

## Draft 2026 Long Term Plan Filed, New Certified Transcript of Payroll Requirement, Traditional Community Solar Scores Published

August 22, 2025

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### Coming up in Illinois Shines

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

- **Events**
  - **September 5** – Consumer Protection Working Group
  - **September 15** – Traditional Community Solar random selection event
  - **September 25** – Virtual Public Hearings for the draft 2026 Long-Term Plan
- **Due Dates**
  - **August 25** – Part II Verification cut-off for August
  - **September 2** – CDCS application submission deadline for Program Year 2025-26 and registration opens for the Fall Mentorship Program Cohort
  - **September 10** – September REC invoicing deadline
  - **September 12** – Registration closes for the Fall Mentorship Program Cohort

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### Stakeholder Support

- **Program Administrator Office Hours** – August 27, 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 delay application approval.
  - **Avoid Delays Due to Uploading Multiple Copies.** When uploading documents, AVs should avoid uploading multiple copies of the same document which can add extra processing time, as the processor must compare the documents to identify differences and verify which is most recent or relevant. The Program Administrator asks AVs upload the most recent version of the relevant document (whether it's a plot map, Disclosure Form, etc.) and to not include outdated versions under “Additional Documents.”

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### Program News

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

**New!** IPA Releases Draft 2026 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan for Public Review and Comment - The [draft 2026 Long-Term Plan](#) details the goals and strategies for the IPA’s renewable energy programs and procurements, including program capacity and Renewable Energy Credit pricing for the Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All programs over the 2026-27 and 2027-28 Program Years. Written comments are due on Monday, September 29, 2025 and should be submitted to [IPA.ContactUs@illinois.gov](mailto:IPA.ContactUs@illinois.gov). The Agency will also hold a Virtual Public Hearing for the draft 2026 Long-Term Plan on Thursday, September

25, 2025. Consult the [Draft 2026 Plan and the Cover Letter and Hearing Notice](#) for full details, including specifics about the Virtual Public Hearings.

- **New! New Requirement to Include “Illinois Shines Project ID” in Certified Transcripts of Payroll (CTP) Submitted to IDOL** – [As previously announced](#), to increase efficiency, reduce AV burdens to submit a revised IDOL CTP, and prevent “Need Info” requests, the Program will now require AVs to include the “Illinois Shines Project ID” in the “Project Number or Name” field of the CTP when submitting it to IDOL in cases where the project location has not yet been assigned a site specific, locatable address (also known as a “911 address.”) AVs must also include the nearest intersection in the “Project Address” field of the CTP.
- **New! Traditional Community Solar Scores for Program Year 2025-26 Published** - In accordance with the TCS scoring guidelines, the Program Administrator scored all TCS projects submitted on June 2, 2025, that completed Part I application processing. The scores have been posted on the [Traditional Community Solar page](#) of the Project Category Hub on the Program website. AVs may appeal decisions made by the Program Administrator on the scoring of their projects. Appeals must be submitted to [admin@illinoisshines.com](mailto:admin@illinoisshines.com) by 11:59 pm CPT on September 4, 2025. TCS applications submitted after June 2, 2025 are in the process of being reviewed and scored.

Please see the initial, planned scoring schedule below:

- **Application Review Period:** Applications undergo initial review by Program Administrator – Approximately four weeks (*Complete*)
- **Application Cure Period:** AVs cure deficiencies identified by Program Administrator – Approximately two 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 two-week cure period) – Approximately three weeks (*Complete*)
- **Scoring Cure Period:** AVs are offered a chance to review initial score and dispute and resolve any discrepancies – Approximately two weeks (*Complete*)
- **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 (*September 4*)
- **Random selection:** Event to ordinarily rank projects with tied scores (*September 15*)
- **Published findings:** Final scores and project selection published (*September 16*)
- **New! CDCS Projects Not Permitted to Use "To Be Determined" Disclosure Forms** - The IPA and Program Administrator remind Community Solar AVs and Designees that the use of "TBD Disclosure Forms" for CDCS projects is not permitted. As detailed in Section V.A. of the [Program Guidebook](#), the “To Be Determined” option cannot be used for CDCS. To subscribe a customer to a CDCS project, the specific project must be disclosed in the customer’s Disclosure Form. Only Disclosure Forms that specify the correct project to which the customer is being subscribed will be verified and counted toward subscription rates.
  - Additional information about the “To Be Determined” option is available in Section V.B of the [Consumer Protection Handbook](#).
- **New! New to the Program Website** - The following key additions to the [Program website](#) have been shared:
  - [Draft 2026 Long-Term Plan](#) ([Program Documents](#) Page)
  - [2025-26 Traditional Community Solar scores](#) ([Traditional Community Solar hub](#) page)
  - [August 2025 Illinois Shines Data Report](#) ([Illinois Shines Data Report](#) page)
  - Updated [Help for Stranded Customers](#) page

