

Forthcoming REC Contract Amendment, REC Price Inputs Feedback Deadline Today, Public Schools 180-Day Prioritization Window Closure

November 22, 2024

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

- **Events**
 - December 4, 2024 – Equity Eligible Contractor Roundtable
 - December 6, 2024 – Consumer Protection Working Group – Join with this [link](#)
 - December 11, 2024 – Public Schools Roundtable

- **Due Dates**
 - November 22, 2024 – Stakeholder feedback on [REC Price Cost Inputs](#) deadline **and** deadline to submit CDCS scoring appeals
 - December 1, 2024 – December REC invoicing opens
 - December 2, 2024 – **(UPDATED DUE DATES)** 180-day prioritization window for Public Schools Subcategories closes **and** Designee Renewal deadline for all Designees and Nested Designees that registered in the Illinois Shines program before June 1, 2024
 - December 5, 2024 – Election Deadline – Project Re-batch or Withdrawal (for December 19, 2024 ICC Meeting)
 - December 6, 2024 – Registration for [Mentorship Program](#) closes **and** CDCS submitted appeals to be determined

Stakeholder Support

- **Upcoming Program Administrator Office Hours** - November 27, 2024 and December 4, 2024 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CPT - Individual AV or Designee support for Program requirements, Portal, application, or other questions. Join: <https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/8678382503?omn=98063266350>.
- **Upcoming Illinois Shines Holiday Hours** - The Program will have limited services and updates on November 28 – 29, 2024 in observance of Thanksgiving. 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. **There will be no weekly announcement.**
- **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.
 - **Additional Guidance on Certified Transcripts of Payroll (“CTPs”)**
 - Only CTPs that have been *issued* from the Illinois Department of Labor (“IDOL”) are acceptable.
 - Please do **not** submit the following for CTPs. Submitting unnecessary documents will delay processing time.
 - IDOL applications/submission forms
 - United States Department of Labor (“USDOL”) CTPs
 - There is no need to submit CTPs for weeks in which no work is performed. *If these are included in a bulk file along with CTPs for weeks in which work is performed, that is permissible.*
 - Please ensure the address on the CTP reflects the actual project location and is consistent with the address listed in the application.

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

- **Forthcoming REC Contract Amendment** – The Agency is drafting a retroactive amendment that will apply to each REC Contract. All AVs with active REC Contracts will be expected to sign an Amendment for each of their active REC Contracts. The REC Contract amendment allows for implementation of several consumer protection initiatives, as well as extensions to the Annual Report submittal deadlines, which are governed by the REC Contract. The draft REC Contract amendment language is expected to be posted for stakeholder feedback in early December 2024, with all stakeholder comments due two weeks after posting. The final version of the REC Contract amendment is expected to be published by mid-January 2025. The REC Contract amendments are expected to be circulated for signatures from AVs in mid to late February.
- **Reminder: Request for Stakeholder Feedback on REC Price Cost Inputs – Due Today, November 22** – On October 31, 2024, the Program released a [Request for Stakeholder Feedback](#) that seeks input on the approach the IPA plans to implement in 2025 to collect cost data on projects participating in the Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All programs. Written responses to this request for feedback are due **today, November 22, 2024**. Please provide comments via email attachment to IPA.Solar@illinois.gov with the subject “[Responder’s Name] – Feedback on REC Price Cost Collection.” The Agency held a workshop on November 14, 2024, to discuss the proposed approach and answer stakeholder questions, the [recording](#) of the workshop and [presentation slides](#) are available to review on the Agency’s [website](#).
- **Mentorship Program Registration Closing December 6** – Registration for AVs and Designees for the 2024-25 Mentorship Program will be closing on **December 6, 2024**. Please see the [November 1, 2024](#) announcement for details on the program. **The Mentorship Program has seen a good response for mentee registrations, and registration will continue to accept mentee applications for interested parties for future cohorts.** The Mentorship Program is also soliciting applications from experienced AVs and Designees willing serve as mentors and share insights on Program and solar industry-related topics with mentees. Registration forms can be found on the [Mentorship Program](#) page and **must be submitted by December 6, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. CPT for consideration**. Please contact the EEC Sector Strategist at eec@illinoisshines.com if you have questions about the Mentorship Program.
- **Subscriber Management Working Group – Call for Participation and Feedback** – The Agency and Program Administrator seek engagement from stakeholders regarding usage, functionality, and feedback on the development of a Subscriber Management dashboard to be incorporated into the Program Portal. AVs and Designees interested to participate in a Working Group guiding development on the possible new Subscriber Management dashboard, should email the Program Administrator at admin@illinoisshines.com. The Program intends to issue an availability poll for interested parties, and to commence the Working Group the week of December 9. The Program intends to issue an availability poll for interested parties, and to commence the working group the week of December 9.
- **December 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 **December 6, 2024**, at 10:00 a.m. CPT. The Working Group’s meeting agendas, Zoom links, and a participation interest form will be able to be found on the [Consumer Protection Working Group](#) page on the Program website.
- **DG Disclosure Form API Update for Upcoming Net Metering Changes** – On November 22, 2024, the Program provided API users with details on new Disclosure Form attributes that were introduced to the Program Portal in October, and which will be added to the API on January 7, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. CPT with the release of the updated Disclosure Forms. Please contact api-support@energy-solution.com for API questions.
- **Chicago Job Fair Opportunity** - 548 Foundation, a CEJA Job Training Program provider, is hosting a Chicago-area Solar Industry Day and Job Fair on December 12, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CPT, and is seeking employers to participate in the fair. The event supports job seekers who have successfully completed one or more of the following courses: NABCEP Associates, NCCER Core Construction & Solar PV Systems Installer, OSHA30, 300 hours of theory training, 100 hours of hands-on training and life skills training. Employer registration is \$100 and, in order to participate, interested companies will need to confirm that they are hiring within the next 30 days. For more information, please visit <https://www.548enterprise.com/foundation> or contact Jalani Roy at jroy@548foundation.org.

