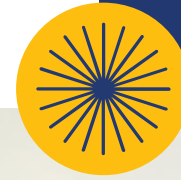


# Program Year 2026-27 Welcome Webinar

Presented by the Illinois Power Agency  
and Energy Solutions

May 21, 2026



# Today's Presenters



**Andrea O'Shea**  
Illinois Power Agency  
Program Manager,  
Illinois Shines



**Patrice Flynn**  
Energy Solutions  
Senior Director,  
Illinois Shines



**Matt Pryor**  
Energy Solutions  
Director, Consumer  
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**Keely Weiss**  
Energy Solutions  
Sr. Manager,  
Contracts



**Julie Soderna**  
Energy Solutions  
Fellow



**K.C. Doyle**  
Energy Solutions  
Fellow, DEI and  
Strategy Team Lead



**Nate Zeiler**  
Energy Solutions  
Senior Software  
Product Owner

# Agenda

**1** Welcome Back and 2026 Long-Term Plan and CRGA Updates

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**2** Updates, Reminders, Resources, and Guidance

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**3** Equity Accountability System Updates

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**4** Stakeholder Support

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**5** Marketing and Communications and Portal Updates

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**6** Questions & Answers

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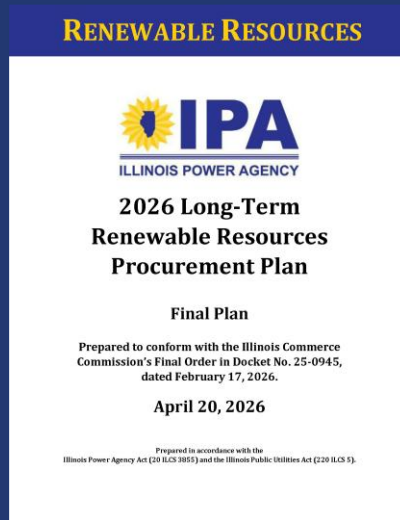
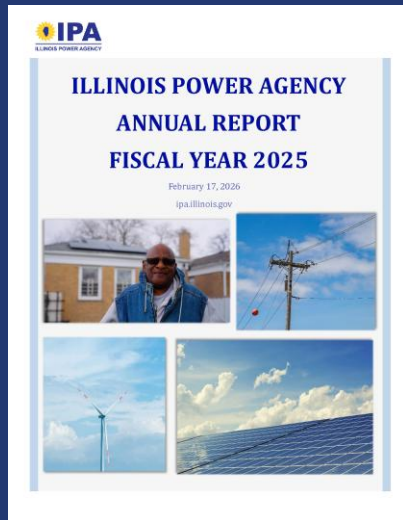




Welcome Back



# Welcome Back – IPA Welcome



Along with important strides in Illinois Shines, the IPA continues to push the needle forward on other renewables efforts, including:

- The Agency's recent [2025 Annual Report](#)
- Publication of the [2026 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan](#) on February 17, 2026
- Planning related to implementation of Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability (CRGA) Act requirements



# 2026 Long-Term Plan Development

The 2026 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan was published on February 17, 2026



August 15, 2025

Draft of 2026 Long-Term Plan made available for public comment

October 20, 2025

Initial ICC filing of Long-Term Plan

February 17, 2026

ICC filed Final Order

June 2026

Final 2026 Long-Term Plan Published to conform with CRGA

RENEWABLE RESOURCES



**2026 Long-Term  
Renewable Resources  
Procurement Plan**

**Final Plan**

Prepared to conform with the Illinois Commerce Commission's Final Order in Docket No. 25-0945, dated February 17, 2026.

**April 20, 2026**

Prepared in accordance with the Illinois Power Agency Act (20 ILCS 395) and the Illinois Public Utilities Act (210 ILCS 5).

Quick Link:  
[2026 Long Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan](#)

# Program Administrator – Forward Vision

## Energy Solutions' Vision for the Program's next phase includes:

- **Vendor and Designee Support:**
  - Expand access for EECs and Equity Eligible Persons
  - Support Small and Emerging Business enrollment
  - Continued automation and streamlining participant submissions
  - Evolving Mentorship program
- **Application Processing:**
  - QA and application review automation towards even greater efficiency
- **Portal Development:**
  - Enhancements and functionality updates to the Program portal
- **Consumer Protection:**
  - Development of new vendor and consumer education materials for Program website
  - Expansion of Solar Restitution Program
  - Evolution of Stranded Customer REC Adder





# Updates, Reminders, Resources, and Guidance

# Reminder - Partial Portal Closure and Project Application Unavailability May 26 – June 1, 2026



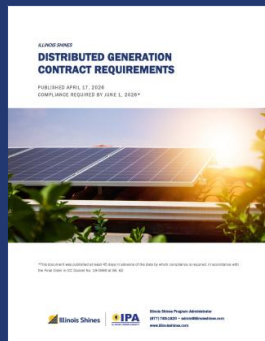
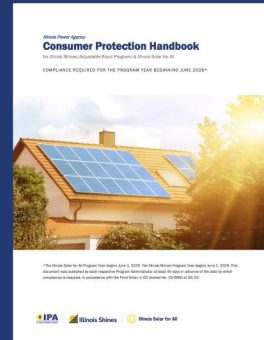
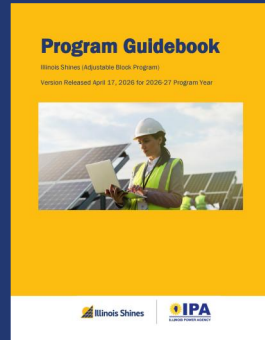
The 2025-26 Illinois Shines Program Year will close on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. CDT.

