

Paused Enforcement of Two Withhold Limit from ICC Meetings, Update to Application Processing Statuses, August REC Invoicing Deadline

August 8, 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 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.
 - **Disclosure Form Customer Types:** The Disclosure Form includes an automatic validation to confirm that the Customer Type matches the AC size. AVs may have noticed that Customer Type terminology differs slightly from the Program categories.
 - A system in the Small DG category (up to and including 25 kW AC) should be marked as Customer Type "Residential/Small Commercial" on the Disclosure Form.
 - A system in the Large DG category (greater than 25 kW AC) should be marked as a "Large Commercial" even if the project is residential.

Program News

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

- **New! Paused Enforcement of Two Withhold Limit from ICC Meetings** – Per the Program Guidebook, Approved Vendors can only withhold projects from ICC submission twice before they must be withdrawn.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.. Approved Vendors that do not wish to take advantage of these additional withholdings may send projects to the ICC during the re-batching window.

- **New! 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.
- **New! 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 Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) website, the [Prevailing Wage Requirements for Illinois Shines](#) resource, and a recently recorded [Prevailing Wage Walkthrough Video](#). The Program will continue to add helpful information to the Program website, but stakeholders should continue to 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.
- **August REC Invoicing Opened August 1, 2025** - REC invoices and Quarterly Netting Statements were 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).
- **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 incentive

Details about the study and information about participating can be found [here](#). Participation is voluntary and confidential.

- **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 8)

- **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 ordinally rank projects with tied scores (date TBD)
- **Final scores** and project selection published (date TBD)
- **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 submissions by Approved Vendors were due to the Program Administrator on July 15, 2025, for AVs that have not signed a REC Contract Amendment. Responses were due on August 1, 2025, for those 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 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. The Program began contacting these AVs in early August to provide additional information.

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)
8/18/2025	8/20/2025	9/4/2025
9/2/2025	9/4/2025	9/18/2025

- **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](#).
- **Phishing Attempts** – The Program reminds stakeholders to remain vigilant against email phishing attempts and avoid opening unexpected emails or clicking suspicious links that appear to be from the Illinois Shines program, its Program Administrator, or the IPA. Official correspondence from these parties will only come from email addresses ending in @illinoisshines.com, @energy-solution.com, @illinoisabp.com, or @illinois.gov – please check our Contact Us page for more guidelines.

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