

August REC Invoicing Opens, Part II Verification Cutoff for August, Illinois Solar Workforce Study

August 1, 2025

Coming up in Illinois Shines

2025 Program events & due dates found at the [Key Dates & Deadlines webpage](#)

- **Events**
 - **August 20-21** – Southern Illinois Clean Energy Summit. See the [event page](#) for further information.
- **Due Dates**
 - **August 1** (TODAY) – Annual Report Response Period Ends for AVs that have signed REC Contract Amendment
 - **August 5** – Re-Batching Opens for AVs for August 21, 2025 ICC Meeting
 - **August 6** – [DCEO 2025 Reconciliation Bill Survey](#) Deadline
 - **August 7** – Election Deadline – Project Re-Batch or Withdrawal for August 21, 2025 ICC Meeting
 - **August 10** – August REC Invoicing Deadline
 - **August 18** – Re-Batching Opens for AVs for September 4, 2025 ICC Meeting
 - **August 20** – Election Deadline – Project Re-Batch or Withdrawal for September 4, 2025 ICC Meeting
 - **August 25** – Part II Verification Cut Off for August

Stakeholder Support

- **Program Administrator Office Hours** – August 13, 2025, from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CPT - Individual AV or Designee support for Program requirements, Portal, application, or other questions. Join link: <https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/91402926068>. Office hours are held on a bi-weekly basis.
- **Application Tips and Tricks** - The Program Administrator publishes [Tips and Tricks](#) to help support stakeholders avoid *Need Info* requests that can delay application review and approval.
 - **Need Info Requests** - On average, more than 1,000 Part I or Part II applications each month necessitate a *Need Info* request, resulting in delayed application review and approval. *Need Info* requests are emailed each Monday and Wednesday, and the best way to avoid additional delay is to respond to the request as quickly as possible, replying to the original *Need Info* email rather than creating a new message.
 - Search “Illinois Shines Need Info” for DG applications or “Need Info Request” for CS applications to quickly locate *Need Info* requests in an email inbox, or search for the Project Application ID and/or add the Project Application ID to the text search to locate a specific *Need Info* request.
 - Each email is unique to the application’s needs. Please avoid creating separate threads that include multiple *Need Info* request cures in one summary.
 - A [Distributed Generation Project Application Checklist](#) is available at the Program website to help Approved Vendors avoid *Need Info* requests and delayed application review.

Program News

All Program updates can be found on the [Program Updates webpage](#)

- **New! Part II Verification Cut Off for August** –The last Part II Verification date for August will be August 25, 2025. Applications that were Part II verified on or before August 25, 2025, will be included in the September invoicing period. Application processing will continue throughout the last week of the month and any applications that are reviewed between August 26, 2025, and August 31, 2025, will be invoiced in October 2025.
- **New! August REC Invoicing Opens August 1, 2025** - REC invoices and Quarterly Netting Statements will be made available for download from AV SharePoint folders on August 1, 2025. Invoices must be submitted to the utility by August 10, 2025, to receive payment for the August invoice period. Any invoice amounts not submitted to the utility by August 10, 2025, will be carried forward and included in the next invoice period (November 2025).
- **New! DCEO 2025 Reconciliation Bill Survey** – DCEO's Office of Energy and Business Utility is conducting a brief survey to understand how the recent Reconciliation Bill is impacting energy-related projects, programs, and investments across Illinois. This 11-question survey is designed to gather insights on the scope of those impacts and identify actionable steps the state can take to mitigate negative effects, support project continuity, and ensure equitable progress toward clean energy and economic development goals. This feedback is critical to shaping an informed state response. *Please submit responses by Wednesday, August 6, 2025, 11:59 PM.* Please complete the survey here: <https://forms.office.com/r/8mxaF2d6e6>
- **New! Illinois Solar Workforce Study Call for Study Participants** – The University of Illinois' [Climate Jobs Institute](#) informs Illinois' clean energy transition through research that foregrounds workers and their communities, and guiding state climate policy to reduce emissions and promote high-quality job creation. The [Illinois Solar Workforce Study](#) seeks to better characterize the solar workforce and understand job quality and work conditions in Illinois' rapidly expanding solar industry – including wages, benefits, job safety, training, and labor standards compliance. To support this research, the Institute is inviting solar workers, contractors, and employers to participate in one or both of:
 - A 15–20 minute online survey – participants will receive a \$15 gift card incentive
 - A 1-hour virtual or in-person interview – participants will receive a \$60 gift card incentiveDetails about the study and information about participating can be found [here](#). Participation is voluntary and confidential.
- **New! New to the Program Website** - The following key additions to www.IllinoisShines.com have been shared:
 - [Spanish Solar Restitution Program Claim Form](#) ([Solar Restitution Program](#) page)
 - [2025 Customer Satisfaction Survey Report](#) ([About the Program](#) page)
 - [Spanish Program Year 2024-25 End of Year Report](#) ([About the Program](#) page)
- **Traditional Community Solar Review and Scoring Schedule** - Preliminary scores for all Traditional Community Solar (TCS) projects submitted during the “first day” application window on June 2, 2025 were shared individually with each AV on Wednesday, July 23, 2025. AVs were sent an email directing them to the TCS scoring file located in their AV SharePoint folder, which commences the scoring cure period. Please see the initial, planned scoring schedule below.
 - **Application Review Period:** Applications undergo initial review by Program Administrator – Approximately 4 weeks (*Complete*)