- Approved Vendors ability to create, revise, submit, and batch project applications will be paused within the Portal until the launch of the 2026-27 Program Year on Monday, June 1, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. CDT.
- Project data may be exported from the Application Dashboard prior to the pause. Please see the [May 12, 2026 announcement](#) for details

Fully available during this Program pause period:

- All Disclosure Form functionality including the ability to create, submit, and sign Disclosure Forms
- All Community Solar Subscription Management functionality

# Updates, Resources, and Guidance



- Updated Program Guidebook
- Updated Consumer Protection Handbook
- Updated Contract Requirements for PY 2026-27
- 2026 REC Delivery Contracts
- Block Capacity Updates
- REC Prices and Long-Term REC Pricing Update
- Mentorship Program
- Website Updates
- Prevailing Wage Reminder



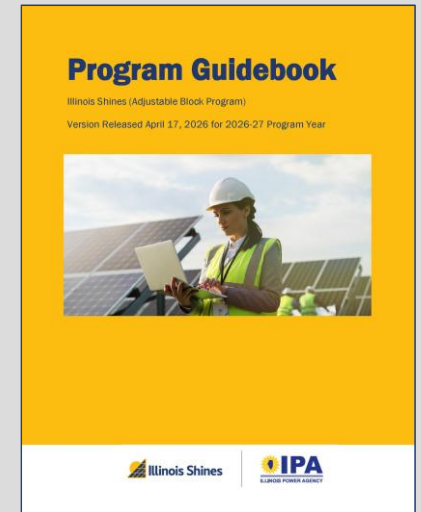
# Updated Program Guidebook

The Agency released the Program Year 2026-27 Program Guidebook on April 17, 2026. It is in effect beginning June 1, 2026



## High level changes to the Program Guidebook for PY 2026-27:

- Community Solar project size limit increase from 5 MW to 10 MW AC in Section 1.E
- REC Adders:
  - EEC category DG applications in Section 1.J
  - EEC category CS applications for “self-performing” AV in Section 1.J
  - Small DG customer-owned applications in Section 1.J
- Small and Emerging Business AV designation in Section 2.J
- Project Labor Agreement requirement for CS applications over 3 MW AC in size in Section 4.R
- Updated Part I and Part II application requirements in Section 5
- Opt-in batching for CS projects in Section 5.A
- Relief for Abandoned Contracts in Section 6.E.
- New combined MES Compliance Plan and Year-End Report in Section 7.J.
- MES requirements for Equity Eligible Contractors in Section 7.J
- Small DG payment structure change to 50% upfront payment at Energization with remainder ratably over the subsequent 6 years in Section 8.B
- Community Solar Scoring Criteria updates - Traditional Community Solar in Appendix E and Community-Driven Community in Appendix F



Quick Link:  
[2026-27 Program Guidebook](#)

# 2026-27 REC Prices

- On April 17, 2026 new REC prices were announced via the Program Guidebook, pursuant to the process outlined in the 2026 Long-Term Plan.

| Distributed Generation |         |         |
|------------------------|---------|---------|
|                        | Group A | Group B |
| 0 – 10 kW AC           | \$70.37 | \$80.77 |
| >10 – 25 kW AC         | \$60.92 | \$79.21 |
| >25 – 100 kW AC        | \$59.53 | \$69.65 |
| >100 – 200 kW AC       | \$55.63 | \$65.09 |
| >200 – 500 kW AC       | \$45.64 | \$53.40 |
| >500 – 2,000 kW AC     | \$42.37 | \$49.57 |
| >2,000 – 5,000 kW AC   | \$31.96 | \$37.39 |

| Traditional Community Solar |         |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|
|                             | Group A | Group B |
| 0 – 25 kW AC                | \$57.49 | \$70.91 |
| >25 – 100 kW AC             | \$58.84 | \$72.15 |
| >100 – 200 kW AC            | \$57.50 | \$69.58 |
| >200 – 500 kW AC            | \$53.46 | \$64.20 |
| >500 – 2,000 kW AC          | \$46.02 | \$54.24 |
| >2,000 – 10,000 kW AC       | \$33.99 | \$39.98 |

| Community-Driven Community Solar |         |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------|
|                                  | Group A | Group B |
| 0 – 25 kW AC                     | \$80.66 | \$96.74 |
| >25 – 100 kW AC                  | \$81.88 | \$97.27 |
| >100 – 200 kW AC                 | \$78.09 | \$93.45 |
| >200 – 500 kW AC                 | \$68.02 | \$85.02 |
| >500 – 2,000 kW AC               | \$58.77 | \$71.34 |
| >2,000 – 10,000 kW AC            | \$50.48 | \$57.35 |

| Public Schools                     |         |         |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|
|                                    | Group A | Group B |
| 0 – 25 kW AC                       | \$77.17 | \$93.17 |
| >25 – 100 kW AC                    | \$68.57 | \$84.96 |
| >100 – 200 kW AC                   | \$65.81 | \$76.91 |
| >200 – 500 kW AC                   | \$57.72 | \$66.88 |
| >500 – 2,000 kW AC                 | \$54.51 | \$61.04 |
| >2,000 – 10,000 kW AC <sup>1</sup> | \$42.15 | \$46.74 |

Please note: Public School distributed generation projects cannot be greater than 5 MW.



