

Request for Stakeholder Feedback on REC Contract Modifications, Group B EEC CS Block Soft Close Concluded, Mentorship Program Registration Closes Today

December 6, 2024

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

- **Events**
 - December 11, 2024 – Public Schools Roundtable and CDCS Random Selection event. Register [here](#) for the CDCS Random Selection event.
- **Due Dates**
 - December 6, 2024 – Registration for [Mentorship Program](#) closes.
 - December 10, 2024 – December REC Invoicing deadline.
 - December 19, 2024 – Part II verification cut off for December.
 - December 31, 2024 – Deadline to submit MES Mid-Year reports.

Stakeholder Support

- **Upcoming Program Administrator Office Hours** - December 11, 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>.
- **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.
 - **Large DG applications (including EEC and Public Schools)** must include a fully executed interconnection agreement that is signed by both the **customer** and a representative of the **interconnecting utility**.
 - The project address must be within the territory of the interconnecting utility indicated on the interconnection agreement. This information can be confirmed by checking the utility maps provided by the utility companies on their websites.
 - For projects that require one, the interconnection agreement must be executed prior to the date the Part I application is submitted.
 - Details such as customer name, project address, and system size must match between the interconnection agreement and the project application (though the size listed on the interconnection agreement may be smaller than that listed on the application).
 - An application for interconnection is not an executed interconnection *agreement* and does not meet this requirement.

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

- **Request for Stakeholder Feedback on REC Contract Modifications** – On December 6, 2024, the Agency released a [Request for Stakeholder Feedback](#) that seeks input on the modifications proposed to the REC Contracts used for the Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All programs. Written responses to this request for feedback are due December 20, 2024. **Please see the full [Request for Stakeholder Feedback](#) for details.**
- **Group B Equity Eligible Contractor Community Solar Block Now Closed** - The Group B Equity Eligible Contractor (“EEC”) Community Solar soft close period concluded on [December 2, 2024](#), and applications batched and any projects submitted to the Program to the category after December 2, 2024 will be placed on a waitlist. New capacity for this category will be released next Program Year, which commences on June 2, 2025.
- **Annual Report Update** - Draft REC Performance Evaluation (Drawdown) reports are now available for AVs to review on SharePoint. There is one workbook per impacted contract ID available in 2024 Annual Report folders. AVs who do not have any projects eligible for the REC Performance Evaluation will not have any workbooks.

The contracting utility is responsible for providing formal notification of any Drawdown amounts to AVs. Once this formal notification is made, the AV is required to act within a short window of time. To allow AVs more time to become familiar with the calculations and receive support from the Program Administrator before the formal notification on Drawdowns is sent, the Program Administrator is providing **draft** calculations for your review. Calculations are not final until they have been delivered by the Contracting Utility. There are no changes anticipated between the draft and final calculations.

Timeline for Drawdowns and Related Events

- December 4, 2024 – Draft Drawdown Payment calculations were 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.
 - **Upcoming Program Year 2024-25 Community-Driven Community Solar Random Selection Event** – As previously announced, the Agency will hold a Random Selection event for projects with tied scores on **December 11, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. CPT**. Registration link: https://energy-solution.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yLyHUCbOTPa_c7gqCKVTXA
 - **Request for Feedback on Subscriber Management within the Illinois Shines Portal** - The Program Administrator is developing functionality for AVs and Designees to manage subscribers in the Illinois Shines Portal via CSV upload. 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 Administrator is now expected to hold feedback sessions in early January and Community Solar AVs and Designees can expect an email soon with further information.
- **Changes to the Illinois Shines AV Application** - On [November 25, 2024](#), the Program announced upcoming changes to the Illinois Shines AV application. The announcement provided details on additional requirements for Doing Business As (“DBA”) entities, updated guidance regarding required company ownership information, and the additional question for Program Administrator awareness and tracking purposes.
- **Mentorship Program Registration Closing Today, December 6** - Registration for AVs and Designees to register for the 2024-25 Mentorship Program closes **today, December 6, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. CPT**. Registration forms and detailed information on the Mentorship Program can be found on the [Mentorship Program](#) page. The Program Administrator will inform applicants of their mentee or mentor status by email on December 20, 2024 by 5:00 p.m. CPT. Please contact the EEC Sector Strategist at eec@illinoisshines.com if you have questions about the Mentorship Program.
- **Notification of Email Phishing Attempts Posing as Illinois Shines Bid/Proposal** – On [December 2, 2024](#), the Program Administrator alerted AVs and Designees of email phishing attempts posing as Illinois Shines bid/proposal. Please note that valid emails from the Program will be from an email that ends in “@illinois.gov” or “@energy-solution.com”. See announcement for more information.
- **December 2024 Consumer Protection Working Group** - The Agency and its Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All Program Administrators hosted the December Consumer Protection Working Group meeting today. The notes from the Working Group will be published on the [Program website](#), where agendas for meetings are also

shared. **There will not be a Consumer Protection Working Group meeting in January 2025.** The next Working Group meeting will be held on Friday, February 7, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. CPT. If you are interested in participating in the group and future meetings, please submit the form on the [website](#).

- **180-Day Prioritization Window for Public Schools Subcategories Updated Closure Date** - As [previously shared](#), the 180-Day Prioritization Window for Public Schools subcategories closed on December 2, 2024. Public School projects will now be accepted on a first come, first serve basis regardless of Tier, Environmental Justice Community (“EJC”) location, or project size.
- **Designee Renewals Past Due** - Designees renewals were due on December 2, 2024 for all Designees and Nested Designees that registered in the Program before June 1, 2024. If you have not submitted your renewal, please do so as soon as possible to be in compliance with the Program.
- **Request for Stakeholder Feedback on REC Price Cost Inputs** - On October 31, 2024, the Program released a [Request for Stakeholder Feedback](#) that sought 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. The Agency held a workshop on November 14, to discuss the proposed approach and answer stakeholder questions, and the [recording](#) of the workshop and [presentation slides](#) are available to review on the Agency’s [website](#). Written responses to this request for feedback were due November 22, and the Agency thanks stakeholders for comments submitted on the feedback request on the REC Price Cost Inputs. The comments will be posted to the [Stakeholder Feedback](#) page. A REC Price Survey is expected to be released in early January 2025.
- **New to the Program Website** - The following key additions to <http://www.IllinoisShines.com> have been shared:
 - Added the [December 6, 2024 Consumer Protection Working Group Agenda \(Consumer Protection Working Group page\)](#)
 - Added Proposed REC Contract Amendments ([Program Documents](#) and [Stakeholder Feedback](#) pages)

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)
12/19/2024	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 Opened December 1, 2024** - REC invoices and Quarterly Netting Statements were 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 Contract Modifications	December 6, 2024	December 20, 2024	
Stakeholder Feedback on REC Price Cost Inputs	October 31, 2024	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.
- **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.
- **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.

- **Reminder: 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. The Program would like to remind users to make the necessary changes for these updates. Please contact api-support@energy-solution.com for API questions.

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