# REC Price Survey Responses Due January 24, Part II Verification Cut Off, New Stakeholder Resources and Enhancements

### January 17, 2025

<u>Coming up in Illinois Shines</u> *(Program events & due dates found at the Key Dates & Deadlines webpage)*

- Events
  - January 22, 2025 – Subscriber Management Working Group meeting. To participate email the Program Administrator at admin@illinoisshines.com.

- Due Dates
  - January 21, 2025 – Project re-batching opens
  - January 23, 2025 – Election deadline – Project re-batch or withdrawal
  - January 24, 2025 – Last day to complete the 2025 REC Pricing Model Cost Input Survey
  - January 27, 2025 – Part II verification cut off for February

<u>Stakeholder Support</u>

- **Upcoming Program Administrator Office Hours** – January 22, 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
- **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.
  - The launch of the updated Disclosure Forms eliminates the need for new customers to sign an 'Unavailability of Net Metering Customer Acknowledgment' form in situations where it was previously required.
  - Please note that customers who signed an older version of the Disclosure Form (**generated prior to January 7, 2025**) must still complete an 'Unavailability of Net Metering Customer Acknowledgment' form.
  - Any current *Need Info* requests for a signed 'Unavailability of Net Metering Customer Acknowledgment' form remain valid.

<u>Program News – New or Updated Items</u> *(All Program updates can be found on the Program Updates webpage)*

- **Illinois Shines Program Announces New Stakeholder Resources, Data Reporting, and Website Enhancements** – On January 15, 2025, the Program announced the release of resources and materials to enhance the stakeholder experiences, including the new *Introduction to Illinois Shines: Solar Basics & More* guide, enhancements to the Program website, and launch of the *Illinois Shines Data Report*. The materials reflect the Program's ongoing commitment to educating and supporting customers and other stakeholders about opportunities and benefits of going solar with Illinois Shines, and the Program's progress in supporting the development of clean, equitable energy in Illinois.
- **Request for Stakeholder Feedback on REC Contract Modifications** – The Agency has posted the comments received from the stakeholder feedback request to the Stakeholder Feedback page and thanks stakeholders for submitting their input.

- **New to the Program Website** - The following key additions to http://www.IllinoisShines.com have been shared:
  - REC Contract Modifications Comments (Stakeholder Feedback page)
  - Updated *Other Funding Sources for Public Schools Outside Illinois Shines* (Public Schools Hub and Exploring Solar With Illinois Shines pages)
  - Collateral and Performance Assurance help guide (Program Help Guides and Application Tips page)
  - 15 Year REC Delivery Contract - Subscriber Verification Overview & Timeline help guide (Program Help Guides and Application Tips page)
  - Updated Portal Development Roadmap (Portal Updates page)
  - Illinois Shines Data Report (Illinois Shines Data Report page)
  - Introduction to Illinois Shines: Solar Basics & More guide (Exploring Solar With Illinois Shines page)
  - Addition of sitemap to site footer, and up arrow "back to top" tool throughout site
  - Addition of search tool for Program Updates (Program Updates page)

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

- **2025 REC Price Survey Released** – The last day to submit responses to the 2025 REC Pricing Model Cost Input survey is January 24, 2025. This survey 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. For additional background, please see this recent announcement.
- **Annual Report Update** – The contracting utilities delivered final notices of collateral Drawdowns the week of January 6, 2025. For resources on the Annual Report, please see the previous announcement.

  ### Timeline for Drawdowns and Related Events
  - 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.

## 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) |
|---|---|---|
| 1/21/2025 | 1/23/2025 | 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 |

- **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/. 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.

## 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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2025 REC Pricing Model Cost Input survey | January 10, 2025 | January 24, 2025 | |
| Subscriber Management Working Group | December 6, 2024 | January 22, 2025 | The Working Group will meet on January 22, 2025 |
| Stakeholder Feedback on REC Contract Modifications | December 6, 2024 | January 10, 2025 | Comments received are published here. |

- **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.
- **AV and Designee Email Addresses to Be Removed from Vendor Roster Reports** – Beginning January 22, 2025 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. Please see this announcement for details.

- **New DG Disclosure Forms Reflect Illinois Net Metering Changes** – As of January 1, 2025, full retail rate net metering is no longer be available for new distributed generation customers registering for net metering. The Program has updated the Distributed Generation Disclosure Forms to accommodate these changes Please see this announcement for details of the Disclosure Form changes. Updates to Illinois Solar for All Disclosure Forms will be released via Illinois Solar for All's communication channels. For more information on the net metering changes please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") document.

- **2024 Illinois Shines AV and Designee Program Satisfaction Survey Summary** – The Program released the 2024 Illinois Shines AV and Designee Program Satisfaction Survey summary, an annual survey to track satisfaction over time and gather feedback for improvements.

- **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 first Working Group meeting will be on January 22, 2025 from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. CPT. Participation is still welcomed and interested AVs and Designees should contact admin@illinoisshines.com for additional information.

- **DCEO Small Business Capital and Infrastructure Grant Program** – The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity ("DCEO") 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. 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.

- **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 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 developing and submitting a Corrective Action Plan. Any questions related to developing and submitting an MES corrective action plan can be submitted to MES@illinoisshines.com.

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