

# Feedback Deadline on REC Contract Modifications, REC Price Survey Issued to AVs and Designees, AV and Designee Program Satisfaction Survey Summary

January 10, 2025

**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**
  - January 10, 2025 – **(Updated Deadline)** Last day to submit [Stakeholder Feedback on REC Contract Modifications](#) and January REC invoicing deadline
  - January 21, 2025 – Project re-batching opens
  - January 24, 2025 – Last day to complete the [2025 REC Pricing Model Cost Input Survey](#)

## **Stakeholder Support**

- **Upcoming Program Administrator Office Hours** – January 15, 2025 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CPT - Individual AV or Designee support for Program requirements, Portal, application, or other questions. <https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/8678382503?omn=98063266350>.
- **Upcoming Illinois Shines Holiday Hours** – The Program will have limited services and updates on **Monday, January 20, 2025**, in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. On this day, the Program Call Center will be closed, and updates to the Block Capacity Dashboard, application tables, application project reports, and waitlists will resume Tuesday, January 21, 2025
- **AV and Designee Email Addresses to Be Removed from Vendor Roster Reports** – Beginning January 22, the Program will remove vendor email addresses from the published rosters at the [Find an AV, Designee, or Subcontractor](#) page, in an effort to reduce recent phishing attempts. The reports will retain websites and phone numbers to ensure that AVs, Designees, and Subcontractors can still be reached as appropriate. Illinois Shines AVs and Designees should be wary of potential email phishing attempts that may appear to be emails from the Illinois Power Agency (“IPA”) or the Program Administrator. All official Illinois Shines emails should come from @illinoisshines.com or @energy-solution.com, and any emails from the IPA will end with @illinois.gov.
- **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* requests are being sent for projects with systems that have arrays outside installation best practices. It is noted in Section 4.J.5 of the [Program Guidebook](#), "Any arrays with an azimuth greater than 270 or less than 090, or with a tilt greater than 80 degrees may be subject to further review by the Program Administrator." The *Need Info* requests are being sent in an effort to understand drivers of the design choices for such systems.
    - AVs may proactively provide a brief explanation in the ‘Overview Comment’ section of the Part I application at the time of submission to avoid a *Need Info* request that will delay application review.
    - If an AV receives a *Need Info* request for this information, no substantiating documentation is required, and a brief explanation for why the array azimuth and/or tilt is not within generally accepted best practices for Illinois will suffice.

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

- **2025 REC Price Survey Released** – On January 10, 2025, the Program emailed the 2025 REC Pricing Model Cost Input survey to Illinois Shines AVs and Designees, which supports the Agency in collecting Illinois-specific project cost data for use in the improving the modeling used to set REC prices for the upcoming 2025-26

Program Year. Survey responses are due by **January 24, 2025**. For additional background, please see this recent [announcement](#).

- **2024 Illinois Shines AV and Designee Program Satisfaction Survey Summary** – The Program is pleased to share a summary of the survey results from the 2024 Illinois Shines AV and Designee Program Satisfaction Survey. The survey, issued in September 2024, aims to assess Program satisfaction levels, identify areas for improvement, and gather ideas for potential changes. The [2024 Illinois Shines AV and Designee Program Satisfaction Survey summary](#) is a high-level overview of the survey process and results; individual responses are not disclosed. The Program Administrator will reissue the survey annually to track satisfaction over time and gather feedback for improvements. The Program Administrator thanks stakeholders for participating in the survey.
- **Updated DG Disclosure Forms are Live** – Updated Illinois Shines Distributed Generation Disclosure Forms went live the evening of January 7, 2025 to accommodate changes in Illinois Net Metering. Please see the full [announcement](#) for details of the changes. Updates to Illinois Solar for All Disclosure Forms will be released via Illinois Solar for All's communication channels.
- **Changes to Illinois Net Metering Bill Credits are Currently in Effect** – As of January 1, 2025, full retail rate net metering is no longer be available for new distributed generation customers registering for net metering. Customers that register for net metering after January 1, 2025, will receive only energy supply credits for the excess energy generated by their system and sent back to the grid. Please see the updated [Frequently Asked Questions \(“FAQs”\) document](#) about Net Metering Bill Credit changes.
- **Minimum Equity Standard Mid-Year Reports Past Due** – Mid-Year Reports to show progress toward meeting the MES for the 2024-25 Program Year are now **PAST DUE**. If you have not already, participating AVs and Designees should submit their Mid-Year Report as soon as possible by completing the form found [here](#).
- **Annual Report Update** - The contracting utilities will have delivered final notices of collateral Drawdowns for the 2024 Annual Report by the end of today, January 10, 2025. For resources on the Annual Report, please see the previous [announcement](#).