- **Application Cure Period:** Approved Vendors cure deficiencies identified by Program Administrator – Approximately 2 weeks (*Complete*)
- **Application Scoring Period:** Program Administrator begins scoring process for all relevant applications (those submitted without deficiencies and those that successfully cure deficiencies during the 2-week cure period) – Approximately 3 weeks (*Complete*)
- **Scoring Cure Period:** AVs are offered a chance to review initial score and dispute and resolve any discrepancies – Approximately 2 weeks (currently July 23 – August 6)
- **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 (date TBD)
- **Random selection** event to ordinarily rank projects with tied scores (date TBD)
- **Final scores** and project selection published (date TBD)
- **August 2025 Consumer Protection Working Group** - The Agency and its Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All Program Administrators hosted the August Consumer Protection Working Group today. The agenda and today's meeting notes will be published on [the Program website](#), where agendas for meetings are also shared. The next Working Group meeting will be held on Friday, September 5, 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.
- **Annual Report Response Deadlines and Cure Period** – Please reference a summary of the Annual Report and Cure Period timeline below:
 - The Annual Report response window opened on July 1, 2025.
 - Response submission by Approved Vendors were due to the Program Administrator by 11:59 PM CPT on July 15, 2025, for AVs that have not signed a REC Contract Amendment. Responses are due by 11:59 PM CPT on August 1, 2025, for those who have signed a REC Contract Amendment. Approved Vendors with an active REC contract are required to submit an Annual Report and were sent a link to respond via email. Submission of an Annual Report is a Program requirement. Failure to submit an Annual Report is an Event of Default under the REC Contract.
 - **Note: Today is the submission deadline for AVs who have signed a REC Contract Amendment.**
 - The Annual Report Cure Period began on July 16, 2025, for AVs that have not signed the REC Contract Amendment, and will begin on August 4, 2025, for AVs that have signed the REC Contract Amendment. During the Cure Period, the Program Administrator will contact Approved Vendors to address any report discrepancies. Annual Reports that were not submitted during the preceding response period will not be accepted during this time.
 - The Annual Report Cure Period concludes on October 30, 2025. At this point the Program Administrator will calculate any potential Drawdowns for the annual REC performance evaluations. Please review your portfolio to ensure that any contract status is correct and request any changes in a timely manner so the Drawdown calculations can be completed accurately.

