

# Limited Exception to Production Reporting Requirement, New Energization Extension Request Process, Partial Portal Closure May 26 – June 1

May 15, 2026

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## Coming up in Illinois Shines

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

- **Key Dates**
  - **May 21** – Welcome to the Program Year Webinar
  - **May 26 – June 1** – Partial Portal Closure
  - **May 31** – REC Transfer Deadline for 2025-26 delivery year
- **Deadlines**
  - **May 18** – Re-Batching Opens for AVs (For May 29, 2026, ICC Meeting)
  - **May 20** – Election Deadline – Project Re-Batch or Withdrawal (For May 29, 2026, ICC Meeting)

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## Stakeholder Support

- **Program Administrator Office Hours** – May 20, 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>. The schedule is available at the [Key Dates and Deadlines](#) page.
- **Application Tips and Tricks** – The Program Administrator publishes [Application Tips and Tricks](#) to help support stakeholders avoid Need Info requests that delay application review and approval. See this week's tip: [Applications Noting Microinverters or "N/A" in Place of the Solar Production Meter Will Face Need Info Request Delays](#).

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## Program News

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

- **New! Limited Exception to Production Reporting Requirement Due to Cessation of SDSI Operations** – [As previously announced](#), Solar Data Systems Incorporated (SDSI), which provided ANSI C.12 meters and electronic data reporting services for some Illinois Shines projects, has ceased operations. Though SDSI meters will still function, auto-reporting of production data is no longer supported as of April 30, 2026. In this limited circumstance, affected projects capable of remotely communicating meter readings from a non-ANSI C.12 certified meter (e.g. through the inverter) may report that production in preparation of the May 31, 2026 REC Transfer deadline for the 2025-26 delivery year. If it is not possible to obtain a remote meter reading, AVs should work with the customer to report meter readings from the SDSI meter via photograph. Moving forward, AVs with affected projects must be prepared to either (a) work with the customer to install a meter that meets the ANSI C.12 standard and reports remotely or (b) have the customer report readings from the SDSI meter via photograph to remain in Program compliance.
- **New! New Energization Extension Request Process for PY 2026-27** – [As previously announced](#), the IPA is rolling out a new, streamlined Illinois Shines Energization Extension Request Form for the 2026-27 Program Year that will replace the existing Energization Extension Request process. This form will provide AVs a single

entry-point for all Extension Request submissions and will automatically notify necessary stakeholders upon submission. The form will be shared with AVs via email and go live June 1, 2026; AVs should continue to use the existing process until then. The IPA will provide a 1-month adjustment period, in which it will accept email submitted extension requests. Starting July 1, 2026, the IPA expects all Extension Requests to be made through the Extension Request Form and will not accept requests made via email. The Program will additionally publish a guide to Extension Requests and updated FAQs on the subject and will offer dedicated support during office hours throughout the month of June. For any questions, please reach out to [IPA.Solar@illinois.gov](mailto:IPA.Solar@illinois.gov).