#### Timeline for Drawdowns and Related Events

- 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.
- **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. In support of this development, **the Program will hold the first Working Group meeting on January 22, 2025 from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. CPT**. Additional information and Zoom links have been sent out to Working Group members. Participation is still welcomed and interested AVs and Designees should contact [admin@illinoisshines.com](mailto:admin@illinoisshines.com) for additional information.
- **DECO Small Business Capital and Infrastructure Grant Program** – The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (“DECO”) Office of Economic Equity & Empowerment has announced the OE3 [Small Business Capital and Infrastructure Grant Program](#). This program will provide funding to small businesses owned by Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Individuals or Very Small Businesses for capital improvement and infrastructure projects. Two webinars will be hosted on January 14, 2025, please register [here for English](#) and [here for Spanish](#). Applications must be submitted by Monday, April 7, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. CPT. Please visit this [webpage](#) for more information on the grant program.
- **New to the Program Website** - The following key additions to <http://www.IllinoisShines.com> have been shared:
  - Updated [utility rates](#) ([Program Documents](#) page)

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

- **REC Price Cost Inputs – Response Document and Comments Posted** – Following a [stakeholder feedback process](#) (including a public workshop and the consideration of submitted comments), the Agency has

published a [response document on its planned 2025 approach](#) to collect cost data on projects participating in the Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All programs. Comments and workshop materials can be accessed at the [Stakeholder Feedback](#) 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. **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)
<b>1/21/2025</b>	<b>1/23/2025</b>	2/6/2025
1/31/2025	2/4/2025	2/20/2025
2/18/2025	2/20/2025	3/6/2025
2/25/2025	2/27/2025	3/13/2025
3/11/2025	3/13/2025	3/27/2025
3/25/2025	3/27/2025	4/10/2025

- **January REC Invoicing Opened January 1, 2025** - REC invoices and Quarterly Netting Statements were made available for download from AV SharePoint folders on January 1, 2025. Invoices must be submitted to the utility by **today, January 10, 2025** to receive payment for the January invoice period. Any invoice amounts not submitted to the utility by January 10, 2025 will be carried forward and included in the next invoice period (April 2025).
- **Part II Verification Cut Off for January** - To allow time for invoice calculation and generation, the last valid Part II Verification date for January will be **January 27, 2025**. Applications that are Part II verified on or before January 27, 2025 will be included in the January invoicing period. Application processing will continue throughout the last week of the month and any applications that are reviewed between January 28, 2025 and January 31, 2025 will be invoiced in March 2025.

### Application Processing Updates

- **Application Processing Tables** - Application processing tables are maintained at [IllinoisShines.com/project-application-reports/](https://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](mailto: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		
DG Disclosure Forms revised to reflect new changes to Net Metering policies effective for 2025.	For more information see the Updated <a href="#">Distributed Generation Disclosure Forms</a> announcement.	January 7, 2025

### 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
<a href="#">Stakeholder Feedback on REC Contract Modifications</a>	December 6, 2024	<b>January 10, 2025</b>	
<a href="#">Stakeholder Feedback on REC Price Cost Inputs</a>	October 31, 2024	November 22, 2024	Response document and comments received are published <a href="#">here</a> .

- **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.
- **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 due today, January 10, 2025.** Please see the full [Request for Stakeholder Feedback](#) for details.
- **Request for Part II CS Applications on 20-Year Contracts** – The current Quarterly Period under the 20-year REC Contracts ends on February 28, 2025, and projects on the 20 Year REC Contracts must be Part II verified by this date in order to be included in the April 2025 invoice. Because of the additional steps to establish subscription rates and the projected high volume of requests at the end of a Quarterly Period, the Program Administrator requests that AVs submit Part II CS applications within [these timelines](#) to facilitate faster processing.
- **Minimum Equity Standard 2023-24 Year-End Report** - Entities that recently received a notice of a "fail" rating for their Minimum Equity Standard (“MES”) Year-End Report will also receive information on entering into a Corrective Action Plan. Any question related to developing and submitting an MES corrective action plan can be submitted to [MES@illinoisshines.com](mailto:MES@illinoisshines.com).
- **Changes to the Illinois Shines AV Application** – See previous [announcement](#).
- **Streamlined Part I and Part II Verification Email Process** - See previous [announcement](#).

**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.