS budget, including future energy price curves, current and future REC delivery quantities, and RPS collections and expenditures. This update also includes a discussion of uncertainties in estimating future RPS expenditures, providing additional context for the RPS budget related to future activities authorized in the 2024 Long-Term Plan and those potentially authorized through future Long-Term Plans.

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