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

- **Annual Report Update** – The Program Administrator has finalized REC Performance Evaluations and CS Parameters Evaluations to determine any Drawdown Payment amounts. Draft Drawdown reports will be shared with AVs approximately the week of December 2, 2024. Additional details will be included in the Drawdown email that is shared.

Timeline for Drawdowns and Related Events

- Approximately the week of December 2 – Draft Drawdown Payment calculations made available to AVs on SharePoint for review.
- Approximately the week of January 6 – Contracting utilities provide formal notification of the amount of Drawdown Payments to AVs.
- 5 business days after notice date – Deadline for AV to communicate if they prefer to make a cash payment or allowing the letter of credit used for collateral to be drawn upon (if applicable).
- 15 business days after notice date – Utility will draw on collateral unless an alternative request was received from AV (see above) and/or payment was received by the 14th business day after notice date.
- 90 days after drawn upon collateral – AV required to top up collateral, if required.

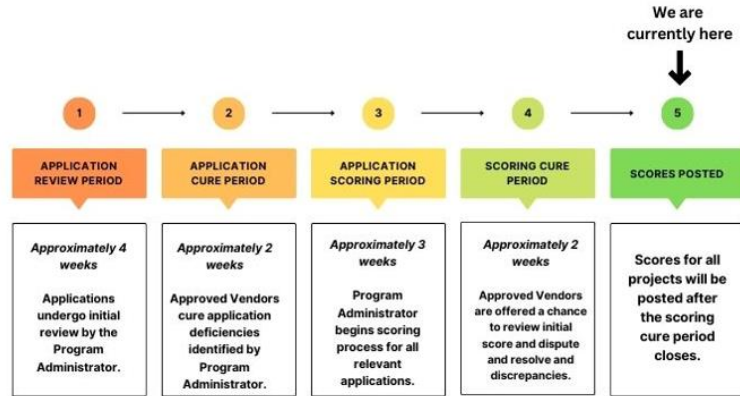
Please see 6(d)(v)(1) on page 9 and Section 4.3 on page 26 of the [2019 REC Contract](#) for full detail on this process. For more guidance on these processes and calculations see the [REC Contract and Annual Report Help Guides](#) section of the website.