# Block Capacity Updates

- Starting May 26, the Program Administrator will reallocate 2025-26 Program Year remaining capacity and process waitlists in the new Program year
- Initial capacity allocation for the 2026-27 Program Year is 1,000 MW, assigned to each category as follows:

| Category                         | Allocation  | Group A (MW) | Group B (MW) | Statewide Allocation |
|----------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Small Distributed Generation     | 18%         | -            | -            | 180                  |
| Large Distributed Generation     | 18%         | -            | -            | 180                  |
| Traditional Community Solar      | 26%         | 78           | 182          | -                    |
| Community-Driven Community Solar | 5%          | 15           | 35           | -                    |
| Public Schools                   | 11%         | -            | -            | 110                  |
| Equity Eligible Contractor       | 22%         | 66           | 154          | -                    |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>100%</b> | <b>159</b>   | <b>371</b>   | <b>470</b>           |

Beginning in the 2026-27 Program Year, capacity associated with projects withdrawn or removed will be tracked for re-allocation the following Program Year.

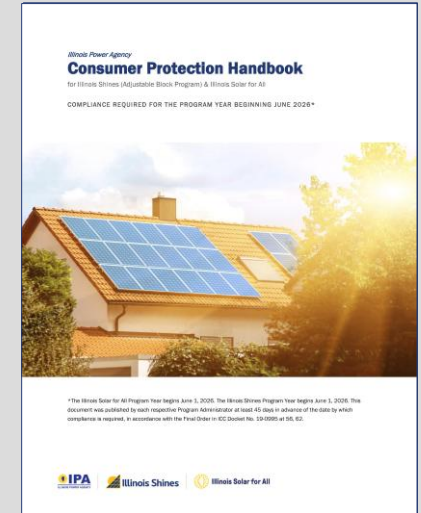
# Updated Consumer Protection Requirements

The Agency released the Consumer Protection Handbook on April 17, 2026.

- In effect beginning June 1, 2026

## High-level changes include:

- Change to incentive payment structure for Small DG projects
- New \$20 Small DG REC Adder
  - New signed Disclosure Form is required if project is now applying for this Small DG REC Adder
- Community Solar Updates
  - Requirement to provide periodic updates to CS customers when their assigned project has not yet been energized
  - Update to [Circumstances Requiring New Disclosure Form](#) document concerning subscription size changes



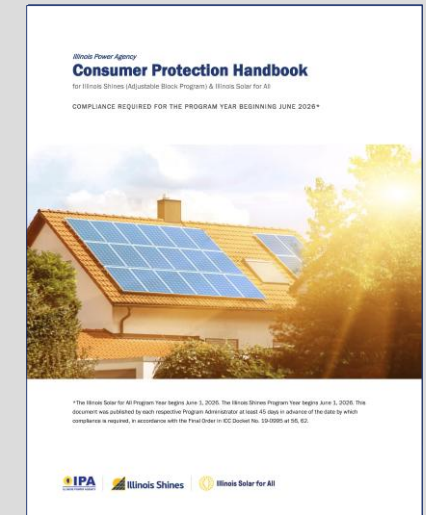
Quick Link:  
[2026-27 Consumer Protection Handbook](#)

# Consumer Protection Handbook Updates



## Additional changes include:

- Updates to Solar Restitution Program caps, in accordance with the 2026 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan
- Added definition of customer to clarify scope and applicability of various initiatives and processes
- Modified requirements related to marketing of the Federal Investment Tax Credit, based on changes to federal policy
- Updates related to how Disclosure Forms are signed, including explicitly prohibiting sales agents from helping customers access email accounts and requiring sales agents to explain to customers how e-signed documents can be accessed
- Prohibition on retaliation against customers for filing complaints with the Program Administrator



Quick Link:  
[2026-27 Consumer Protection Handbook](#)

# Consumer Protection Initiatives Update



## Solar Restitution Program – Phase 1: Failure to pass-through promised incentive to customer

- Launched – May 6, 2025
- Phase I – 170 of 253 submissions deemed eligible
  - \$472,863 awarded under current caps
  - \$1,559,788 additional payments in coming months with expanded caps
- Phase II set for launch this month – will allow customers who received part – but not all – of their promised incentive payments to qualify for restitution

## Escrow Process – Payment of REC incentives

- Launched June 26, 2025

## REC Adder – Increased REC payments for Approved Vendors assuming stranded customers

- Launched October 23, 2025
- Total projects qualified to date: 1,460

REC Price Adder for Stranded Customer Solar Projects (DG)  
Illinois Shines & ILSFA

**Categories of Stranded Customers and Considerations for REC Adder Pricing**

**TABLE 1: AGGREGATOR MODEL**

For the Aggregator Model reflected here, the customer contracts with the Designee for the solar project. The customer may have a separate contract to sell RECs to the Approved Vendor ("AV"), but the customer's installation contract is not with the AV.

- Blue rows represent situations where the Designee with whom the customer contracted becomes unavailable – i.e., goes out of business, becomes entirely unresponsive, is not permitted to continue with the project due to disciplinary action, etc.
- Green rows represent situations where the AV becomes unavailable – i.e., goes out of business, becomes entirely unresponsive, is not permitted to continue with the project due to disciplinary action, etc.
- If five years have elapsed from the first invoice submission, the REC adder value level will be reduced by one level (e.g., from "very high" to "high," or from "high" to "medium"). If ten years have elapsed, the REC adder value will be reduced by two levels. The REC adder value will not be reduced further than the "low" value.

