

New Homeowner Handouts, IPA Announces Certificates for Equity Eligible Persons (EEPs) and Availability of EEP Resumes, Upcoming Designee Renewal

October 10, 2025

Coming up in Illinois Shines

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

- **Deadlines**
 - **October 10** – Project information from AVs to update the Find a Community Solar Project Report submission and October REC deadlines
 - **October 25** – Part II Verification for October deadline

Stakeholder Support

- **New! Program Holiday Working Hours** – In observance of Columbus/Indigenous People's Day, the Program will have limited services and updates on Monday, October 13, 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.
- **Application Tips and Tricks** - The Program Administrator publishes [Tips and Tricks](#) to help support stakeholders avoid *Need Info* requests that delay application review and approval.
 - **Photos of Arrays are critical to successful Part II application verification. Below are helpful tips to consider prior to submitting photos of arrays:**
 - Multiple photos may be submitted, either assembled into a PDF or as separate JPEG files.
 - It is important to ensure that all modules are visible in the photo because processors count each module. Photos that make it easy to discern the number of modules in each array are best. Aerial photos are accepted but not required.
 - Please submit photos that are in-focus, high resolution, and well-lit; inability to confirm details can result in *Need Info* requests and delay application review.

Program News

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

- **New! New Homeowner Handouts** – The IPA and its Program Administrator launched the Homeowner Handout series to help educate consumers and provide resources to help them make informed, confident decisions about going solar with Illinois Shines. Two new handouts, [Buying a Home That Has an Illinois Shines Solar Project](#) and [Selling Your Home That Has an Illinois Shines Solar Project](#), are now available. Spanish versions of both these handouts will be available at a later date.
- **New! IPA Announces Certificates for Equity Eligible Persons (EEPs) and Availability of EEP Resumes**
 - The Illinois Power Agency (IPA) is excited to announce two major updates that strengthen access, visibility, and recognition for Equity Eligible Persons (EEPs) participating in Illinois' clean energy programs: Official

Certificates for EEPs and EEP Resumes, available on the External EEP Dashboard. To learn more, please reference [this announcement](#).

- **New! Upcoming Designee Renewal** – Designees registered prior to the start of the 2025-2026 Program Year will be prompted to renew their status in the Program or indicate their withdrawal by December 1, 2025. Designees will receive an email with a link to the form, list of required uploads, and a unique code and password to access their renewal on October 17, 2025. Within the form, they will be required to upload an Illinois Secretary of State Statement of Good Standing dated within the past 12 months (including for any DBAs, if applicable) and training materials and certifications showing that their agents have been trained in accordance with Program requirements, including all applicable sections of the Consumer Protection Handbook. EEC Designees will have the ability to renew their status as an EEC and will receive an updated EEC certificate following renewal review.
 - It is the Approved Vendor's responsibility to ensure that their Designees and Nested Designees are compliant with the renewal requirements. Non-compliance with this requirement may result in the Program Administrator requesting the AV provide its Designee Management Plan for Program Administrator review, as well as possible additional disciplinary actions as set out in the Consumer Protection Violation Response Matrix in the Consumer Protection Handbook. Any Designees and Nested Designees that do not renew their status will receive a Notice of Potential Violation and may be subject to additional action as set out in the Violation Response Matrix.
- **New! New to the Program Website** - The following key additions to the [Program website](#) have been shared:
 - [Updated Portal Input Rates](#) ([Program Documents](#) page)
 - [Buying a Home That Has an Illinois Shines Solar Project](#) and [Selling Your Home That Has an Illinois Shines Solar Project](#) handouts ([Program Brochures & Other Resources](#) page)
- **Community-Driven Community Solar Application Review and Scoring Schedule** – The Program Year 2025-26 Community-Driven Community Solar (“CDCS”) application review period commenced September 3, 2025 and concluded October 3, 2025. The application cure period began October 3, 2025, and is expected to conclude October 17, 2025. Further details on the schedule for application review and scoring were shared in [this announcement](#).
- **Updated Prevailing Wage Hub** – In response to an uptick in stakeholder inquiries, additional information regarding the Illinois prevailing wage, including FAQs, compliance requirements, and Certified Transcript of Payroll guidance has been posted to the [Prevailing Wage Hub](#). For more information, please see the [Prevailing Wage Requirements for Illinois Shines resource](#) and the [Prevailing Wage Walkthrough Video](#).
- **Designee Company Information Form** – Beginning in Program Year 2025-26, Designees and Nested Designees that enter the Program are required to provide company ownership and affiliate information to the Program Administrator upon registration. New Designees will be prompted to submit the [following form](#), which can be found on the [Become an AV or Designee](#) page, during registration to complete their application into the Program.
- **Part II Verification Cut Off for October** - The last Part II verification date for this month will be October 27, 2025. Applications that were Part II verified on or before October 27, 2025, will be included in the November invoicing period. Application processing will continue throughout the last week of the month and any applications reviewed between October 28, 2025, and October 31, 2025, will be invoiced in December 2025.
- **Community Power Accelerator** - The U.S. Department of Energy created the [Community Power Accelerator](#) to connect community-serving solar projects (both distributed generation and community solar) and developers, including community-based organizations, with philanthropists, lenders, and investors in an online ecosystem to drive more local, affordable energy. The Accelerator offers four key free services including a platform to connect developers and capital providers, free training courses, technical assistance, and a credit-ready checklist. Please contact communitypower@nrel.gov with any questions.

