

MES Mid-Year Report Submissions, CDCS Scoring Cure Period, Public Schools Roundtable Update

November 7, 2025

Coming up in Illinois Shines

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

- **Key Dates**
 - **November 12** - Community Solar AV Roundtable
 - **November 19** - Racial Disparity and Availability Study Informational Meeting
- **Deadlines**
 - **November 10** - November REC Invoicing Deadline
 - **November 14** - Re-Batching Opens for AVs (For Dec. 4, 2025, ICC Meeting)
 - **November 18** - Election Deadline – Project Re-Batch or Withdrawal (For Dec. 4, 2025, ICC Meeting)
 - **November 20** - Part II Verification Deadline

Stakeholder Support

- **New! Program Holiday Working Hours** – In observance of Veteran's Day, the Program will have limited services and updates on Tuesday, November 11, 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.
- **Program Administrator Office Hours** – November 12, 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 weekly.
- **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.
 - **Consider Creating New Disclosure Forms.** If an Approved Vendor is facing challenges in tracking down an original signed Disclosure Form or original Disclosure Form signature tracking pages, an option to satisfy the Disclosure Form requirements is to create a new Disclosure Form to submit for the application after the customer has re-signed.

Program News

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

- **New! Minimum Equity Standard (MES) Mid-Year Report Submissions** - Mid-Year Reports, which show progress toward meeting the MES for Program Year 2025-26, are due December 31, 2025. Participating AVs and Designees should submit their Mid-Year Report for review by the Program Administrator through [this form](#). If your organization faces challenges fulfilling these obligations, the Program Administrator is available to provide additional resources and guidance tailored to your needs. Failure to submit a Mid-Year Report may negatively affect an organization's request for a MES waiver. For more information, please visit the [Vendor FAQ](#) page or view the [2025-26 Mid-Year Report questions sample](#).

- **New! Community-Driven Community Solar Application Review and Scoring Schedule Updates** – As outlined in Section 5 of the Program Guidebook, the 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 Application Review, Cure, and Scoring periods. Preliminary Scores were shared with AVs on October 31, 2025. Please see scheduled next steps:
 - **Scoring Cure Period** – AVs are offered a chance to review initial score and dispute and resolve any discrepancies (October 31 - November 14)
- Full details on the schedule for application review and scoring were shared in [this announcement](#). Additionally, as [previously announced](#), a second CDCS application window will open in January.
- **New! Updated Public School AV Roundtable Meeting Date** - The Fall 2025 Public Schools AV Roundtable has been rescheduled to December 8, 2025. A new invitation will be sent to AVs who previously expressed interest. Other AVs interested in attending are encouraged to contact schools@illinoisshines.com.
 - **New! New to the Program Website** - The following key additions to the [Program website](#) have been shared:
 - Updated “[Circumstances Requiring New DF Issuance and Signature](#)” document (on the [Vendor Disclosure Form Resources](#) page and [Program Documents](#) page)
 - [2024 Long-Term Plan – Modified Plan Upon opening October 31, 2025](#) (on [Program Documents](#) page)
 - **Reminder - 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.
 - **November 2025 Consumer Protection Working Group** - The Agency and the Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All Program Administrators hosted the November Consumer Protection Working Group meeting on November 7, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. CPT. The Working Group’s agenda and meeting minutes can be found on the [Consumer Protection Working Group](#) page on the Program [website](#).
 - **November REC Invoicing Opens** - REC invoices and Quarterly Netting Statements were made available for download from AV SharePoint folders on November 1, 2025. Invoices must be submitted to the utility by November 10, 2025, to receive payment for the November invoice period. Any invoice amounts not submitted to the utility by November 10, 2025, will be carried forward and included in the February 2025 invoice period.
 - **Annual Report Next Steps** - The Annual Report Cure Period concluded on October 30, 2025. No additional modifications to Annual Report data will be permitted. By December 2, 2025, the Program Administrator will calculate any potential Drawdowns for the annual REC Performance Evaluations and Community Solar Parameters Evaluations. AVs will receive draft notifications from the Program Administrator in advance of formal notice being provided by the contracting utility in early 2026.
 - **IPA Racial Disparity and Availability Study Consultant to Host Informational Meeting** - The IPA has partnered with Griffin & Strong, P.C. to conduct a Racial Disparity and Availability Study to measure the presence and impact of discrimination on minority and women businesses and workers in Illinois’ clean energy economy. On November 19, 2025, at 6 p.m. CPT, Griffin & Strong, P.C. will host an informational meeting via Zoom to further explain the Study’s process, how to get involved, and answer any relevant questions. [Register today](#) or learn more about the Study on the [IPA website](#).
 - **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](#). [This announcement](#) highlights some of the key changes proposed in the filed Plan that impact Illinois Shines. 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 [stakeholder feedback](#), the Plan's Petition, and Appendices on the Agency's [website](#). For more information about the Plan, please visit the [Long-Term Plan](#) page of the IPA website.

- **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](#).
- **Program Administrator to Host Illinois Shines Customer Focus Groups** - Following the Spring 2025 Customer Satisfaction Survey, the Program Administrator is conducting a series of focus groups through November 13, 2025, to gather additional insight from Illinois Shines customers who participated in the survey, including feedback related to the Disclosure Forms, website, and 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](#).

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 temporarily paused enforcement of the two withhold limit from ICC meetings. This pause will be in effect until the Agency determines this pause is no longer necessary.** 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)
11/14/2025	11/18/2025	12/4/2025
12/2/2025	12/4/2025	12/18/2025

- **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. 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	The filed 2026 Long-Term Plan and Redline between the Draft 2026 Plan and Filed 2026 Plan have been shared at the Agency's website .

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