Version updated 4/17/2026

1

Quick Links:  
[UPDATED Categories of Stranded Customers and Considerations for REC Adder Pricing](#)

# Updated Minimum Contract Requirements

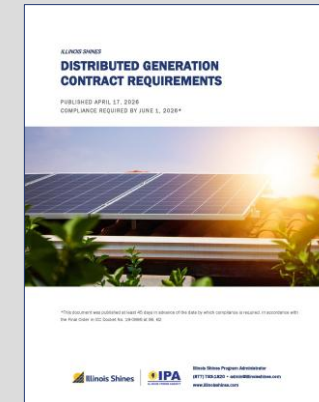


The Agency released the updated REC Minimum Contract Requirements documents on April 17, 2026.

- In effect beginning June 1, 2026

## High-level changes include:

- DG
  - Overhaul of structure and layout to improve readability
  - New requirement to affirmatively state if there is no change in contract terms in case of non-selection for Illinois Shines
  - New requirements around contract termination to make clear who has ownership of project and responsibilities for project removal and roof repair
- CS
  - Overhaul of structure and layout to improve readability
  - Removal of specific requirements for security deposits, as a business model with security deposits has not emerged



Quick Links:  
[2026-27 DG Contract Requirements](#)  
[2026-27 CS Contract Requirements](#)

# 2026 REC Delivery Contracts

In June 2026, the Program will release the 2026 Illinois Shines 15-Year REC Delivery Contract and 2026 Illinois Shines 20-Year REC Delivery Contract. All projects ICC approved after 6/1/2026 will be under 2026 contracts.

## Changes to the contracts:

- Small DG Payment Structure change to 50% upfront + ratable quarterly payments for 6 years
- Public School DG projects will now be placed under 15-Year REC Contract
  - Public School DG projects 25 kW and under will follow the Small DG payment structure of 50% upfront + ratable quarterly payments for 6 years
  - Public School DG projects over 25 kW will follow the Large DG payment structure of 15% upfront + ratable quarterly payments for 6 years



# 2026 REC Delivery Contracts (Continued)

## Changes to the contracts (continued):

- Project Labor Agreements
- \$5 EEC DG REC Adder
- \$5 EEC CS Self Performing REC Adder
- \$20 Small DG Customer-Owned REC Adder
- CS projects (including co-locations) can be sized up to 10 MW
- Energization deadline for CS projects increases from 24 months to 36 months from the Trade Date
- Relief for abandoned contracts
- Removal mechanism including partial collateral refund for interconnection denial
- Removal mechanism for projects that are submitted with an incorrect Capacity Factor value
- Removal mechanism for EEC projects where the AV fails to recertify or assign to another EEC AV

# Enforcement of Two Withhold Limit from ICC Meetings



Per the Program Guidebook, the Program allows for Approved Vendors to only withhold projects from ICC submission twice before they must be withdrawn. On [August 7, 2025](#), the Program announced that considering the recent Federal Reconciliation Bill (H.R.1) and the Executive Order issued on July 7, 2025, the IPA decided to temporarily pause enforcement of the two withhold limit from ICC meetings.

- On [March 27, 2026](#), the IPA announced that the temporary pause of the requirement would be lifted with the start of ICC submissions under the 2026-26 Program Year that commences June 1, 2026, beginning with the memo submitted for the **July 16, 2026 ICC Meeting Date**. **Any projects with more than two withholds at the time this memo is submitted will be put forward for ICC approval.**
- When a batch is approved by the ICC, the Approved Vendor will then be required to sign the contract (or Product Order) as approved by the Commission **within seven business days** of receiving it.
- **Within 30 business days of the ICC approving the contract** (or Product Order), collateral constituting 5% of the value of a system's REC Contract must be posted with the utility counterparty in the form of cash or a letter of credit from an underwriter with credit acceptable to the utility.

Failure to execute a Product Order or post collateral on time may result in withdrawal of the batch and any associated projects. As a result, the Approved Vendor may face disciplinary measures impacting their status as an Approved Vendor in the Program moving forward. Please see Section 5.A of the Program Guidebook for more information.

# Opt-In Batching for Community Solar Projects

- CS projects will undergo the new opt-in batching process in which projects can **opt-out of ICC submission for up to four ICC meetings**. Opting out requires no action by the AV.
- At the fifth ICC meeting the AV must take action during the 2-day re-batching window to opt-in to ICC submission or the project will be **automatically and permanently withdrawn**.
- 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 will be permanently withdrawn.



# Contracting Process Changes, Co-location Affidavit, Co-location with non-Illinois Shines Projects

## Reduced initial batch size for SEBs

- Small and Emerging Business (SEB) AVs will have reduced initial batch size of no less than 25 kW

## Co-location Affidavit

- All DG projects greater than 25 kW AC in size and all CS projects regardless of category must submit a **notarized affidavit** at the Part I application attesting that the project is not affiliated with any other distributed generation projects, such that, if the two projects were deemed co-located, the projects would exceed the 5 MW nameplate capacity limitation (DG) or 10 MW nameplate capacity limitation (CS).

