

## Program Pause for New Capacity, IPA Files 2026 Long-Term Plan with the ICC, IPA Launches Stranded Customer REC Adder

October 24, 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](#).

- **Key Dates**
  - **October 29** - Distributed Generation AV Roundtable
  - **October 30** - Program Pause for New Capacity
- **Deadlines**
  - **October 27** - Part II Verification for October
  - **October 30** - Annual Reports Finalized for AVs that Have Signed a REC Contract Amendment
  - **October 31** - Re-Batching Opens for AVs (For Nov. 19, 2025, ICC Meeting)
  - **November 4** - Election Deadline – Project Re-Batch or Withdrawal (For Nov. 19, 2025, ICC Meeting)

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### Stakeholder Support

- **Program Administrator Office Hours** – November 5, 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://energysolution.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 review and approval.
  - **Ensure project location addresses are accurate.** The application's project location should represent the location of the module installation, not the interconnection address. Moreover, the project address on the application and supporting documents, such as the Proof of Site Control, Site Map, and the Certified Transcripts of Payroll (when projects are subject to prevailing wage requirements) must match. If there is a discrepancy between the module location and the interconnection address, these discrepancies can be explained in the application comments before submission. For example, "123 W. Main is the installation location, 456 W. Main on the documentation is the utility address at the point of interconnection." P.O. boxes for project location addresses are not acceptable. If an address has not yet been assigned to a site within a parcel, latitude and longitude coordinates and parcel number are an acceptable substitute.

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### Program News

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

- **New! Program Pause for New Capacity** – Per the 2024 Long-Term Plan Re-Opening, capacity for the 2025-26 Program Year will expand by 100% except for the EEC Category, which will be expanded by 64 MW for Group A and 169 MW for Group B. In order to expand the capacity, the Program will pause for one business day, from October 30, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. CPT through October 31, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. CPT, to undertake data

and reporting updates, including updates to the Program website, Portal, and allocation of capacity to waitlisted applications. More information on the Program pause is available in [this announcement](#).

- **New! IPA Files 2026 Long-Term Plan with the ICC** - On October 20, 2025, the IPA filed the 2026 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan ("Plan") with the ICC in [Docket 25-0945](#). The Plan details goals and strategies for the IPA's renewable energy programs and procurements, including Program capacity and renewable energy credit pricing for the Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All programs over the 2026-27 and 2027-28 Program Years. The Agency expects a final order from the ICC, regarding any contested issues in the Plan, no later than February 17, 2026. The Agency will then publish a final Plan in compliance with that final Order, 45 days before it takes effect. Please find the Plan's Petition and Appendices to the Plan on the Agency's [website](#). [This announcement](#) highlights some of the key changes proposed in the filed Plan that impact Illinois Shines.
- **New! IPA Launches Stranded Customer REC Adder** - [As previously announced](#), the IPA launched the Stranded Customer REC Adder which must be requested through the [Request Form](#) by the customer's new AV or the original AV (if the Designee is unstranding the customer), administratively approved by the Program Administrator, and approved by the ICC. For more information, please visit the [AVs and Designees Assisting Stranded Customers](#) page and consult the FAQs added to both [customer-facing](#) and [vendor-facing pages](#) on the Program [website](#).
- **New! ICC Re-Opens 2024 Long-Term Plan** - On October 16, 2025, the ICC issued an Order approving the Administrative Law Judge's Proposed Order, with modifications, on the reopening of the 2024 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan. The Order is available in [Docket 23-0714](#). Information related to Program changes resulting from the 2024 Long-Term Plan Re-Opening and how AVs will be impacted is available in [this announcement](#).
- **New! Program Administrator to Host Illinois Shines Customer Focus Groups** - Following the Spring 2025 Customer Satisfaction Survey, the Program Administrator will conduct a series of focus groups between October 28, 2025, and November 13, 2025, to gather additional insight from Illinois Shines customers who participated in the survey about their Program experience. The focus groups will aim to gather customer feedback related to the Illinois Shines Disclosure Form, website, and the process for going solar with a lease agreement. The Program Administrator will provide a report and analysis to the IPA on the feedback received. A [2025 Customer Satisfaction Survey Results and Analysis report](#) is available on the Illinois Shines [website](#).
- **New! New to the Program Website** - The following key additions to the [Program website](#) have been shared:
  - Updated [Find a Community Solar Project directory](#) (on [Exploring Community Solar](#) page)
  - Stranded Customer REC Adder [Customer FAQs](#) (on [Help for Stranded Customers](#) page) and [Vendor FAQs](#) and [Request Form](#) (on [AVs and Designees Assisting Stranded Customers](#) page)
  - [October Illinois Shines Data Report](#) (on [Illinois Shines Data Report](#) page)
  - [2026 Filed Long-Term Plan](#) and [Redline Comparison Between Draft 2026 Long-Term Plan and Filed 2026 Long-Term Plan](#) (on [Program Documents](#) page)
- **Program Calculates Estimated Lifetime CO2 Offset by Energized Illinois Shines Projects** - Illinois Shines projects make significant environmental contributions to Illinois' clean and renewable energy goals. The Program has calculated an estimation of the lifetime CO2 equivalent offset of currently Energized Illinois Shines projects and has shared [new graphics](#) to illustrate the impacts stakeholders are making. The graphic notes the project assumptions and the NREL and EPA data sets used in the calculations.
- **Community Power Accelerator** - The U.S. Department of Energy created the Community Power Accelerator to connect community-serving distributed solar projects 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. For more information, please visit the [Other Opportunities](#) page.