- **New! Partial Portal Closure and Project Application Unavailability May 26 – June 1, 2026** – [As previously shared](#), the Illinois Shines 2025–26 Program Year will close on the evening of Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. CPT. At that time, the ability for AVs to create, revise, submit, and batch project applications will be paused within the Portal until the launch of the 2026–27 Program Year on June 1, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. CPT. Please see the above linked announcement for full details.
  - All Disclosure Form functionality, including the ability to create and submit Disclosure Forms and obtain signatures, will be available during the pause between Program Years.
  - All Community Solar Subscription Management functionality, including the ability to create, edit, and terminate subscriptions will be available during the pause between Program Years.
  - Access to project applications and batches will be unavailable in the Illinois Shines Portal from 5:00 p.m. CPT on May 26, 2026, through 8:00 a.m. CPT on June 1, 2026.
  - Project data may be exported from the Application Dashboard prior to the pause. To export data, navigate to “Menu: Vendor” → “Project Applications” → “View”. Then apply your preferred Search Filters in the column headings. When you’re ready to export, select the “Export Project Data” button at the top of the page.
- **New! Approved Vendor Application Review Timeline** – The Program works to review and approve new Approved Vendor applications within a 4-6 week timeline. Due to a large recent influx of AV applications, review times are temporarily running slightly longer in some cases. The Program appreciates stakeholder patience as we work to return to typical review timelines.
- **New! New to the Program Website** – Key additions to the [Program website](#):
  - [May Illinois Shines Data Report](#) ([Illinois Shines Data Report](#) page)
  - Updated [English](#) and [Spanish](#) Distributed Generation Brochure and Updated [English](#) and [Spanish](#) Solar Loan Financing Homeowner Handout ([Program Brochures & Other Resources](#) page)
  - [REC Payment Calculator for 2026-27 REC Prices](#) ([Program Documents](#) page)
- **May 31, 2026, REC Transfer Deadline** – In preparation for the close of the 2025-26 delivery year and the upcoming Annual Report, the Program Administrator reminds AVs that all REC transfers must be completed by 11:59 p.m. CPT on May 31, 2026. RECs will be counted toward the 2025-26 Annual Report based on the date that their transfer is complete, NOT the day that their transfer is initiated or when they are generated. Ensuring REC transfers are complete will help minimize potential Drawdowns on posted collateral.
- **Updated! Annual Report Process Launch** – The Annual Report provides the basis for verifying that RECs from projects are being delivered to the applicable utility. Failure to file an Annual Report by the deadline may jeopardize an AV’s standing in the Program. The submission window will open on July 1, 2026, with deadlines of July 15, 2026, for AVs who have not signed the REC Contract Amendment, and August 3, 2026, for those who have signed it. In preparation for the upcoming Annual Report, semiannual subscriber verification process, and Quarterly Report process, the Program Administrator requires all AVs and Designees with Energized (Part II Verified) CS projects to ensure all Program subscriber records are up to date. **Updated subscriber data is due for all projects by 11:59 p.m. CPT on June 10, 2026.** The Program emailed AVs key information, deadlines, and forthcoming resources AVs can expect in the coming months. To ensure AVs and

their teams have access to necessary documents in advance of the Annual Report Response Period, the Program Administrator will contact each AV individually and indicate who has access to their SharePoint folder, allowing for permission removals and additions. The Program Administrator has created the following resources in support of this process:

- [Annual Report and REC Performance Evaluation Walkthrough](#)
  - [Community Solar Parameters Evaluation Walkthrough](#)
  - [REC Performance Calculation Evaluation Walkthrough](#)
- **Small DG Category Changes** – As noted in the [January 16, 2026, Program announcement](#), and the announcements regarding the [2026 REC Delivery Contracts](#) and [Program Year 2026-27 Program Guidebook](#), several Small DG category changes will be introduced in Program Year 2026-27, effective June 1, 2026, including:
    - New Payment Schedule:
      - As a result of the passage of the CRGA, Small DG projects will receive 50% payment at Energization with the remainder paid ratably over the subsequent 6 years, instead of receiving 100% payment at Energization. Applications that are not Part I Verified by May 14, 2026, will receive the 2026 REC contract and new payment schedule.
    - Small DG customer-owned REC Adder:
      - To alleviate the known challenge of the loss of the Federal Investment Tax Credit for Small DG customer-owned projects, a \$20/REC adder for customer-owned Small DG projects will be available during the 2026-27 Program Year. This adder is also available for EEC DG customer-owned projects sized 25 kW and under.
      - Relevant updates will be made to Disclosure Forms and applications to include this field. If an application was started and not batched by June 1, 2026, AVs will be able to add the REC adder to the application on customer-owned systems.
- **EEC Subcategory Merging Complete** – [As previously mentioned](#), and as provided for in the [2024 Long-Term Plan](#), the Program opened the EEC subcategory capacity to the entire category on May 1, 2026, and will reallocate any uncontracted capacity in the category at the close of the Program Year. The Program has updated the [Block Capacity Dashboard](#) page to reflect this update. Regarding applicable waitlists, the Program will first review CS projects in the order in which batches are received. Project applications received on or after May 1, 2026, will be added to the current waitlists in the order in which they are received.
- **Updated Circumstances Requiring New Disclosure Form Issuance and Signature Resource** – The Program has updated guidance on when a new Disclosure Form is required to reflect upcoming Program changes related to the new Small DG Customer-Owned REC Adder and ability for Community Solar providers to adjust subscribers' subscription sizes to meet changing needs (if their subscription agreements allow). The updated [Circumstances Requiring New Disclosure Form Issuance and Signature](#) resource was added to the [Consumer Protection Requirements & Resources](#) page of the Program website; the above noted changes take effect June 1, 2026.
- **Draft 2026 REC Delivery Contracts Public Comments Posted** – [As previously announced](#), the IPA issued a [Request for Stakeholder Comments](#) on the draft 2026 [15-Year](#) and [20-Year REC Delivery Contracts](#) on April 17, 2026, with a May 1, 2026, deadline. Public comments received have been added to the [Stakeholder Feedback](#) page of the Program website. The final versions of the 2026 REC Contracts will be posted on June 1, 2026. As specified in Section 6.B of the [draft 2026-27 Program Guidebook](#), the new 2026 REC Contract will be used for all applications approved by the ICC starting June 1, 2026, regardless of application submission date.
- **CDCS 45-Day Application Window Random Selection Event Held** – [As previously shared](#), following the additional 45-day CDCS application window the Program held a Random Selection Event on April 29,