## Co-location with non-Illinois Shines Projects

- Projects approved by the ICC after June 1, 2026 may not be co-located such that the aggregate nameplate capacity of the projects (whether participating in Illinois Shines, Illinois Solar for All, or no IPA-administered Program) exceeds 5,000 kW AC for DG projects or 10,000 kW AC for CS projects.

# Annual Report Process

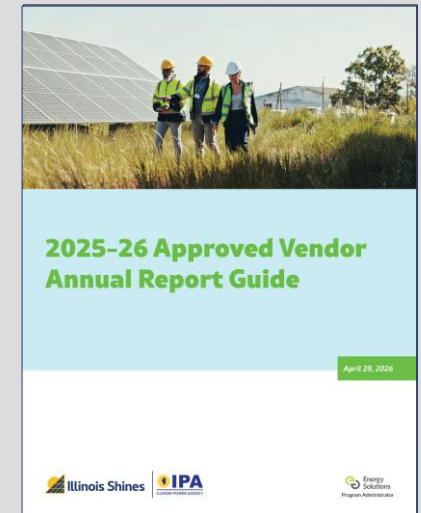
On an annual basis, each Approved Vendor with an active REC contract will submit an Annual Report of the contracts and Designated Systems in its portfolio. The Annual Report serves as the basis for verifying that RECs from projects are being delivered to the applicable utility, and, absent corrective actions taken by the Approved Vendor, can be a tool used to determine what actions may be taken by the utilities to enforce the contractual requirements that RECs are delivered, including, but not limited to, drawing on collateral. **Non-submission of the Annual Report is an event of default under the REC contract.**

| Due Date – <b>No REC Contract Amendment</b>   | Due Date – REC Contract Amendment     | Description   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| Mid-June                                      | Mid-June                              | <b>Step-by-step guide on filling out the Annual Report will be released.</b> This will include the questions included in the Annual Report. The process will be very similar to last year’s, utilizing MS Forms and SharePoint folders.   |
| July 1, 2026                                  | July 1, 2026                          | <b>Annual Report Response Period begins.</b> AVs <u>with active REC contracts</u> will receive a link to the Annual Report and SharePoint folders and will need to review reports on SharePoint and submit Annual Report responses. Non-submission of the Annual Report is an event of default under the REC Contract.                  |
| July 15, 2026                                 | August 1, 2026<br><b>August 3</b>     | <b>Annual Report Response Period ends.</b> This is the deadline to submit the Annual Report. Not filing an Annual Report by the deadline may jeopardize an AV’s standing in the Program.  |
| July 16, 2026                                 | August 2, 2026<br><b>August 4</b>     | <b>Annual Report Cure Period begins.</b> Program Administrator will contact AVs to cure any report discrepancies. Annual Reports that were not submitted during the preceding response period will not be accepted during this time. The cure period is limited to the curing of issues identified in already-submitted Annual Reports. |
| October 1, 2026                               | October 18, 2026<br><b>October 19</b> | <b>Last day for Program Administrator to inform AVs of discrepancies.</b>   |
| October 13, 2026                              | October 30, 2026                      | <b>Annual Reports are finalized.</b> No modifications to submissions will be permitted after this date. This finalizes the REC delivery and subscriber data to be used in Drawdown calculations.  |
| November 15, 2026<br><b>November 16, 2026</b> | December 2, 2026                      | <b>Program Administrator Drawdown Calculations complete.</b>  |

# Annual Report Resources

These on-demand resources enable Approved Vendors to familiarize themselves with the requirements and understand how Annual Report data is utilized to assess REC performance in relation to contractual obligations:

- **Annual Report and REC Performance Evaluation Walkthrough** — The purpose of the Annual Report, a walkthrough of reviewing project data and submitting supplemental information, and an overview of key deadlines.
- **Community Solar Parameters Evaluation Walkthrough** — An overview of the annual subscriber verification process for Community Solar projects under the 2019 REC Delivery Contract, including specific examples of Drawdowns. Please refer to the **Community Solar System Parameters Evaluation (Annual Subscriber Evaluation) guide** as a supplemental resource.
- **REC Performance Calculation Evaluation Walkthrough** — An overview of the Drawdown process for projects on the 15-Year REC Delivery Contracts, including specific examples and the actions Approved Vendors are required to do when projects are subject to Drawdowns. Please refer to the **REC Performance Evaluation guide** as a supplemental resource.
- An updated **Annual Report Guide** is now available



Quick Links:  
[2025-26 Annual Report Guide](#)  
[Annual Report and REC Performance Evaluation Walkthrough](#)  
[Community Solar Parameters Evaluation Walkthrough](#)  
[REC Performance Calculation Evaluation Walkthrough](#)

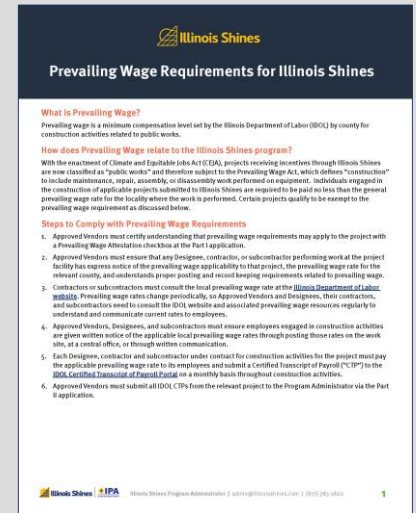
# Prevailing Wage Reminder

Prevailing wage is a minimum compensation level by county set by the Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) for construction activities related to public works. The Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) expanded the prevailing wage requirement to individuals engaged in the construction of applicable projects submitted to the Program; the Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) oversees the implementation and enforcement of the Prevailing Wage Act (PWA)

## How do I demonstrate compliance with prevailing wage?

To demonstrate prevailing wage has been correctly paid for eligible construction work, each contractor and subcontractor under contract for construction activities for an Illinois Shines applicable project must submit a Certified Transcript of Payroll (CTP) to the Program Administrator via the Part II application demonstrating that prevailing wage was paid on all project construction activities. The AV must generate the CTP from the IDOL website monthly throughout construction activities.