- **Draft 2026 Long-Term Plan Public Comments Posted** - The Agency posted the draft Plan on August 15, 2025, with a public comment deadline of September 29, 2025. Stakeholder feedback received on the Draft 2026 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan has been published on the Agency's [website](#). The IPA appreciates the participation and feedback from its stakeholders. For more information about the 2026 Long-Term Plan, please visit the [Long-Term Plan](#) page of the IPA website, as well as to the [Stakeholder Feedback](#) page of the Program website.
- **October REC Invoicing Opened October 1** - REC invoices and Quarterly Netting Statements were made available for download from AV SharePoint folders on October 1, 2025. Invoices must be submitted to the utility by October 10, 2025, to receive payment for the October invoice period. Any invoice amounts not submitted to the utility by October 10, 2025, will be carried forward and included in the January 2025 invoice period.
- **Find a Community Solar Project** - The IPA and Program Administrator seek updated Illinois Shines Community Solar project information from developers to populate the [Find a Community Solar Project report](#) on the Program website, including project-specific information known to AVs. This report is valuable to potentially interested subscribers, the Agency, other developers, and other stakeholders. On September 25, 2025, the Program emailed a template to AVs participating in the Community Solar project categories and who showed interest in having projects included on this list. The template should be returned to communitysolar@illinoisshines.com by October 10, 2025 for inclusion in the next report update. Updates to this list will be made quarterly.
- **Navigating H.R.1: Resources for Residential and Commercial Projects** - House Resolution 1 ("H.R.1"), also known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), was signed into law on July 4, 2025, and introduced significant changes to clean energy tax credits previously available under the Inflation Reduction Act. These changes have implications for clean energy customers, developers, and communities across Illinois. The IPA has published information on [its website](#) and the [Illinois Shines website](#) about the H.R.1, including impacts of the law, timelines relating to federal clean energy tax credit eligibility, and relevant educational resources for residents and businesses. On September 26, 2025, the Agency held "IPA Power Hour: The One Big Beautiful Bill Act – What it Means for Clean Energy, Tax Credits, and the Road Ahead." A recording of the event is available on the [IPA website](#).
- **Relevant Forms for Change of AVs** - Section 5.A of the Program Guidebook outlines Program requirements for changing AVs in projects not yet selected for a REC Contract. Section 6.B, "Assignment of REC Contracts", subsection "Steps to Assign Product Order(s) or an Entire REC Contract)" provides information for assignment of projects post-REC Contract. The Program has provided clarifying language on the [Other Resources](#) section of the [Program Documents](#) page, including:
 - **Change of AVs Before REC Contracting** – For projects not yet selected for a REC Contract, both the AV transferring a project (Seller/Assignor) and the AV receiving the project (Transferee/Assignee) must provide the Program Administrator with a binding document wherein both agree that the Transferee shall have rights to the RECs produced by the project and the authorization to represent the project for an Illinois Shines application, as well as other information. A sample AV Switch Binding Agreement and guidance are provided on the Program website.
 - **Assignment Forms Required for Each Assignment:**
 - **Assignment and Assumption Agreement** – A document required by the Utility and which is signed by both Seller/Assignor and Transferee/Assignee.
 - **Acknowledgement of Assignment Forms** – A document to be signed by Assignor/Seller, Transferee/Assignee, and Buyer (Utility). Assignments are governed by Section 9.2 of the 2019 REC Delivery Contract and Section 13.1 of the 2021, 2022 and 2024 REC Delivery Contracts, and corresponding forms are available.

- **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 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](#). On September 25, 2025, the Commission released the Proposed Order on the Reopening of the 2024 Long-Term Plan. Briefs on Exceptions and Replies to Exceptions were due October 3, 2025, and October 7, 2025, respectively. The Commission has published an October 30, 2025, Deadline for Commission Action.
- **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)
10/14/2025	10/16/2025	10/30/2025
10/21/2025	10/23/2025	11/6/2025

- **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. In addition to information available on 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 (LTP)	August 15, 2025	September 29, 2025	Comments to the 2026 LTP were published to the IPA website on October 1, 2025.

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