

CP Documents Stakeholder Feedback Request, 2025 Annual Complaints Report Filed, Community Solar Subscriber Management Feature Launched

March 6, 2026

Coming up in Illinois Shines

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

- **Key Dates**
 - **March 30 - 31** – Program Pause and Partial Portal Availability – see [Program Calendar](#) for details
- **Deadlines**
 - **March 6** – Updated Close Date of [AV/Designee Program Satisfaction Survey](#)
 - **March 17** – Re-Batching Opens for AVs (for April 2, 2026, ICC Meeting)
 - **March 19** – Election Deadline - Project Re-Batch or Withdrawal (for April 2, 2026, ICC Meeting)
 - **March 25** – Part II Verification for March

Stakeholder Support

- **Program Administrator Office Hours** – March 11, 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://energy-solution.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.

Program News

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

- **New!** **IPA Requests Stakeholder Feedback on Consumer Protection Documents** – [As previously announced](#), the Agency and Program Administrators are requesting stakeholder feedback on proposed changes to the Consumer Protection Handbook, Contract Requirements, and the Stranded Customer REC Adder documents. The Agency and Program Administrators request feedback on all aspects of the proposals. **Please provide comments via email attachment to IPA.Solar@illinois.gov with the subject “[Responder’s Name] – Stakeholder Feedback on CP Documents” by March 20, 2026.** All documents are available in the Consumer Protection section of the [Program Documents](#) and [Stakeholder Feedback](#) pages on the Program website.
- **New!** **IPA Files 2025 Consumer Complaints & Disciplinary Actions Annual Report** – On February 27, 2027, the IPA filed the [2025 Consumer Complaints & Disciplinary Actions Annual Report](#) to the ICC in [Docket No. 25-0945](#). Under the Long-Term Plan, the Agency is required to file this report annually with the ICC to document the frequency and nature of complaints related to both Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All. The report details the complaint and disciplinary action process and enforcement actions taken by the respective Program Administrators related to consumer complaints. The report also highlights trends in 2025 complaints and how these differ from trends in prior years, complaint examples, suspension summaries, and other consumer complaint data analysis.

- **New! Subscriber Management Portal Feature Launched March 4** – The CS Subscriber Management Feature for the Program Portal successfully launched March 4, 2026. The feature replaced the current manual workbook process in SharePoint and allows for improved subscriber data quality, the centralization of access, and gives AVs and Designees the ability to view and manage subscriptions, view unsubscribed Disclosure Forms, and import and export subscription data. AVs can also manage project permissions and assign Designees to view/manage CS projects. To support the transition, CS AVs are required to complete several action items, which are detailed in a new section of the [Portal Updates](#) page, alongside resources and a full timeline. On February 26, 2026, the Program held an educational webinar on the new feature. A [recording of the webinar](#), [presentation slides](#), [demo video](#), [Q&A](#), and a [Subscriber Management Portal Feature Training Guide](#) are available at the [Program Year Webinars](#) page.
- **New! New Solar for Schools Webpage** – Illinois Shines launched a new [webpage](#) designed to help public school administrators, facilities staff, and district leaders better understand how solar projects can reduce long-term energy costs, and support sustainability goals and student learning. The webpage outlines key considerations, sector-specific resources, and a step-by-step guide for exploring on-site solar or Community Solar subscriptions for public schools in Illinois. Schools interested in learning more can visit the new Solar for Schools page on the Program website.
- **New! Traditional Community Solar Case Study Now Available** – Through its case study series, the Program showcases successful projects participating in Illinois Shines that are achieving important financial and environmental benefits for their communities. The Program’s [newest case study](#) spotlights Walldog Solar, a Traditional Community Solar project in Pontiac, Illinois, that’s using agrivoltaics and a pollinator-friendly habitat to deliver clean solar power, while ensuring that the land can return to 100% agricultural production at the end of this project’s lifecycle. This Illinois Shines case study details the economic and equity opportunities that solar projects can deliver, including how the developer engaged EECs in project construction, which provided a significant economic boost to local laborers and the community. To read this and other case studies, please visit the [About](#) page on the Program website.
- **New! Part II Verification Cut Off for March** – The last Part II Verification date for March will be March 25, 2026. Applications that were Part II verified on or before March 25, 2026, will be included in the April invoicing period. Application processing will continue throughout the last week of the month and any applications that are reviewed between March 26 and March 31, 2026, will be invoiced in May 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! March REC Invoicing Open** – REC invoices and Quarterly Netting Statements were made available for download from AV SharePoint folders on March 1, 2026. Invoices must be submitted to the utility by March 10, 2026, to receive payment for the March invoice period. Any invoice amounts not submitted to the utility by March 10, 2026, will be carried forward and included in the April 2026 invoice period.
- **New! IPA Joins DCEO in Virtual Event for Small & Emerging Businesses** – The IPA will join the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) in a [virtual event designed for small and emerging businesses](#) interested in participating in Illinois' clean energy sector. This session is geared toward subcontractors, general contractors, developers, municipalities, economic development professionals, and others seeking to engage in clean energy projects across the state. DCEO’s [Office of Energy and Business Utility](#)’s Deputy Director, Hilary Scott-Ogunrinde, and the IPA’s DEI Bureau Chief, Tanvi Shah, and DEI Partnerships Manager, Esther Kim, will share more about the Equitable Energy Future Grant Program, the Community Solar Energy Sovereignty Grant Program, and various agencies that oversee programs under the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, including equity focused initiatives and pathways for businesses and communities to participate in solar incentive programs administered by the IPA. The webinar will take place on March 12th, from 12 –1 PM CPT. [Register here](#).
- **New! New to the Program Website** – The following key additions to the [Program website](#) have been shared:

