

Extended Deadline for Stakeholder Feedback on REC Contract Modifications, CDCS Random Selection Event Results, Changes to Illinois Net Metering Bill Credits

December 13, 2024

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

- **Events**
 - No events are scheduled for the coming week
- **Due Dates**
 - December 19, 2024 – Part II verification cut off for December and Re-Batching Opens for AVs
 - December 23, 2024 – Election Deadline: Project Re-Batch or Withhold (for January 8, 2025 ICC meeting)
 - December 31, 2024 – Deadline to submit MES Mid-Year reports
 - January 6, 2025 – Last day for DG Disclosure Form API users to make necessary changes before new DG Disclosure Forms are in effect
 - January 10, 2025 – **(Updated Deadline)** Last day to submit [Stakeholder Feedback on REC Contract Modifications](#)

Stakeholder Support

- **Upcoming Program Administrator Office Hours** - December 18, 2024 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CPT. **Please note that the Program will not hold Office Hours on December 25, 2024 or January 1, 2025 due to the holidays.** 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 Wednesday, December 25, 2024, in observance of Christmas, and Wednesday, January 1, 2025, in observance of New Year's 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. The Program will not issue weekly announcements those weeks.
- **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.
 - **Battery schematics** are required for any system that includes battery storage. The Program Portal now has validations requiring an upload when the project application indicates that battery storage exists. This validation is designed to reduce the number of applications to requiring *Need Info* requests, which delay application reviews and project approvals.

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

- **Updated DG Disclosure Forms** - The updated DG Disclosure Forms will go live the evening of **Tuesday, January 7, 2025**. Disclosure Forms are an important consumer education tool. Customers can use Disclosure Forms to understand key project information and to compare offers.

Many of the new fields already appear in the Portal and must be completed in order to generate a Disclosure Form, but the information does not currently appear on the PDFs. Once the updated Disclosure Forms go live, the information from these new fields will also appear on the PDFs that are generated for and provided to customers. The updates relate to information on batteries, utility rebates, calculations for the value of electricity, and net metering in Mt. Carmel, municipal utilities, and rural electric co-operatives. **CSV users will**

be required to utilize a new CSV template and API users should plan updates to their API by January 7, 2025. Please contact api-support@energy-solution.com for API questions.

- **Request for Stakeholder Feedback on REC Contract Modifications – Extended Deadline** - 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 now due January 10, 2025.** Please see the full [Request for Stakeholder Feedback](#) for details.
- **Community Solar Program News** – See [TCS](#) and [CDCS](#) hubs on Program website for all CS updates.
 - **Program Year 2024-25 Community-Driven Community Solar Random Selection Event Results** - On December 11, 2024, the Program conducted the Program Year 2024-25 Community-Driven Community Solar (“CDCS”) Random Selection event. The results of Group A and Group B project awards and waitlists, as well as the [recording](#), [presentation slides](#), and the [Q&A](#), can be found on the Program’s [CDCS](#) page.
- **Streamlined Part I and Part II Verification Email Process** - To enhance communication efficiency, the Program Administrator is updating the process for Part I and Part II verification notifications.
 - What’s Changing?
 - Currently, AVs receive individual Part I/II verification emails for each project ID, which results in a high volume of emails. As of January 30, 2025, AVs will receive one consolidated email with the subject line, “Illinois Shines Application - Part I/II Verified Project(s).”
 - Part I emails will include a table listing all Part I verified projects that will be included in the next submission to the ICC for REC Contract approval. The table will contain project ID, project name, and Part I Verification date for each project.
 - Part II emails will include a table listing all Part II verified projects including the project ID, project name, and Part II Verification date for each project.
 - Benefits of this Change:
 - Reduces the total email volume, simplifying inbox management.
 - Lowers the risk of missing critical re-batching emails.
 - Provides a single, organized overview of verified projects by prospective trade date.
 - This change is designed to improve communication and ensure important updates are easier to track.
- **Mentorship Program Next Steps** - Registration for the 2024-25 Mentorship Program closed December 6, 2024. 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.
- **IPA Survey – Solar Development Firms Working In Illinois** - The Illinois Power Agency (“IPA”) is conducting a [survey](#) of solar development firms working in Illinois to assess the status and outlook of the residential marketing generally, and the income-eligible market specifically. The survey seeks to better understand what’s working well, where challenges exist, and ascertain both awareness and perceptions of the Illinois Solar for All (“ILSFA”) program. The IPA values the contribution to the finding of this research and asks firms who identify as an Illinois solar developers to please fill out the [survey](#). All answers will be anonymous and will only be used in aggregate. Responses will be utilized to help administrators shape the solar programs available in Illinois. The survey should take 10 to 12 minutes to complete. Survey link: https://elevateenergy.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1MGrEai4IVlOyqO
- **New to the Program Website** - The following key additions to <http://www.IllinoisShines.com> have been shared:
 - Added language regarding phishing attempts ([Contact Us](#) page)
 - Added the [Corrective Action Plan](#) submission form ([Equity Accountability System](#) page)
 - Added the Program Year 2024-25 CDCS Random Selection event [recording](#), [presentation slides](#), [Q&A](#), ([Program Year Webinars](#) page) and Group A and Group B results ([CDCS Hub](#) page)

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

- **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 and will do so the week of January 6, 2025.

Timeline for Drawdowns and Related Events

- 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 the 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

- **Request for Stakeholder Feedback on REC Price Cost Inputs** – The IPA is reviewing stakeholder comments submitted in response to its October 31, 2024, [Request for Stakeholder Feedback on the Agency's planned approach](#) to implement in 2025 to collect cost data on projects participating in the Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All programs. The [recording](#) and [presentation slides](#) from a November 14 stakeholder workshop are available, and comments will be posted to the [Stakeholder Feedback](#) page. A REC Price Survey is expected to be released in early January 2025.

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. **Please note that the Program will not be submitting a memo to the January 16, 2025 ICC meeting.** 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

- 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, 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.**

Development Focus	Details	Planned or Actual Delivery
Enhancement		
Cannot submit Part II application when the question "Does your system have a battery backup?" answer is 'Yes' for Part I and 'No' for Part II	Previously, when a DG project was planned to have a battery backup in Part I, but the back-up component was removed in Part II, the "Detailed Battery Schematic" document was still required, but the option to upload the file was hidden on the documents tab, preventing the Part II application from submitting. This has been corrected and Part II applications with the "Does your system have a battery backup?" question answered 'No' when it was answered as 'Yes' in Part I can now be submitted without any additional document uploads.	December 11, 2024

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	January 10, 2025	
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.
- **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.
- **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 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.
- **180-Day Prioritization Window for Public Schools Subcategories Updated Closure Date** – 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.