

Uncontracted Capacity Reallocation, MES Combined Compliance and Year-End Report Opens, Community Solar Updates and Reminders

May 29, 2026

Coming up in Illinois Shines

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

- **Key Dates**
 - **May 26 – June 1** – Partial Portal Closure
 - **June 1** – Program Year 2026-27 Opens
 - **June 5** – [Consumer Protection Working Group](#)
- **Deadlines**
 - **May 31** – REC Transfer Deadline for 2025-26 Delivery Year – See item below for more information.
 - **June 10** – AVs and Designees must report all subscribers active at any point during the 2025-26 Program Year, including all subscription size changes, terminations, and re-activations – See item below for more information.

Stakeholder Support

- **Program Administrator Office Hours** – June 3, 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: "[Ways to Prevent Need Info Request Resulting in Application Delays](#)".

Program News

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

- **New! Uncontracted Capacity Reallocation Process for the 2026-27 Program Year** – Illinois Shines features annual blocks of capacity that remain open until block capacity is exhausted for the Program Year, and per Section 7.3.4 of the Program Guidebook, unused or uncontracted capacity is redistributed after the close of a Program Year in a proscribed manner. Please see the [initial memo](#) outlining the steps the Program has taken to reallocate remaining capacity from the 2025-26 Program Year for use in the 2026-27 Program Year, and the results of the capacity reallocation process. Following the 2026-27 Program Year open, the Program will publish a detailed memo about the process and reallocation calculations.
- **New! Minimum Equity Standard (MES) Combined Compliance and Year-End Report Opens** – [As previously announced](#), the *MES Combined Compliance and Year-End Report*, which includes the 2026-27 MES Compliance Plan and the 2025-26 MES Year-End Report opened for submissions on May 26, 2026. All registered AVs and Designees are required to submit this report, regardless of their participation status for the past Program Year. Organizations that did not participate in the Program in the 2025-26 Program Year, this can be reported at the beginning of the form. The Report is due on July 15, 2026. All Program participants should have received an email from the Program Administrator with a link to their secure MES

submission portal. Please use the link and credentials within the email to complete and submit your MES Report. If you do not see the email, please reach out to the Program Administrator at mes@illinoisshines.com.

- **New! Community Solar Updates and Reminders for 2026-27 Program Year** – On May 28, 2026, the Program shared important updates and reminders for both Community-Driven Community Solar and Traditional Community Solar, including updates to scoring criteria and details about Program Year 2026-27 applications, capacity for each category, waitlist selection procedures, and more. Please see the [full announcement](#) for details. For assistance in these project categories, contact the Community Solar Sector Strategist at communitysolar@illinoisshines.com or the Program Administrator team at admin@illinoisshines.com.
- **New! Forthcoming Subscriber Management Portal Feature Enhancement** – The current Subscriber Management Portal feature requires all updates to a subscription record to be made through the upload import template. The Program Administrator is developing an enhancement that will allow AVs and Designees to 1) edit individual subscriptions directly in the Portal and 2) report the history of a subscriber including subscription size changes, terminations, and re-activations that occurred prior to the latest subscription record. This enhancement is expected to be available in July, after the June 10, 2026, reporting deadline for the Annual Report. As a reminder, AVs and Designees must report all subscribers active at any point during the 2025-26 Program Year (June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2026), including all subscription size changes, terminations, and re-activations, by June 10, 2026. As the timing of the enhancement launch will not allow AVs to report subscriber history before the June 10, 2026, deadline, the Program Administrator will use the Annual Report cure period to collect any additional subscription data updates and recalculate daily average subscription rates, as applicable.
- **New! New to the Program Website** – Key additions to the [Program website](#):
 - Updated [Minimum Equity Standard](#) and [Equity Accountability System](#) pages
 - [MES FAQs \(Vendor FAQ page\)](#)
 - Updated [Small DG Category Hub](#) page
 - [Fillable Advance of Capital Template and Coversheet \(EEC and EEP page\)](#)
 - [Updated Long-Term Plan, Program Guidebook and Consumer Protection Handbook archives \(Program Documents page\)](#)
- **Reminder: New Energization Extension Request Process for PY 2026-27** – [As previously announced](#), the IPA is launching an Illinois Shines Energization Extension Request Form for the 2026-27 Program Year that will replace the existing Extension Request process. This form will provide AVs with a single entry-point for all Extension Request submissions and will automatically notify necessary stakeholders. The form will be shared with AVs via email and go live June 1, 2026, with the expectation that all submissions transition to the Extension Request form by July 1, 2026. The Program will 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.
- **Small and Emerging Business Designation** – [As previously announced](#), beginning June 1, 2026, current and future AVs that meet the definition of either a “small” or “emerging” business will be able to apply for the Small and Emerging Business (SEB) designation. The [SEB designation](#) was developed with the passage of CEJA in 2021 to help new and small businesses navigate the solar energy landscape. The SEB designation was introduced in Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA) in 2021 and the 2026 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan established it in the Illinois Shines Program. The 2026 Long-Term Plan also added new benefits for SEBs across both programs, including: a lower batch threshold for project submittal, project selection benefits (ILSFA only), and collateral deduction from REC payments (ILSFA only).