- **Petition Filed with Illinois Commerce Commission to Modify 2024 Long-Term Plan** - [As previously announced](#), August 14, 2025, the Joint Solar Parties and Advanced Energy United petitioned the Illinois Commerce Commission to reopen the proceeding that approved the 2024 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan to make modifications given the passage of the federal reconciliation bill (H.R.1.). On August 21, 2025, the ICC granted the Petition for Reopening the 2024 Long-Term Plan. The Petition and the Commission’s Reopening Memorandum are available in the ICC Docket [23-0714](#). The Administrative Law Judges will subsequently set a schedule to the proceeding.
- **New Field on Part II of the Community Solar Application** - On August 20, 2025, the Part II application for Community Solar projects added an additional field to ensure accurate tracking of all project information. The new field, “Utility Project ID” (“Facility ID”/ “Generation ID”), was added to Section 2 of all Community Solar Part II Applications. While the new field is optional, the Program Administrator requests that AVs populate the newly added field of “Utility Project ID” (“Facility ID”/ “Generation ID”) to support accurate tracking.
  - ComEd customers should use the “Facility ID,” while Ameren customers should use the “Generation ID.” These IDs are unique identifiers given to each Illinois Shines Community Solar project, which differs from the “Illinois Shines Program Project/Application ID.”
- **2025-26 Mentorship Program Fall Cohort Registration Opening September 2** - On September 2, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. CPT, mentee and mentor registration for AVs and Designees will open for the [2025-26 Mentorship Program Fall Cohort](#) on the [Mentorship Program page](#). Registration closes on September 12, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. CPT. The Mentorship Program provides virtual courses and training covering the Illinois Shines program processes and requirements, and grants opportunities to network with other market stakeholders. Space is limited. Mentors and mentees will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis.
- **Reminder: CDCS Application Deadline** – The CDCS application window for the 2025-26 Program Year closes September 2, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. CPT. Applications are not accepted after the close of the application window. Additional information about review, scoring, and CDCS project applications will be published following the close of the application window.
- **IPA Presents Illinois Shines Information at 2025 Solar Farm Summit** – On August 6, IPA Director of External Affairs Sarah Duffy spoke on a panel discussion at the [2025 Solar Farm Summit](#). The discussion explored how states and localities can take advantage of agrivoltaics, the practice of installing solar panels on farmland in a way that prioritizes primary agricultural activities.
- **Paused Enforcement of Two Withhold Limit from ICC Meetings** – Per the [Program Guidebook](#), AVs can only withhold projects from ICC submission twice before they must be withdrawn. However, due to the recent federal reconciliation bill (H.R.1) and the Executive Order issued on July 7, 2025, the Agency has decided to temporarily pause enforcement of the two withhold limit from ICC meetings. This pause will be in effect until additional federal guidance is received. AVs that do not wish to take advantage of these additional withholdings may send projects to the ICC during the re-batching window.
- **Update to Application Processing Statuses** - To improve efficiency in application processing, several application processing statuses, including “Reviewed,” “Technical Review,” “5f Eligible,” and “Updated,” will be retired. These process steps will now be managed using internal-facing statuses. As a result, any applications currently in one of the retiring statuses will be reverted to their previous status of either “Submitted” or “Need Info”. They will remain in that status until they reach “Verified” status. Please note that this change does not reflect any modification to the state or content of the application itself.
- **Prevailing Wage Resources Reminder** – The Program has observed an uptick in inquiries relating to Prevailing Wage requirements. Helpful information can be found at the Program’s [Prevailing Wage Hub](#), including links to the IDOL website, the [Prevailing Wage Requirements for Illinois Shines](#) resource, and a recently recorded [Prevailing Wage walkthrough video](#). Stakeholders should consult IDOL resources for detailed, current information about Prevailing Wage.

- **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.
- **Annual Report Response Deadlines and Cure Period** – Please reference a summary of the Annual Report and Cure Period timeline below:
  - The Annual Report Cure Period concludes on October 30, 2025. At this point no modifications to Annual Report data will be permitted, so it is critical for AVs to respond to cure emails in a timely manner. Once the cure period has ended, the Program Administrator will calculate any potential Drawdowns for the annual REC performance evaluations and Community Solar Parameters evaluations. These will be completed by December 2, 2025, and AVs will receive draft notifications from the Program Administrator in advance of formal notice being provided by the contracting utility in early 2026.

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.

## Reference and Reminders

- **Re-Batching for ICC Meetings** – To avoid late requests to withhold projects from submission to the ICC, 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 its discretion and submit eligible projects to the ICC. Please note that due to recent federal action, the Agency has decided to temporarily pause enforcement of the two withhold limit from ICC meetings. This pause will be in effect until additional federal guidance is received. Upcoming windows for re-batching are as follows:

Re-Batching Opens for AVs	Election Deadline – 12:00 p.m. CPT (Re-batching closes for AVs)	Trade Date (ICC Meeting Date)
9/2/2025	9/4/2025	9/18/2025
9/16/2025	9/18/2025	10/2/2025

- **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. 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 [here](#).

Development Focus	Details	Planned or Actual Delivery
Enhancement		
Added "Utility Generation ID" as optional field on Community Solar applications	AVs will have a new, optional field to populate and view in Part 2, Section 2 of the Community Solar application. This "Utility Generation ID" is the "Facility ID" for ComEd, "Generation ID" for Ameren, and "Production Facility" for Jo-Carrol.  This field can be edited and viewed by Program Administrators and viewed by IPA users.	August 19, 2025

- Application Processing Tables and Update** – Application processing tables are maintained [here](#). These tables are updated daily. For questions about specific project applications, please contact the Program Administrator at [admin@IllinoisShines.com](mailto: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
<a href="#">Draft 2026 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan</a>	August 15, 2025	September 29, 2025	

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**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.

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