- **Reminder: Upcoming Designee Renewal** – [As previously announced](#), Designees registered prior to the start of the 2025-26 Program Year will be required to renew their status in the Program or indicate their withdrawal by December 1, 2025. Designees received an email with a link to the form, a list of required uploads, and a unique code and password to access their renewal form, on October 17, 2025. EEC Designees and Subcontractors will have the ability to renew their status and will receive an updated EEC certificate following renewal review. For more information, please reference the Designee Renewal section on the [Become an AV or Designee](#) page.
  - **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.
  - **IPA Announces Certificates for Equity Eligible Persons (EEPs) and Availability of EEP Resumes** - The IPA is excited to announce two major updates that strengthen access, visibility, and recognition for 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](#).
  - **Community-Driven Community Solar Application Review and Scoring Schedule** – As outlined in Section 5 of the Program Guidebook, the Community-Driven Community Solar (“CDCS”) application window closes 90 days after the start of the Program Year. With the Program Year commencing on June 2, 2025, the application submission deadline for Program Year 2025-26 CDCS projects was September 2, 2025. Since September, the Program has completed the Review and Cure periods, and has now entered the Application Scoring Period:
    - **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 October 17 – November 7*)
- Full details on the schedule for application review and scoring were shared in [this announcement](#).
- **Part II Verification Cut Off for October** - The last Part II verification date for this month will be October 25, 2025. Applications that were Part II verified on or before October 25, 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 26, 2025, and October 31, 2025, will be invoiced in December 2025.
  - **Draft 2026 Long-Term Plan Public Comments Posted** - The Agency posted the Draft 2026 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan (“Plan”) on August 15, 2025, with a public comment deadline of September 29, 2025. Stakeholder feedback received on the Draft Plan has been published on the Agency's [website](#). The IPA appreciates the participation and feedback from its stakeholders. For more information about the Plan, please visit the [Long-Term Plan](#) page of the IPA website, as well as to the [Stakeholder Feedback](#) page of the Program [website](#).
  - **Navigating H.R.1: Resources for Residential and Commercial Projects** - The IPA has published information on [its website](#) and the [Illinois Shines website](#) about 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 is available on the [IPA website](#).
  - **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)
10/31/2025	11/4/2025	11/19/2025
11/14/2025	11/18/2025	12/4/2025

- 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](#).

Enhancement	Details	Planned or Actual Delivery
Stranded Customer REC Adder	A new question was added to Part I Section II of Distributed Generation applications requiring AVs to indicate whether the Stranded Customer REC Adder should be applied to a project.	October 14, 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). 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
<a href="#">Draft 2026 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan (LTP)</a>	August 15, 2025	September 29, 2025	The filed 2026 Long-Term Plan and Redline between the Draft 2026 Plan and Filed 2026 Plan have been shared at the Agency's <a href="#">website</a> .

**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.