- **Community Solar Program News** – See [TCS](#) and [CDCS](#) hubs on Program website for all CS updates.
 - **Community-Driven Community Solar – CDCS Scores Posted** – The Program Administrator released scores on [Friday, November 8, 2024](#). These scores will be used to determine which projects will be selected for a REC Contract once the random selection takes place on December 11, 2024. Please see information on the Random Selection event below. The scores and full announcement regarding the scoring process were posted on the Program website on the [CDCS Program Category Hub](#).

Submitted appeals must be received by the Program Administrator at admin@illinoisshines.com by **11:59 p.m. CPT today, November 22, 2024**. As the determination of appeals may influence a project's final score, and thus possibly the final selection of projects, all appeals must be reviewed by the Agency within a distinct timeframe. The Agency intends to have all submitted appeals determined by **December 6, 2024**, subject to the quantity and substance of appeals submitted.

Please see the schedule below for application review and scoring:

- 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. Appeals are **due today, November 22, 2024 by 11:59 p.m. CPT**.
- Random Selection event to ordinarily rank projects with tied scores. If a Random Selection event is needed, the **Program will hold the event on December 11, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. CPT**. Register for the event here:
https://energy-solution.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yLyHUCbOTPa_c7gqCKVtXA



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)
12/3/2024	12/5/2024	12/19/2024
12/19/2024	12/23/2024	1/8/2025
12/30/2024	1/2/2025	1/16/2025
1/6/2025	1/8/2025	1/23/2025
1/21/2025	1/23/2025	2/6/2025
1/31/2025	2/4/2025	2/20/2025

- **December REC Invoicing Opens December 1, 2024** - REC invoices and Quarterly Netting Statements will be made available for download from AV SharePoint folders on **December 1, 2024**. Invoices must be submitted to the utility by **December 10, 2024** to receive payment for the November invoice period. Any invoice amounts not submitted to the utility by December 10, 2024 will be carried forward and included in the next invoice period (March 2024).
- **Part II Verification Cut Off for December** - To allow time for invoice calculation and generation, the last valid Part II Verification date for December will be **December 19, 2024**. Applications that are Part II verified on or before December 19, 2024 will be included in the December invoicing period. Application processing will

continue throughout the last week of the month and any applications that are reviewed between December 20, 2024 and December 31, 2024 will be invoiced in February 2025.

Application Processing Updates

- **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

- The latest Portal updates and enhancements, a Portal Development Roadmap (updated November 6, 2024), 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 REC Price Cost Inputs	October 31, 2024	Today, November 22, 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.
- **Designee Renewal Updated Due Date – December 2, 2024** – Designees and Nested Designees of the Program are required to renew their status annually, per Section 2.G of the Program Guidebook. **In the 2024-25 Program Year, Designee renewals are due on Monday, December 2, 2024 for all Designees and Nested Designees that registered in the program before June 1, 2024.** See previous [announcement](#) for more details.
- **180-Day Prioritization Window for Public Schools Subcategories Updated Closure Date – December 2, 2024** – As stated in the [Program Guidebook](#) Section 1.E, Public Schools capacity is allocated by Group, tier, location, and project size subcategories. 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 will close on Monday, December 2, 2024.**
- **Minimum Equity Standard (MES) Mid-Year Reports Due – December 31, 2024** – As announced on [November 12, 2024](#), Mid-Year Reports to show progress toward meeting the MES for Program Year 2024-25 are due **December 31, 2024**. Participating AVs and Designees should submit their Mid-Year Report by completing the form found [here](#). If your organization faces challenges in fulfilling these obligations, the Program Administrator is available to provide additional resources and guidance to help you reach compliance.
- **Changes to Illinois Net Metering Bill Credits – Update to Project Submission Deadline** – On [October 10, 2024](#), the Agency noted the updated project submission deadline for **ComEd and Ameren (from December 13 to December 31, 2024. For MidAmerican deadline remaining January 1, 2025)** and updated the [Frequently Asked Questions \(“FAQs”\) document](#) about Net Metering Bill Credit changes.
- **Change in Ameren PTO Letters** – Please see previous [announcement](#).

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