

TCS Scores for Projects Submitted October 31, Subscription Management Portal Feature, February 2026 Consumer Protection Working Group

January 30, 2026

Coming up in Illinois Shines

2026 Program events and due dates can be found at the [Key Dates & Deadlines](#) page.

- **Key Dates**
 - **February 3** - [First EAS Learning Series Webinar](#)
 - **February 6** - Monthly Consumer Protection Working Group
- **Deadlines**
 - **January 30** - Election Deadline - Project Re-Batch or Withdrawal (for February 17, 2026, ICC Meeting)

Stakeholder Support

- **Program Administrator Office Hours** – February 4, 2026, 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 two weeks, and the schedule is available on the Program website's [Key Dates and Deadlines](#) page.
- **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.
 - **Sufficient Documentation for Battery Schematics** - If a system contains a battery, a battery schematic diagram must be included when submitting the Part II application. The detailed schematic must show that either only solar-generated power can be used to charge the battery, the battery's output does not run through the meter used to measure solar output, or that a password-protected software setting is enabled for the duration of the project's participation in the Program that prevents the battery from charging via line power. Three common errors that create *Need Info* requests during schematic review include:
 - Missing or low-resolution documentation.
 - Misaligned customer information. While customer information is not required on battery schematics, if a customer's information is listed, the name(s) and address should align with the customer details on the project's Part I application.
 - Inconsistent system size. If the system size(s) are present on a battery schematic it must match what's submitted in the Part II application.

Please review Section 4.L "Systems with Batteries" in the [Program Guidebook](#) for a comprehensive list of guidelines.

Program News

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

- **New! TCS Scores for Projects Submitted October 31** - Following the Program Re-Opening, on October 31, 2025, capacity for the 2025-26 Program Year was expanded and allocated for the Traditional Community Solar category. Following the application window closure, and completion of the Application Review and

Scoring periods, [scores](#) for projects submitted October 31, 2025, were posted on the [Traditional Community Solar hub](#) page of the Program website. Next steps include:

- **Scores published** – AVs wishing to appeal their project score will have two weeks from the receipt of scores to submit an appeal to the Program Administrator (January 27 – February 10)
- **Appeal determinations released to AVs** – Any changes to scores will be published to the Program website (February 24)
- **Final scores and project selection published** – (February 27)

Full details on the schedule for application review and scoring were shared in [this announcement](#).

- **New! Subscription Management Portal Feature** - The Program Administrator continues development of the Community Solar Subscription Management Feature for the Program Portal, which is slated for a March 2026 launch. This new feature will replace the current manual workbook process in SharePoint and will allow for improved subscriber data quality and the centralization of access. The new feature will give Approved Vendors (“AVs”) and Designees the ability to view and manage subscriptions, view unsubscribed Disclosure Forms, and import and export subscription data. Additionally, AVs will have the ability to manage project permissions and assign Designees to view/manage community solar projects. The development and timeline of this new feature is outlined below:

- **Mid-January: AV Testing Session (Core Functionality)**
 - The Program Administrator invited AVs and Designees, who participated in the 2025 AV/Designee Subscriber Management Working Group, to participate in a live demo and testing session, where AVs and Designees had the opportunity to provide feedback on the new feature.
- **February: Feature Enhancement Development**
 - The Program Administrator will review the feedback from the AV Testing Session of the core functionality and consider potential enhancements to the Portal feature before official launch.
- **Mid-February: Final Subscriber Data Import**
 - The Program Administrator will import current subscriber data into the Portal that passes all required data validation checks. Any subscription rows that do not pass required data validation checks will not be imported. The Program Administrator will communicate to AVs and Designees that have impacted records to explain the data issues and how the AV can resolve the issues by updating the subscriber data and importing the data after official feature launch.
- **Late-February: Subscriber Management Live Webinar**
 - The Program will host a live webinar on February 26, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. CPT. The webinar will provide a live demo, recorded reference resource, and detail the feature’s development, benefits, and upcoming changes to subscriber data management processes.
- **March: Official launch of the Community Solar Subscription Management Feature.**
 - Feature goes live in Portal. SharePoint-based process is retired.
- **Post-Launch: Outstanding action items must be completed by AVs.**

The Illinois Shines Program Administrator will be reaching out soon to Community Solar AVs to complete required launch activities.

- **New! February 2026 Consumer Protection Working Group** - The Agency and the Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All Program Administrators will host the next Consumer Protection Working Group meeting on February 6, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. CPT. The Working Group’s meeting agendas, Zoom links, and a participation interest form can be found on the [Consumer Protection Working Group](#) page on the Program website.

- **New! New “Assignment of Product Order(s) or Entire REC Contracts” Help Guide** - The Illinois Shines REC contract governs assignments. As explained in the REC contract, as well as Section 6 of the [Program Guidebook](#), assignments may be subject to fees and may in certain circumstances require the Buyer’s consent to be enacted. A new [Assignment of Product Order\(s\) or Entire REC Contracts](#) help guide details changes in

the process and steps for assignment, and is available at [Help Guides and Application Tips](#) page on the Program website. If you have any questions, please contact the Program Administrator at admin@illinoishines.com.