Please see Section 4.Q of the Program Guidebook for all requirements



**Quick Links:**  
[Illinois Shines Prevailing Wage Hub](#)  
[Prevailing Wage Requirements for Illinois Shines Help Guide](#)  
[Prevailing Wage Walkthrough Video](#)

# Project Labor Agreements

CRGA requires community solar projects greater than 3 MW AC in size to enter into a project labor agreement (“PLA”) prior to construction. All community solar projects that exceed this threshold (including co-located projects with an aggregate nameplate capacity over 3 MW) which are approved by the ICC for a REC Contract on or after June 1, 2026 are subject to this requirement.

Project Labor Agreement is defined by the IPA Act as a pre-hire collective bargaining that covers all terms and conditions of employment on a specific construction project. At minimum, the project labor agreement must provide the names, addresses, and occupations of the owner of the project and any individuals representing the labor organization of the employees participating in the project labor agreement consistent with the Project Labor Agreements Act, as well as additional information.

Please see Section 4.R of the Program Guidebook for all requirements and additional details.



## Next Steps:

The IPA and Program Administrator are still developing mechanisms for submission of Project Labor Agreements.

Further information will be shared with stakeholders when available.

# Public Schools Category Updates

- 15-year REC Delivery Contract
- [Solar for Schools](#) webpage
- Digital search and display ads
- Other resources include:
  - [Public Schools Program Category Brochure](#)
  - [Public Schools Project Guide](#) (updated March 2026)
  - [Public Schools Case Study](#) (published May 2025)
  - [Project Funding Sources](#)
  - [Public Schools webinar](#) (and [presentation slides](#)) geared toward Illinois public schools that have received a Carbon Free Assessment

The screenshot shows the 'Solar for Schools' webpage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Illinois Shines' logo and various menu items like 'Home', 'Solar & Shines Basics', 'Exploring Solar', 'Consumer Resources', 'Reports & Data', 'About', and 'Work By Product Type'. Below the navigation bar is a search bar and a 'Work By Product Type' button. The main heading is 'Solar for Schools'. Below this is a 'Pop Quiz - Do You Know Why Schools Go Solar with Illinois Shines?' section. The quiz text states: 'Many public schools across Illinois have gone solar to save on costs, improve facilities, have a positive environmental impact, and create educational opportunities for students and the community. Solar can help schools: Reduce and manage rising electricity costs; Stabilize operations budgets and support long-term planning and infrastructure goals through reduced facility expenses, and upgraded, healthier facilities; Support science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) curriculum and student career exploration.' To the right of the quiz is an illustration of a school building with solar panels on the roof. Below the quiz is a 'Your Path to Solar in Seven Steps!' section. It includes a 'Choose a Project Type' section with an illustration of a school building and solar panels. Below that is a 'Our Public Schools Solar Project Guide and our team support your journey, including:' section. It lists 'Step 1. Create a Team to Guide the Project' and describes the process of building a team. Below this is a 'Request a Tailored Workshop' section. It includes a form with fields for 'First Name', 'Last Name', 'Email', and 'Phone Number'. Below the form is a 'Request a Workshop' button. At the bottom of the page is a 'Your Solar Toolkit' section. It includes a list of resources: 'Explore and Compare Finance Options (DO) and Subscription Information (CS)', 'Public Schools Program', and 'Public Schools Project'. There are also icons for 'Public Schools Program' and 'Public Schools Project'.



# Equity Accountability System Updates

# Minimum Equity Standard

## New for 2026-27 Program Year:

- EEC AVs & Designees must comply with MES requirements

## New MES Combined Compliance and Year End Report has two sections:

- The **MES Year-End Report** looks backward and captures how your organization achieved the MES requirement for the 2025-26 Program Year.
- The **MES Compliance Plan** is forward-looking and captures how your organization intends to achieve compliance with the MES requirement in the 2026-27 Program Year.

## Key dates for MES Compliance:

- April 15, 2026 – MES Compliance Webinar (see links)
- May 26, 2026 – *MES Combined Compliance and Year-End Report* opens for submissions
- May 31, 2026 – Conclusion of the 2025-26 Program Year
- July 15, 2026 – Submission deadline for *MES Combined Report*
- July 15, 2026 – Submission deadline for Program Year 2025-26 MES Waiver Requests
- December 31, 2026 – MES Mid-Year Report deadline

## MES Program Year 2026-27 Compliance Plans

- At least **14%** of an entity's total project workforce be composed of Equity Eligible Persons for Program Year 2026-27.



