

CDCS Random Selection Event Held, Stakeholder Feedback for Draft REC Contracts Due Today, Annual Report Process Launch

May 1, 2026

Coming up in Illinois Shines

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

- **Key Dates**
 - **May 1** – EEC Subcategory Merging
 - **May 13** – Spring 2026 EEC Roundtable
- **Deadlines**
 - **May 1** – Draft 2026 REC Delivery Contracts – Stakeholder Feedback Deadline
 - **May 5** – Re-Batching Opens for AVs (For May 21, 2026, ICC Meeting)
 - **May 7** – Election Deadline – Project Re-Batch or Withdrawal (For May 21, 2026, ICC Meeting)

Stakeholder Support

- **Program Administrator Office Hours** – May 6, 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: [Respond to Need Info Requests Quickly to Maximize the Opportunity for Verification Before May 14 Deadline](#).

Program News

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

- **New! CDCS 45-Day Application Window Random Selection Event Held** – Following the additional 45-day CDCS application window from January 16, 2026, to March 2, 2026, the Program published project [scores](#) on April 15, 2026, and on April 29, 2026, held a Random Selection Event to break ties between projects that received the same scores, as those scores would impact project selection or waitlist placement. 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 REC Contracts. Waitlisted projects that received at least 10 points 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 Program [Webinars](#) page.
- **New! Reminder - Stakeholder Feedback for Draft 2026 REC Delivery Contracts Due Today** – [As previously announced](#), the IPA issued a [Request for Stakeholder Comments](#) on the draft 2026 [15-Year](#) and [20-Year REC Delivery Contracts](#). The draft REC Contracts have changes to conform with the ICC's Final Order on the IPA's 2026 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan, as well as the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act. **Responses are due today, May 1, 2026**, and should be sent to IPA.Solar@illinois.gov with the

subject line “[Stakeholder Name] – 2026 REC Contract Feedback.” Draft REC Delivery Contracts and redline comparisons between current contracts and proposed drafts can be found on 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.

- **New! 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.](#)
- **New! Part II Verification Cut Off for May** – The last Part II Verification date for May will be **May 22, 2026**. Applications that were 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.
- **New! May REC Invoicing Open** – REC invoices and Quarterly Netting Statements were made available for download from AV SharePoint folders on May 1, 2026. Invoices must be submitted to the utility by May 10, 2026, to receive payment for the May invoice period. Any invoice amounts not submitted to the utility by May 10, 2026, will be carried forward and included in the August 2026 invoice period.
- **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.
- **New! New to the Program Website** – Key additions to the [Program website](#):
 - CDCS Random Selection Results ([CDCS](#) page), and [Recording](#) and [Presentation](#) ([Webinars](#) page)
- **Update on Small DG Part I Verification Deadlines, Processing Queue, and ICC Trade Dates** – In response to a high volume of Part I Small DG project applications seeking approval under the 2024 REC Delivery Contract and in an effort to Part I verify as many project applications as possible under the 2024 REC Delivery Contract, the Program Administrator has added additional processing capacity through a combination of increased staff hours, deferring non-essential tasks, and contracting additional employees. The IPA requested and secured ICC approval for a new, additional ICC meeting on May 29, 2026, supported by a shortened, non-standard process schedule. Please see the [full announcement](#) for details. Please note that the new Part I Verification deadline is May 14, 2026.
- **Updated Program Documents for Program Year 2026-27 Released** – [As previously announced](#), the IPA published updated versions of the [Program Year 2026-27 Program Guidebook](#), [Consumer Protection Handbook](#), [DG](#) and [CS](#) Contract Requirements, and updated [Stranded Customer REC Adder Categories](#). The published documents conform with the ICC’s Final Order on the IPA’s 2026 Long-Term Plan, the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act, and other stakeholder feedback processes. These updated documents take effect at the start of the 2026-27 Program Year commencing on June 1, 2026. Program participants are

required to be compliant with requirements outlined in these documents throughout the 2026-27 Program Year and are encouraged to review Program changes. The Agency issued Rationale Documents, outlining its final decisions for the [Program Guidebook](#) and [Consumer Protection documents](#), respectively.