The Program Administrator created and posted training videos on the [Program website](#), in support of the close of the 2024–25 delivery year and the start of the Annual Reporting period, including:

- [Annual Report and REC Performance Evaluation Walkthrough video](#)
- [Community Solar Parameters Evaluation Walkthrough video](#)
 - Please refer to the [Community Solar System Parameters Evaluation \(Annual Subscriber Evaluation\) guide](#) as a supplemental resource.
- [REC Performance Calculation Evaluation Walkthrough video](#)
- [2024-25 Approved Vendor Annual Report Guide](#)

These on-demand resources enable AVs to familiarize themselves with the requirements and understand how Annual Report data is utilized to assess REC performance in relation to contractual obligations.

- **Updated Renewal Process for Approved Vendors with Common Ownership** – The Program is modifying the annual renewal process for AVs who share common ownership with one or more other AVs. Beginning in September, all AVs who share common ownership will be required to submit their annual renewals at one time, in a single Excel file. Questions on the renewal form are not changing. In early August, the Program will provide additional information to these AVs about the updated process.
- **IPA Issues Illinois Shines Program Year 2024-25 End of Year Report** - On July 24, 2025, the Program announced the release of the [Program Year 2024-25 End of Year Report](#). The Report highlights data on some of the most significant and high-impact activities produced by the Program and its participating stakeholders. The full report is available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#) versions at the Program website at <https://illinoisshines.com/about/>.
- **Addition of Township Data to Project Application Reports #2 and #3** – Traditional Community Solar (TCS) scoring criterion 2.c allows for awarding of points to projects sited in a county (or a township within Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, or Will County) that does not currently have a community solar project that was approved by the ICC for a REC contract under the Illinois Shines program at the time of application. To support stakeholders, *Project Application Report #2, ICC-approved Part I applications*, and *Project Application Report #3, Part II of Project Application Complete*, have been updated to include township data for Community Solar applications. See the [Project Application Reports](#) page to access the reports.

Reference and Reminders

- **Southern Illinois Clean Energy Summit** – In collaboration with Illinois Shines and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), Illinois Solar for All is hosting the Clean Energy Equity Summit at John A. Logan College in Carterville, IL, on August 20-21, 2025. This two-day event is free to attend; [registration is required](#). Attendees who wish to attend both days must register for each day separately.
- **Re-Batching for ICC Meetings** – To avoid late requests to withhold projects from submission to the ICC, the Program Administrator reminds AVs that they 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 its discretion and submit eligible projects to the ICC.

AVs may withhold a Part I verified application from submission to the ICC no more than twice for any given project application. Once a project has been withheld twice, it must either be withdrawn from the Program or submitted to the ICC in the next memo. Upcoming windows for re-batching:

| Re-Batching Opens for AVs | Election Deadline – 12:00 p.m. CPT (Re-batching closes for AVs) | Trade Date (ICC Meeting Date) |
|---------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 8/5/2025 | 8/7/2025 | 8/21/2025 |
| 8/18/2025 | 8/20/2025 | 9/4/2025 |

- **Portal Maintenance and Releases** - Scheduled system maintenance occurs **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. **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.** The latest Portal updates and enhancements, a Portal Development Roadmap, and Portal help guides can be found at <https://illinoisshines.com/portal-updates>.
- **Application Processing Tables and Update** – 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.

- Following the May 7, 2025, conclusion of the Small DG soft close period, review of Part I applications has exceeded the 10-day expected turnaround time. The Program Administrator is working to bring application review back into the expected turnaround time and will continue to inform stakeholders of progress. In addition to information available at the Project Application Reports page, the status of individual project applications can be checked with the [Project Look Up Tool](#).
- **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 |
|---|------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| 2026 Long-Term Plan Development (Chapters 7, 8, 10) | May 19, 2025 | June 11, 2025 | Comments were published here |
| 2026 Long-Term Plan Development (Chapter 3 and Program REC Pricing) | June 25, 2025 | July 10, 2025 | Comments were published here under ‘REC Portfolio, RPS Budget and Program REC Pricing.’ |

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