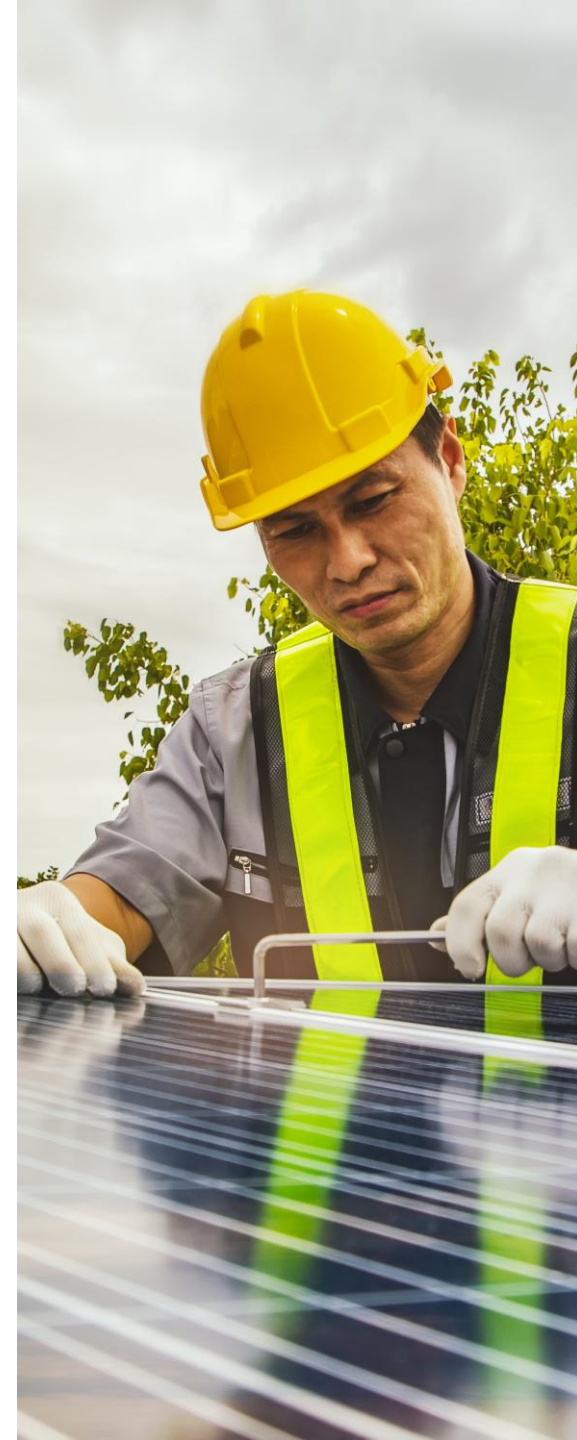
Quick Links:  
[Minimum Equity Standard page](#)

[Minimum Equity Standard Compliance Plan Information](#)

[April 15 MES Compliance Webinar recording, slides, Q&A](#)

# EEC and Small & Emerging Business Designations

- **NEW for 2026-27: Small and Emerging Business Designation**
    - Purpose
    - Qualifications
    - How to apply
  - **New EEC AV requirement - Providing "management and control" documentation**
    - A certificate showing business/organization is certified as one of qualifying business designations
- OR
- A complete and signed Management and Control Attestation with documentation showing EEP majority-owner(s) management and control



# Mentorship Program



<https://illinoisshines.com/mentorship-program/>

- Watch for the 2025-26 Final Report
  - Provided two 8-week virtual training series each concluding with its own graduation celebration and networking event.
- 2026-27 Mentorship Program:
  - Two-cohort format
  - 31 virtual online courses covering Program requirements
  - 8 virtual sessions
  - Watch for 2026-27 Mentorship Program registration information and a new Mentor stipend.



# Stakeholder Support and Engagement

Current and upcoming resources and events include:

- Updates to Program Help Guides ([illinoisshines.com/help-guides-and-application-tips](https://illinoisshines.com/help-guides-and-application-tips)) including PDF and video resources covering:
  - Reference Materials including the [AV Program Requirements Annual Checklist](#)
  - Disclosure Form Resources
  - Portal Help Guides
  - Project Application Resources
  - REC Contract and Annual Report Help Guides
- Regular Office Hours and Access to 1:1s with Sector Strategists
- Approved Vendor Roundtables – Fall 2026
- AV and Designee Program Satisfaction Survey – Winter 2027
- Equity Accountability System Learning Series Workshop - Fall 2026





