Illinois Shines | IPA ILLINOIS POWER AGENCY

Upcoming 45-Day CDCS Application Window Close, Subscriber Management Webinar and Launch, March 2026 Consumer Protection Working Group

February 27, 2026

Coming up in Illinois Shines

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

- Key Dates
  - March 6 – [Consumer Protection Working Group](#)
- Deadlines

  - March 2 – 45-Day CDCS Application Window Closes

  - March 3 – Re-Batching Opens for AVs (for March 19, 2026, ICC Meeting)

  - March 5 – Election Deadline - Project Re-Batch or Withdrawal (for March 19, 2026, ICC Meeting)

  - March 6 – Updated close date of [AV/Designee Program Satisfaction Survey](#)

Stakeholder Support

- **Program Administrator Office Hours** – March 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. **In support of the Subscriber Management Portal Feature launch, Office Hours will be held every Wednesday in March 2026**. 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.

  - **Cure Texts Indicating Cure of Current *Need Info* Requests.** During the *Need Info* request resolution process, an AV may receive an email notification stating "We confirm the current *Need Info* request(s) have been cured. We will let you know if we need anything further." This is confirmation that *current* requests have been cured. However, quality assurance checks may uncover additional requests. In these cases, the existing *Need Info* request thread will be re-opened to address additional requests. Please continue to read emails from the Program Administrator in the email chain, even if your original requests were resolved.

Program News

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

- New! **Reminder: 45-Day CDCS Application Window Closes March 2, 2026** – As [previously announced](#), as a result of the Modified 2024 Long-Term Plan, the Program opened an additional 45-day Community-Driven Community Solar ("CDCS") application window on January 16, 2026. **The application submission deadline for the CDCS 45-day window is this upcoming Monday, March 2, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CPT.** Applications are not 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 CDCS application window, final scores and random selection event results can be found on the Program [website](#).

- **New!** **Subscriber Management Portal Feature Action Items, Webinar, and Launch** – The CS Subscriber Management Feature for the Program Portal has a planned March 2026 launch. The feature will replace the current manual workbook process in SharePoint and allow for improved subscriber data quality, the centralization of access, and give AVs and Designees the ability to view and manage subscriptions, view unsubscribed Disclosure Forms, and import and export subscription data. AVs will be able to manage project permissions and assign Designees to view/manage CS projects. To support the transition, CS AVs will be required to complete several action items prior to and after launch, which are detailed in a new section of the [Portal Updates](#) page, alongside resources and a full timeline. Additional information on these action items was sent to AVs last week. On February 26, 2026, the Program held an educational webinar on the new feature, and a [recording of the webinar](#), the [presentation slides](#), the [demo video](#), and a [Subscriber Management Portal Feature Training Guide](#) are available at the [Program Year Webinars](#) page. Q&A will soon be added.

- **New!** **March 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 March 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!** **AV/Designee Program Satisfaction Survey Close Extended Until March 6** – On February 2, 2026, the Program Administrator opened the *[2025-26 Approved Vendor and Designee Program Satisfaction Survey](#)* to gauge the satisfaction of AVs and Designees participating in the Program. All participating AVs and Designees are encouraged to complete the survey and multiple respondents per company are accepted. **The deadline for survey completion has been extended to March 6, 2026.** The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete, and all responses will remain anonymous. Survey results will be reported to the IPA and published in a [summary report of the survey results,](#) including next steps to address identified concerns and opportunities. To view past reports, please visit the [About](#) page on the Program website.

- **New!** **New to the Program Website** - The following key additions to the [Program website](#) have been shared:
  - Subscriber Management [webinar recording](#), [presentation slides](#), [demo video](#), and [Subscriber Management Portal Feature Training Guide](#) ([Program Year Webinars](#) page).
  - Updated [Collateral and Performance Assurance](#) Help Guide ([Program Help Guides](#) page).
  - Updated [20 Year REC Delivery Contract](#) Help Guide ([Program Help Guides](#) page).

- **ICC Issues Final Order Approving 2026 Long-Term Plan** – On February 17, 2026, the ICC issued its [Final Order](#) approving the IPA's 2026 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan. The IPA has 60 days from the date of the Order to publish a final Long-Term Plan that conforms to the ICC's Final Order. Additionally, the Agency will submit a compliance filing on June 1, 2026, updating the 2026 Long-Term Plan as necessary to remain consistent with changes contained within P.A. 104-0458, marking the conclusion of this bi-annual process. The Plan details the goals and strategies for the IPA's renewable energy programs and procurements. Stakeholders can access the filed 2026 Long-Term Plan and Redline between the Draft 2026 Long-Term Plan and filed 2026 Long-Term Plan on the [Program Documents](#) page of the Program website. Final versions of the Plan will be added when they become available. For more information, please visit the [Long-Term Plan](#) page on the IPA website.

- **IPA Releases 2025 FY Annual Report** – On February 17, 2026, the IPA released its Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report. This report meets statutorily mandated reporting requirements, includes an overview of clean energy development progress from the past year, and details the Agency's activities, strategic initiatives, notable events, and key accomplishments from FY 25 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025), as well as key developments occurring in the first half of FY 26. Complete with in-depth data visualizations and statistics, the report allows readers to take a deep dive into the Agency's work surrounding electricity procurements, carbon mitigation

credits, renewable energy development, and equity. [Read the Full Report](#) or [view a one-page summary](#) of the Agency's key highlights and Program impact across FY 25 and beyond.

- **Part I Small DG Application Processing Update** – Following a spike in submission of Small DG project applications, 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](#).

- **October 31 TCS Final Scores and Project Selection** - Following the Program Re-Opening, on October 31, 2025, capacity for the 2025-26 Program Year was expanded and allocated for the TCS 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. The published scores are final, and projects will be selected from highest to lowest score until the block capacity is filled. There are no tied scores, so a random selection event is not necessary to break any tied scores and order the waitlist. Full details on the schedule for application review and scoring were shared in [this announcement](#).

- **Illinois Solar Workforce Study Call for Study Participants** – The Climate Jobs Institute at the University of Illinois is conducting a [statewide study](#) to better understand working conditions and job quality in Illinois' solar industry. Current or former solar workers (especially installation and sales representatives), contractors, and business owners are invited to participate in one or both of:

  - [A 15–20-minute online survey](#) – participants will receive a $15 gift card incentive

  - [A 1-hour virtual or in-person interview](#) – participants will receive a $60 gift card incentive

  Participation is voluntary and confidential. Interviews and surveys can be completed in English or Spanish. The findings will help shape state workforce development and inform clean energy policies.

- **CDCS Case Study Now Available** – Through its case study series, the Program is sharing real-world examples of successful projects participating in Illinois Shines that are achieving important financial and environmental benefits for their communities. The Program's [newest case study](#) spotlights Rock Cut Solar, a Community-Driven Community Solar project in Rockford, Illinois. The study offers insights for project developers, policymakers, and community leaders interested in advancing Community Solar in Illinois, highlighting how the project's AV addressed community questions, built trust, and designed a project reflecting local priorities. To read this, and past case studies, please visit the [About](#) page on the Program 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)
3/3/2026	3/5/2026	3/19/2026
3/17/2026	3/19/2026	4/2/2026

- **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.