

# Stranded Customer REC Adder Rationale Document, September REC Invoicing Open, 2025-26 Mentorship Program Fall Cohort Registration Open

September 5, 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. Register link: [https://energy-solution.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_rNhDNqDXRIOBX4yT1xROGO](https://energy-solution.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rNhDNqDXRIOBX4yT1xROGO)
  - **September 25** – Virtual Public Hearings for draft 2026 Long-Term Plan
- **Due Dates**
  - **September 10** – September REC invoicing deadline
  - **September 12** – Registration closes for the Fall Mentorship Program Cohort
  - **September 29** – Written comments are due for draft 2026 Long-Term Plan

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## 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.
  - **Provide Regular, Substantive Responses to *Need Info* Requests to Avoid Delays** – Per Section 5.A of the [Program Guidebook](#), an AV has a maximum of two weeks to cure deficiencies in an application. In the case of continued communication between the Program Administrator and the AV, the cure period may be extended up to two weeks from the last good faith effort to provide the required information, at the Program Administrator’s discretion. Replying to the *Need Info* request with the requested information, follow up questions, detailed explanations for why the information cannot be provided, or a confirmation that the project will be withdrawn or removed are all considered good faith communications. Simply acknowledging receipt of the *Need Info* request is not. AVs who are non-responsive to *Need Info* requests will receive a NoPV.

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## Program News

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

- **New! 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 for other reasons, such as disciplinary action. 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.
- **New! September REC Invoicing Open** - REC invoices and Quarterly Netting Statements were made available for download from AV SharePoint folders on September 1, 2025. Invoices must be submitted to the utility by September 10, 2025, to receive payment for the September invoice period. Any invoice amounts not submitted to the utility by September 10, 2025, will be carried forward and included in the December 2025 invoice period.
- **New! 2025-26 Mentorship Program Fall Cohort Registration Open** - 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 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.
- **New! CDCS Application Deadline Passed** – The CDCS application window for the 2025-26 Program Year closed 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 soon.
- **New! New to Program Website**
  - [REC Adder Rationale Document](#) (on the [Consumer Protection Initiatives](#) page)
  - [Chart of Stranded Customer Categories](#) (on the [Consumer Protection Initiatives](#) page)
- **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](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 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.
- **September Consumer Protection Working Group** – On September 5, 2025, the Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All Program Administrators hosted 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. The monthly working group is an opportunity for consumers, solar companies, community and nonprofit organizations, and other members of the public to directly provide insights and perspectives to both the Program Administrators and IPA. Agenda and Meeting Minutes can be found on the [Consumer Protection Working Group](#) page.

- **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 are due September 5, 2025
  - Replies to Responses are due September 12, 2025
  - Position Statements are due September 17, 2025
- **New Requirement to Include *Illinois Shines Project ID* in Certified Transcripts of Payroll (CTP) Submitted to the Illinois Department of Labor (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 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:

- **Scoring Cure Period:** *Complete*
- **Scores published:** *Complete*
- **Random selection:** Event to ordinarily rank projects with tied scores. Register link: [https://energy-solution.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_rNhDNqDXRIOBX4yT1xROGO](https://energy-solution.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rNhDNqDXRIOBX4yT1xROGO) (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 5.A. of the [Program Guidebook](#). 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 5.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 all Community Solar projects added the *Utility Project ID (Facility ID/ Generation ID)* field to Section 2, to ensure accurate tracking of all project information. 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*.

- 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](#).

| Development Focus   | Details   | Planned or Actual Delivery |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| Enhancement   |   |                            |
| Update <i>Advance of Capital</i> Language on EEC Project Applications | Help text on <i>Advance of Capital</i> field in Section 2 of the Part I application has been updated, along with an updated link to a revised <i>Advance of Capital</i> template. Additionally, the link to the <i>Advance of Capital</i> template on Section 2 of the Part I application has been updated on the <i>Application Processing</i> view of applications. | September 2, 2025          |
| Grants AV Users Read Access to Their Own AV Records                   | AVs can now view the details of their AV registration, including Login accounts and Associated Disclosure Form Designees. AV details can be accessed from the left hand navigation Menu → Company & User Management → Approved Vendor.  | September 2, 2025          |
| Grants Designee Users Read Access to Their Own Designee Records       | Designees can now view the details of their Designee registration, including Login accounts and Vendor Associations for Designees. Designee details can be accessed from the left hand navigation Menu → Company & User Management → Designee.  | September 2, 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 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 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   |
|---|------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| <a href="#">Draft 2026 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan</a> | August 15, 2025              | September 29, 2025   | An updated version of <a href="#">Appendix E</a> has been posted to the <a href="#">2026 Appendices page</a> of IPA website.<br>For more information, please refer to the <a href="#">Errata Announcement</a> . |

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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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