

Small DG Category Changes, EEC Subcategory Merging, Clean Jobs Curriculum Framework Feedback Request

May 8, 2026

Coming up in Illinois Shines

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

- **Key Dates**
 - **May 13** – Spring 2026 EEC Roundtable
 - **May 21** – Welcome to the Program Year Webinar
- **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)

Stakeholder Support

- **Program Administrator Office Hours** – May 13, 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: [Reminder - 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! Small DG Category Changes** – As noted in the [January 16, 2026 Program announcement](#), announcements regarding the [2026 REC Delivery Contracts](#), and the [release of the 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.
 - 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.

- **New! 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, 11 months into the Program Year, 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 of the Program website by merging the EEC capacity bars, combining CS and DG projects (while maintaining Group A and Group B distinctions). 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.
- **New! Updated Circumstances Requiring New Disclosure Form Issuance and Signature Resource** – The Agency and Program Administrator have 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 has been added to the [Consumer Protection Requirements & Resources](#) page of the Program website; the above noted changes take effect June 1, 2026.
- **Updated! 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.
- **New! New to the Program Website** – Key additions to the [Program website](#):
 - 2026 REC Delivery Contracts Public Comments ([Stakeholder Feedback](#) page)
 - [April 15, 2026, MES Compliance Webinar Q&A](#) ([Program Year Webinars](#) page)
 - [Updated Circumstances Requiring New Disclosure Form Issuance and Signature](#) ([Consumer Protection Requirements & Resources](#) page)
- **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 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.
- **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.

- **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.
- **Update on Small DG Part I Verification Deadlines, Processing Queue, and ICC Trade Dates** – [As previously shared](#), the Program Administrator has added additional processing capacity through a combination of increased staff hours, deferring non-essential tasks, and contracting additional employees, and 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.
- **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.
- **Updates to Illinois Shines Portal’s Disclosure Form API** – [As previously shared](#), on May 26, 2026, the Program will update the Portal’s Disclosure Form API to comply with 2026-27 Program Year changes, after which 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. 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 to 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](#).

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.
- 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.
- Reminder: Phishing Attempts** – The Program reminds stakeholders to remain vigilant against email phishing attempts and avoid opening unexpected emails or clicking suspicious links that appear to be from the Illinois Shines program, its Program Administrator, or the IPA. Official correspondence from these parties will only come from email addresses ending in @illinoisshines.com, @energy-solution.com, @illinoisabp.com, or @illinois.gov – please check our [Contact Us](#) page for more guidelines.

Other Opportunities

- New! 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.
- New! 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.](#)

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