

CDCS Review Updates, Mentorship Program Fall Cohort Registration Closing, TCS Random Selection Event September 15

September 12, 2025

Coming up in Illinois Shines

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

- **Events**
 - **September 15** – Traditional Community Solar random selection event. Register link: https://energy-solution.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rNhDNqDXRIOBX4yT1xROGQ
 - **September 25** – Virtual Public Hearings for draft 2026 Long-Term Plan
- **Due Dates**
 - **September 12** – Registration closes for the Fall Mentorship Program Cohort
 - **September 16** – Re-Batching Opens for AVs for October 2, 2025 ICC Meeting
 - **September 18** – Election Deadline – Project Re-Batch or Withdrawal for October 2, 2025 ICC Meeting
 - **September 29** – Written comments are due for draft 2026 Long-Term Plan

Stakeholder Support

- **Program Administrator Office Hours** – September 24, 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.
 - **Exact Project Values and Rounding in Project Applications** – Whenever possible, data values for project details should be exact and aligned when provided in the program portal, documentation, and applicable registries. However, some portal fields do not allow for decimals. In these instances, AVs should round to the nearest available value.
 - For rounding down - If the digit is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4, round down to the nearest applicable value. All digits that are on the righthand side of the rounding digit become 0.
 - For rounding up - If the digit is 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9, round up to the nearest applicable value. All digits that are on the righthand side of the rounding digit will become 0.
 - *For example:* A site map lists an azimuth of 143.7 degrees; this value should be rounded up to 144 degrees as the portal does not allow for decimals in the azimuth value. Or, a system's tilt is 33.4 degrees; this value should be rounded down to 33 degrees as the portal does not allow for decimals in the tilt value.

Program News

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

- **New!** Community-Driven Community Solar Application Review and Scoring Schedule - As outlined in Section 5 of the Program Guidebook, the Program Year 2025-26 Community-Driven Community Solar (“CDCS”)

application window closed 90 days after the start of the Program Year on September 2, 2025. The Program Administrator's application review period has commenced and is expected to take approximately 4 weeks. Further details on the schedule for application review and scoring will be announced next week.

- **2025-26 Mentorship Program Fall Cohort Registration Closes Today** - On September 2, 2025, mentee and mentor registration for AVs and Designees opened for the [2025-26 Mentorship Program Fall Cohort](#) on the [Mentorship Program page](#). Registration closes **today, 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. Mentees will be notified in approximately 2 weeks.
- **Stranded Customer REC Adder Rationale Document** - Stranded customers are those who have signed a contract with a solar company and then the AV (and sometimes also the Designee) goes out of business or is prevented from moving forward with the project.. In response to AV and Designee feedback that assisting stranded customers is often unattractive, as the work and risk can outweigh the benefits, the Agency will implement an economic incentive for AVs that assist stranded customers in the form of a REC Adder - an increased price in the REC Contract for RECs generated by projects that were "unstranded." On September 3, 2025, the Agency issued a [Rationale Document](#), outlining its final decisions on this policy and explaining whether and how stakeholder feedback was incorporated, and also published the [associated chart of stranded customer categories](#), both of which can be found on the [Consumer Protection Initiatives](#) page. The Agency and Program Administrator intend to launch the Stranded Customer REC Adder in the coming weeks.
- **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 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. Additionally, [as previously announced](#), an error in the draft 2026 Long-Term Plan REC Pricing Model was brought to the Agency's attention by a stakeholder. The Agency has corrected the error. For more information, please refer to the [Errata Announcement](#).
- **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.
- **Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) Re-Opens 2024 Long-Term Plan** - [As previously announced](#), on August 14, 2025, the Joint Solar Parties and Advanced Energy United petitioned the ICC 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 were due September 5, 2025
 - Replies to Responses are due **today, September 12, 2025**
 - Position Statements are due September 17, 2025
- **Traditional Community Solar Scores for Program Year 2025-26 Published and Upcoming Random Selection Event** - 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 were posted on the [Traditional Community Solar page](#) of the Project Category Hub on the Program website. AVs were given until September 4, 2025, to appeal decisions made by the Program Administrator on the scoring of their projects. TCS applications submitted after June 2, 2025, are in the process of being reviewed and scored.

Please see the remainder of the scoring schedule below:

- **Random selection:** Event to ordinally rank projects with tied scores. Register link: https://energy-solution.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rNhDNqDXRIOBX4yT1xROGO (September 15)
- **Published findings:** Final scores and project selection published (September 16)
- **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.

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. AVs that do not wish to take advantage of these additional withholdings may send projects to the ICC during the re-batching window. 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)
9/16/2025	9/18/2025	10/2/2025
9/29/2025	10/1/2025	10/16/2025

- **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 [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 had exceeded the 10-day expected turnaround time. The Program Administrator has now returned to the expected turnaround time for Small DG processing. 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 on the [Stakeholder Feedback](#) page of 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.