- Draft 2026-27 Consumer Protection Handbook Materials for Stakeholder Feedback (Released March 4, 2026, Feedback Due March 20, 2026) ([Program Documents](#) page)
- [Solar for Schools](#) page (Program Website)
- [Updated Project Guidebook](#) ([Solar for Schools](#) page)
- [2025 Consumer Complaints & Disciplinary Actions Annual Report](#) ([Annual Complaints Reports](#) page)
- [Subscriber Management Q&A](#) ([Program Year Webinars](#) page)
- **AV/Designee Program Satisfaction Survey Closes Today** – 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 was extended to today, 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.
- **45-Day CDCS Application Window Closed March 2** – As [previously announced](#), as a result of the Modified 2024 Long-Term Plan, the Program opened an additional 45-day CDCS application window on January 16, 2026. The application submission deadline for the 45-day window was Monday, March 2, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CPT. **Applications are no longer being accepted.** Any project submitted during the 45-day application window that qualifies for the waitlist will be placed behind projects submitted during the initial 90-day application window, regardless of score. Details of the review and scoring process can be found in [this announcement](#). For the 90-day CDCS application window, final scores and random selection event results can be found on the Program [website](#).
- **March 2026 Consumer Protection Working Group** – The Agency and the Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All Program Administrators hosted a Consumer Protection Working Group meeting on March 6, 2026. The Working Group’s agenda and meeting minutes can be found on the [Consumer Protection Working Group](#) page on the Program website.
- **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.
- **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.

Reference and Reminders

- **Request for Stakeholder Feedback** – This table outlines current and forthcoming proposals and feedback requests. Details on previous proposals and feedback requests can be found at the [Program website](#).

Proposal or Feedback Topic and Link to Details	Request for Comment Release	Deadline for Comment	Results or Updates to Request
Consumer Protection Documents	3/19/2026	3/20/2026	

- **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)
3/17/2026	3/19/2026	4/2/2026
3/24/2026	3/26/2026	4/9/2026

- **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](#).

Development Focus	Details	Planned or Actual Delivery
Enhancement		
Launched Community Solar Subscriber Management Portal Feature	The feature replaces the manual workbook process in SharePoint and allows for improved subscriber data quality, the centralization of access, and gives AVs and Designees the ability to view and manage subscriptions, view unsubscribed Disclosure Forms, and import and export subscription data. AVs can also manage project permissions and assign Designees to view/manage CS projects.	March 4, 2026

- **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](#).
 - **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.

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