2026, to break ties between projects that received the same scores. Projects selected in the Random Selection Event for the 2025-26 Program Year will be submitted to the May 21 and May 29, 2026, ICC meetings for approval for 2024 REC Contracts. Waitlisted projects will be eligible for new capacity during the 2026-27 Program Year, beginning June 1, 2026, and subject to 2026-27 REC pricing and the 2026 REC Delivery Contracts. The [resulting spreadsheet](#) detailing Group A and Group B project awards and waitlists for each group has been added to the [CDCS](#) page on the Program website. A [recording of the event](#) and the [presentation slides](#) are available on the [Webinars](#) page of the Program website.

- **Part II Verification Cut Off for May** – The last Part II Verification date for **May is one week away, on May 22, 2026**. Applications that are Part II verified on or before May 22, 2026, will be included in the June invoicing period. Application processing will continue throughout the last week of the month and any applications that are reviewed between May 23 and May 31, 2026, will be invoiced in July 2026. Part II Verification Cut Off dates for each month have been added to the [Key Dates and Deadlines](#) page on the Program website.

## Reference and Reminders

- **Re-Batching for ICC Meetings** – AVs must indicate any requests to withdraw or withhold projects from ICC submission during a 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 June 1, 2026.** 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)
5/18/2026	5/20/2026	5/29/2026
6/29/2026	7/1/2026	7/16/2026

- **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](https://IllinoisShines.com/Portal-Updates).
- **Application Processing Tables and Updates** – Application processing tables are maintained [here](#). These tables are updated daily. 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](#) on the Program website. For questions about specific project applications, please contact the Program Administrator at [admin@IllinoisShines.com](mailto:admin@IllinoisShines.com).

## Other Opportunities

- **New! ComEd Incubator Program Applications Open** – The ComEd Incubator Program is designed to increase revenue for diverse contractors and positively impact local economic development by offering training on ComEd’s Energy Efficiency Program portfolio so businesses can become experts in energy efficiency and are eligible to join the ComEd Energy Efficiency Service Provider network. The free training provides one-on-one assistance with certification applications, support developing business growth plans, access to project financing resources, and networking opportunities in the energy efficiency field. Ideal Candidates would be licensed and insured contractors in business for at least two years. Registration closes June 5. [Register and learn more here](#).

- **Request for Feedback on the Clean Jobs Curriculum Framework** – The Clean Jobs Curriculum Framework within CEJA guides workforce training statewide. The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is now updating this Framework to match current employer demands and make it more practical for grantees and partners. DCEO is seeking feedback from employers, industry associations, grantees, education boards, labor groups, organizations, and community stakeholders to help revise the Curriculum Framework before its adoption and release. All information provided by respondents will be made publicly accessible and may be utilized by DCEO to update the Curriculum Framework. Please submit your feedback through [this form](#) by May 31, 2026.
- **Revolution Workshop Chicago Contractor Open House** – Revolution Workshop will host a Contractor Open House at their East Garfield Park location on May 29, 2026, from 8:00 – 11:00 a.m., for contractors who may be looking to hire entry level talent for trade, warehouse, driver, project engineer, CAD design tech, project coordinator, and other positions. EECs are encouraged to attend, network with construction partners, and explore workforce and partnership opportunities. [Register and learn more here.](#)
- **East St. Louis Ameren MDI Solar Job Fair** – Ameren MDI and ISEA will host a solar job fair at the Jackie Joyner Kersee Center in East St. Louis on May 29, 2026, between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. IPA and Illinois Shines staff will be in attendance to present on Illinois’ solar incentive programs, the IPA’s equity portal, and EEP registration. Community residents, CEJA Job Hub cohort graduates, solar companies, and unions are encouraged to attend. [Register and learn more here.](#)

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**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.

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