- **New! Part II Verification Cut Off for February** - The last Part II Verification date for February will be February 23, 2026. Applications that were Part II verified on or before February 23, 2026, will be included in the March invoicing period. Application processing will continue throughout the last week of the month and any applications that are reviewed between February 24 and February 28, 2026, will be invoiced in April 2026. Part II Verification Cut Off dates for each month have been added to the [Key Dates and Deadlines](#) page on the Program website.

- **New! IPA, ICC, and IEPA Resource Adequacy Study Mitigation Plan Workshop** - In response to the directive in Section 9.15(o) of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (“IEPA”) Act, the Illinois Power Agency (“IPA”), Illinois Commerce Commission (“ICC”), and IEPA issued the Resource Adequacy Study Report on December 15, 2025, detailing an overview of the state of the Illinois energy market, explaining the evolution of that market as a participant in the broader Regional Transmission Organization markets, and evaluating the risk of reliability shortfall across various drivers, market conditions, and related factors. The [executive summary](#), [final report](#), [data](#), and [appendices](#) are available at the [Resource Adequacy Study](#) page on the IPA website.

- On January 27, 2026, the IPA, ICC, and IEPA hosted a stakeholder workshop on the Resource Adequacy Study Mitigation Plan. A [recording](#) of the workshop, and the [presentation](#) used, can be found on the [Agency website](#). The IPA and IEPA are interested in obtaining additional stakeholder feedback to inform the Mitigation Plan modeling and analysis. Stakeholders are encouraged to respond to both the ICC Request for Comments and the series of IPA and IEPA questions referenced in the [full announcement](#) on the IPA website. Stakeholder responses are due to the IPA on Monday, February 16, 2026, by 5:00 p.m. CT.
- Additionally, the ICC has announced an upcoming Integrated Resource Plan (“IRP”) workshop and issued a Request for Comments seeking stakeholder feedback on a series of questions to inform the IRP process. The workshop will be held on February 18, 2026, with the question set having already been issued and responses due February 9, 2026. Full details surrounding the workshop and questions can be found on the ICC’s [IRP page](#).

Stakeholders are encouraged to [subscribe to the Resource Adequacy Study email distribution list](#) to receive regular updates.

- **New! New to the Program Website** - The following key additions to the [Program website](#) have been shared:
 - New [Assignment of Product Order\(s\) or Entire REC Contracts](#) Help Guide ([Vendor FAQ](#) page)
- **Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act** - On October 31st, 2025, the Illinois General Assembly passed the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act (“CRGA”). The bill was signed into law as [Public Act 104-0458](#) by Governor J.B. Pritzker on January 8th, 2026, and is set to take effect on June 1, 2026. CRGA is a comprehensive energy bill addressing a wide range of energy issues facing the State. The Act has many provisions that directly affect Illinois Shines, including, but not limited to:
 - Changes to Community Solar provisions, including a project labor agreement requirement for applications over 3MW.
 - Change in REC contract structure for Small Distributed Generation and Public Schools Distributed Generation projects.
 - Minimum Equity Standard requirements for Equity Eligible Contractors.
 - New co-location and consumer protection requirements.

Additional information about CRGA implementation will be released in the coming months.

- **45-Day CDSC Application Window Now Open** - [As previously announced](#), as a result of the Modified 2024 Long-Term Plan, the Program opened an additional 45-day Community-Driven Community Solar (“CDSC”) application window on January 16, 2026. The application submission deadline for the CDSC 45-day window is March 2, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CPT. Applications will not be accepted after the close of the 45-day window. Any project that is submitted during the 45-day application window, and qualifies for the waitlist, will be placed behind projects submitted during the initial 90-day application window, regardless of score. For the 90-day CDSC application window, final scores and random selection event results are located on the Program [website](#).
- **Call for Stakeholder Input for New IPA Resources** - The IPA seeks help to continue building its resource library. Illinois Shines recently published the Homeowner Handouts [Buying a Home That Has an Illinois Shines Solar Project](#) and [Selling Your Home That Has an Illinois Shines Solar Project](#) in both English and [Spanish](#). In continuation of this series, the Program hopes to publish handouts for real estate agents to ensure they are prepared to support current and potential solar customers. The Program is conducting brief surveys for [AVs](#) and [Designees](#) to support the buildout of these resources. Stakeholder expertise will directly inform the design of these resources, to ensure they respond effectively to real-world needs. All responses will remain anonymous; the IPA may share anonymized, summary-level insights with companies participating in Illinois Shines and the general public. **The surveys close February 6, 2026**. For any questions, please contact IPA.Solar@illinois.gov.
- **New EAS Learning Series** - Please join us in a new opportunity to equip vendors with resources and support to meet and exceed equity requirements within the Illinois Shines Program. The first webinar in the new Illinois Shines Equity Accountability System (“EAS”) Learning Series will highlight effective strategies for Recruitment and Retention of EEPs. This is a great conversation for leaders who are looking to scale workforce to meet increasing MES requirements, and scale organizations to meet the needs of diverse workforce! *Advancing Equity Through Inclusive Recruitment and Retention of EEPs*, will take place on [Tuesday, February 3, 2026](#), at 12:00 p.m. CPT. Please register with [this link](#). For questions, please contact the Program Administrator at admin@illinoishines.com.

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)
2/17/2026	2/19/2026	3/5/2026
3/3/2026	3/5/2026	3/19/2026

- **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 at IllinoisShines.com/Portal-Updates.



- **Application Processing Tables and Updates** - 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 using the [Project Look Up Tool](#).

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