- June Consumer Protection Working Group** – The next Consumer Protection Working Group meeting will take place on Friday, June 5, 2026, and discuss market trends, best practices, consumer education, updates to Program requirements and documents, and other consumer protection issues for both Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All. The Program invites stakeholders to submit suggested agenda topics for future meetings to admin@IllinoisShines.com. The meeting agenda and notes from past meetings can be found at the [Consumer Protection Working Group](#) page.
- Welcome to Program Year 2026-27 Webinar Held** – A [recording](#) and [presentation slides](#) can be found on the [Webinars](#) page of the Program website. Q&A is forthcoming.
- IPA Lifting Pause on Two Withhold Limit for Distributed Generation** – [As announced in August 2025](#), the IPA paused the enforcement of the two withhold limit, from Part I application submissions to the ICC meetings for REC Contract approval, due to the Federal Reconciliation Bill (H.R.1) and the Executive Order issued on July 7, 2025. The pause will be lifted for the July 16, 2026, ICC meeting, with the start of ICC submissions under the 2026-27 Program Year. After the start of the 2026-27 Program Year, DG projects will only be permitted to be withheld twice before they must be submitted to the ICC for REC Contract approval or permanently withdrawn from the Program. Projects that have been withheld more than two times already will be required to submit to the ICC or withdraw at the first ICC meeting submission after June 1, 2026. This process is further outlined in Section 5.A of the [2026-27 Program Guidebook](#).
- Community Solar Opt-In Batching** – CS projects will undergo the new opt-in batching process where projects can opt-out of ICC submission for up to four ICC meetings. At the fifth ICC meeting the AV must opt-in to ICC submission or the project will be automatically and permanently withdrawn. This process is further outlined in Section 5.A of the [2026-27 Program Guidebook](#). Projects that have already been withheld will start fresh under the new process and be allowed to opt-out of four ICC meetings before being required to opt-in or be permanently withdrawn.
- 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. Ensuring REC transfers are complete will help minimize potential Drawdowns on posted collateral.
- Partial Portal Closure and Project Application Unavailability May 26 – June 1, 2026** – [As previously shared](#), the Illinois Shines 2025–26 Program Year closed evening of Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. CPT. 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.

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)
6/29/2026	7/1/2026	7/16/2026
7/14/2026	7/16/2026	7/30/2026

- **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. A series of portal enhancements were added via the April 28, 2026 release including:
 - Approved Vendor - Customer REC Contract document
 - Collect co-location affidavit on Part I CS projects
 - Collect co-location affidavit on Part I DG projects
 - DG DF PDF - English and Spanish - Update DF Utility Storage Disclaimer
 - EEC CS Self-Performing REC Adder
 - EEC DG REC Adder
 - Project Sales Contract, Lease, Power Purchase Agreement document
 - Remove Date of Project's Certificate of Completion or PTO field
 - Remove minimal shading criteria fields
 - Reset Part 1 CS and DG applications so the NPY 2026 REC adder fields and documentation requirements are triggered
 - Small DG Customer-Owned Project Adder
 - Small DG Project Adder and REC Incentive Changes
 - Small DG REC Incentive Structure Changes
 - TCS Scoring - Update scoring versions and points for TCS Scoring
 - TCS Scoring - Update TCS Scoring criteria for TCS project applications
- **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. Due to a large recent influx of AV applications, review times in some cases are temporarily running slightly longer. The Program appreciates stakeholder patience as we work to return to typical review timelines. For questions about specific project applications, please contact the Program Administrator at admin@IllinoisShines.com.

Other Opportunities

- **New! Overview of Financial Resources for Small Businesses Webinar Series** – The Office Economic Equity & Empowerment invites entities for an online conversation and the latest updates on financial resources, federal, state, and local government programs, as well as other opportunities. Participants will be able to ask Business Development Managers questions about their business in both English and Spanish. Topics discussed will include access to financial capital, such as grants and loans, and an overview of business services presented by the Illinois Secretary of State. [Register with this link](#). Multiple webinar dates are available. Additionally, please see [this document](#) for a complete list of funding opportunities and resources. Please visit the [Other Opportunities](#) page of the Program website for more information.

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