

Traditional Community Solar REC Price Modeling Correction, Part II Verification Cut Off for September, September Consumer Protection Working Group

August 29, 2025

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. Register link: https://energy-solution.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rNhDNqDXRIOBX4yT1xROGO
 - **September 25** – Virtual Public Hearings for draft 2026 Long-Term Plan
- **Due Dates**
 - **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

Stakeholder Support

- **Program Administrator Office Hours** – September 10, 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 every other week.
- **Application Tips and Tricks** - The Program Administrator publishes [Tips and Tricks](#) to help support stakeholders avoid “Need Info” requests that delay application approval.
 - **Revisit Project Applications Before Responding to “Need Info” Requests to Avoid Delays.** When responding to a “Need Info” request, AVs should carefully revisit the project application before replying to ensure the answer is correct. The Program Administrator has encountered instances where vendors have provided replies with incorrect information that has led to contract inaccuracies and subsequent delays in application approval and invoicing.

Program News

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

- **New! IPA Corrects Group B Traditional Community Solar REC Price Modeling Results** - [As previously announced](#), an error in the draft 2026 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan REC Pricing Model that impacted the calculation of modeled REC prices for the Illinois Shines Group B Traditional Community Solar program has been brought to the Agency’s attention by a stakeholder. The Agency has corrected the error, which changed REC prices for Group B Traditional Community Solar. No other category was affected by this change. For more information, please refer to the [Errata Announcement](#).

- **New! Program Holiday Working Hours** – In observance of Labor Day, the Program will have limited services and updates on Monday, September 1, 2025. On this day, the Program Call Center will be closed. Updates to the Block Capacity Dashboard, application tables, application project reports, and waitlists will resume the next business day.
- **New! Part II Verification Cut Off for September** – The last Part II verification date for September will be September 25, 2025. Applications that were Part II verified on or before September 25, 2025, will be included in the October invoicing period. Application processing will continue throughout the last week of the month and any applications reviewed between September 26, 2025, and September 30, 2025, will be invoiced in November 2025.
- **New! September Consumer Protection Working Group** – On September 5, 2025, the Program Administrator will hold the Consumer Protection Working Group to discuss market trends, best practices, consumer education, updates to Program requirements and documents, and other consumer protection issues for both Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All. This is an opportunity for consumers, solar companies, community and nonprofit organizations, and other members of the public to directly provide their insight and perspectives to both the Program Administrators and IPA. Meeting agenda and Zoom link can be found on the [Consumer Protection Working Group](#) page.
- **New! Illinois Commerce Commission Re-Opens 2024 Long-Term Plan** - [As previously announced](#), on 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 Judge approved the following schedule for responses to the Motion:
 - Responses to Objections are due September 5, 2025
 - Replies to Responses are due September 12, 2025
 - Position Statements are due September 17, 2025
- **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 REC 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. 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 Hearing.
- **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.
- **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 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 ordinally rank projects with tied scores. Register link: https://energy-solution.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rNhDNqDXRIOBX4yT1xROGQ (*September 15*)
- **Published findings:** Final scores and project selection published (*September 16*)
- **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 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.
- **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.
- **Annual Report Cure Period** – 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. 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](#).

- **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.
 - Following the conclusion of the Small DG soft close period on May 7, 2025, 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
Draft 2026 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan	August 15, 2025	September 29, 2025	An updated version of Appendix E has been posted to the 2026 Appendices page of IPA website. For more information, please refer to the Errata Announcement .

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