- **EEC Roundtable Interest Form** – The Program is excited to host a virtual Spring EEC Roundtable on May 13, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. CPT. The EEC Roundtable provides an opportunity for EEC participants to learn more about the [MES Combined Compliance and Year-End Report](#), and share questions, feedback, insights on Program challenges, and more. **The EEC Spring Roundtable agenda has been updated to provide EECs an opportunity to share real-time feedback on the definition of the EEC Self-Performance Adder.** To attend, EECs should complete the [2025-26 Spring EEC Roundtable Interest Form](#) by May 6, 2026. The expected time commitment is 60-75 minutes.
- **Updates to Illinois Shines Portal’s Disclosure Form API** – On May 26, 2026, the Program will update the Portal’s Disclosure Form API to comply with 2026-27 Program Year changes. One new, mandatory field will require updates to existing API integrations to prevent rejection of Disclosure Forms submitted through the API. After this update, the previous API version will no longer be available, and all users will be required to comply with the new requirements. The Program expects to make the new version of the API available for stakeholder testing, and provide documentation, in mid-May. Additional information and action steps were sent to AVs and Designees who use the Program Portal’s API to submit Disclosure Forms.
- **Welcome to Program Year 2026-27 Webinar** – The Illinois Shines 2026-27 Program Year will commence on June 1, 2026, and to support stakeholders, the Program will host an informational webinar on upcoming Program Year changes on May 21, 2026, from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CPT. The IPA and its Program Administrator will discuss the 2026 Long-Term Plan, updates to the Program Guidebook and Consumer Protection Handbook, updated REC Contracts, updated DG and CS contract requirements, new REC prices, REC reporting, Portal development, Prevailing Wage, the Equity Accountability System, and other important topics. The webinar will be recorded. All stakeholders are encouraged to attend the webinar, with the following [registration link](#).
- **IPA Racial Disparity and Availability Study Public Hearings, Stakeholder Anecdotal Interviews** – [As previously announced](#), the IPA 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-owned businesses and workers in Illinois’ clean energy economy. Griffin & Strong will host Public Hearing Sessions for the Study on [Wednesday, May 6, 2026](#), and [Thursday, May 7, 2026](#), at 6:00 p.m. CST. Please register for the proper session with the hyperlinks above. On April 22, 2026, [the Program shared](#) that Griffin & Strong will conduct one-on-one interviews with clean energy business owners to better understand their experiences navigating opportunities within the state’s clean energy sector. Program participants, including AVs and Designees, will be randomly selected to participate in interviews and may be contacted via phone and email. The IPA strongly encourages AVs and Designees to kindly respond to inquiries.
- **MES Compliance Webinar Held** – [As previously announced](#), the Program Administrator held an MES Compliance Webinar on April 15, 2026, to provide guidance to AVs and Designees on the [MES Combined Compliance and Year-End Report](#) due on July 15, 2026, and [new MES requirements for EECs](#) that begin in Program Year 2026-27. A [recording of the event](#) and [presentation slides](#) are available, with Q&A forthcoming. The Program has added questions samples of the [MES Combined Compliance and Year-End Report](#), [EEC MES Combined Compliance and Year-End Report](#), [Program Year 2026-27 MES Mid-Year Report](#), and [MES Compliance Plan for New Entities](#) from the 2026-27 Program Guidebook at the [MES](#) page of the Program website. Further information about the release of the *Combined MES Compliance and Year-End Report* is forthcoming.

Reference and Reminders

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

Proposal or Feedback Topic and Link to Details	Request Made	Deadline for Feedback	Results or Updates to Request
Draft 2026 REC Contracts	4/17/2026	5/1/2026	

- **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)
5/5/2026	5/7/2026	5/21/2026
5/18/2026	5/20/2026	5/29/2026

- **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	Delivery
Address Validation	Enables AVs to select a standardized address using AWS Location Service’s type-ahead functionality when populating the project location on DG and CS applications. This feature adds ease and convenience for AVs to confirm the accuracy and standardization of entered addresses. In cases where an entered address cannot be found by the AWS Location Service, such as when a valid 911 address does not yet exist, AVs can add an explanation about why a non-standardized address needs to be used. For assistance with the feature, please contact the Program Administrator.	April 28, 2026
Small and Emerging Business AVs (SEBs) ability to submit a first batch of not less than 25 kW	Addition of a separate, lower minimum initial batch requirement to support AVs considered SEBs that might not be able to meet the current 100 kW initial batch requirement. The 2026 - 27 Program Year’s minimum initial batch requirement for SEB AVs is 25 kW. In order for a specified AV to use this lower limit, “Min batch size for SEB AV First time (kW)” within “Menu: Program Config” -> “Batch Configuration” must be populated, and a Program Administrator must set the individual AV’s “Small and Emerging Business Vendor Approved Date” in “Menu: Company & User Management” → “Approved Vendor” → “Approved Vendor Dashboard” → “View Vendor Details” → “Details tab”.	April 28, 2026

- **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.

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