## Marketing and Communications and Portal Updates

# Marketing and Communications Updates

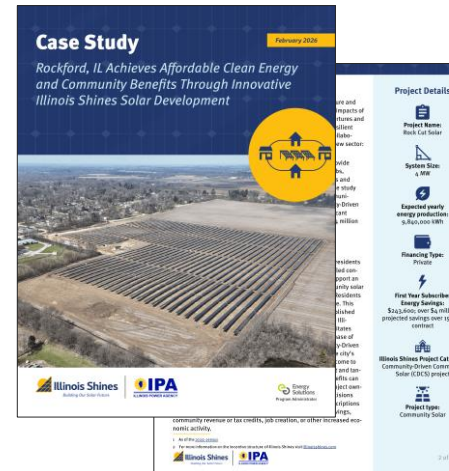
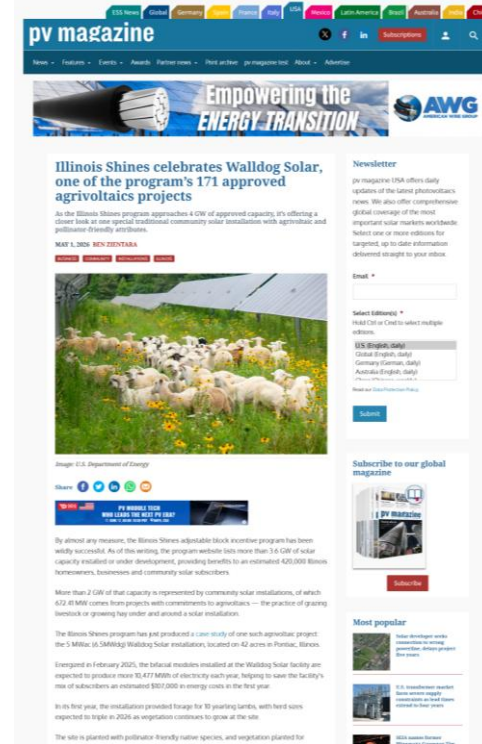
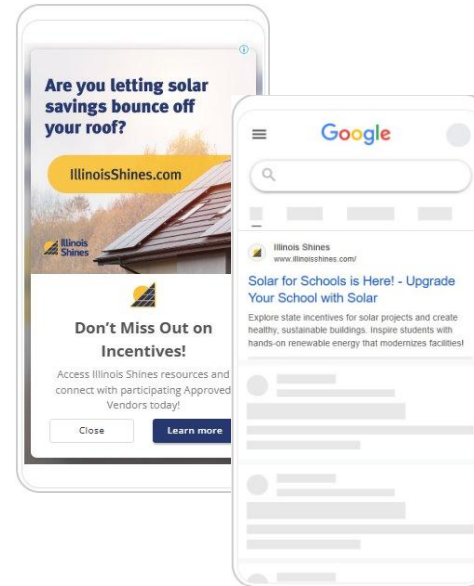
The Program continuously updates content and resources at IllinoisShines.com, improves utilities and navigation, and enhances user experiences and visitor support. Features in development include:

- Navigational and content updates
- Improved search functionality
- Dynamic Approved Vendor lookup for customers
- New and updated help guides and more

The Program continues developing new solutions to promote solar project development, and recent highlights include:

- New Solar for Schools page and project planning resources added in March 2026
- Illinois Shines' first digital search and display ads to drive web traffic launched; delivering strong web traffic
- Case studies and success stories across project categories

The Program Administrator and Illinois Power Agency continue coordinating to support media opportunities spotlighting Program growth and successes



# Key Changes to Portal for June 1 – Disclosure Forms



## New fields

- DG REC Passthrough Incentive Explanation (Purchase only)
- Option to select EEC DG \$5/REC and Small DG Customer-Owned \$20/REC adder
  - Adder is included on the Estimated REC Incentive calculation for portal-generated forms
  - CSV and API-generated forms can use the new REC Estimate calculator under <https://illinoisshines.com/program-documents/#rec-prices>

All changes to support the new program year listed on the [Program Portal](#) page.

**Illinois Shines** **IPA**  
ILLINOIS POWER AGENCY

**Illinois Shines Solar Project Purchase Disclosure Form**  
Solar Project Purchase Disclosure Form - Da 750476

Illinois Shines is a state solar incentive program. An installer or other vendor is required to provide you with this disclosure form so that you have accurate information about the solar project, including its size, cost, operations, warranties, and financial benefits. More information about Illinois Shines is available at [www.illinoisshines.com](http://www.illinoisshines.com) and a guide to understanding your disclosure form is available at <https://illinoisshines.com/consumer-protection/disclosure-form-resources>. Another state solar incentive program, Illinois Solar for All, is available for income-eligible customers and includes a single guarantee cost.

This form is not a substitute for your contract. Carefully read your contract before signing. You may wish to compare offers from multiple installers or Approved Vendors. You should see whenever there are any changes to the program year to be entered on the contract before signing.

You may need your installation contract and receive a refund of any deposit by contacting the project seller within the period allowed by your contract or law, which cannot be less than three calendar days.

If you are unable to resolve a complaint with your installer or Approved Vendor, you may contact the Illinois Shines Program Administrator by emailing [consumer@illinoisshines.com](mailto:consumer@illinoisshines.com) or by calling 877-736-2455. If you have been selected to track-test or otherwise take part in the Consumer Protection Division of the Illinois Attorney General's office may also be able to help call 800-243-0818 or visit <https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/Pages/Consumer>.

| Customer Information |                                       | Approved Vendor |                                   |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Name                 | Carly Customer                        | Legal Name      | Approved Vendor, LLC              |
| Address              | 123 Customer Court, Chicago, IL 60603 | Marketing Name  |                                   |
| Phone                | 312-123-1234                          | Address         | 123 Vendor Ave, Chicago, IL 60601 |
| Email                | customer@email.com                    | Phone           | 312-871-4245                      |
| Service utility      | ComEd                                 | Email           | approvedvendor@eml.com            |
| Customer type        | Residential/Small Commercial          |                 |                                   |

| Project Seller |                                       | Project Installer |   |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Legal Name     | Project Seller, Inc.                  | Legal Name        | Project Installer, Inc.                   |
| Marketing Name | Solar4U                               | Marketing Name    | Solar Installer                           |
| Address        | 123 Seller Street, Rockford, IL 61101 | Address           | 123 Installer Extension, Peoria, IL 61601 |
| Phone          | 815-123-1234                          | Phone             | 309-123-1234                              |
| Email          | solar4u@email.com                     | Email             | installer@email.com                       |

Illinois Shines | IPA | Illinois Shines Program Administrator [consumer@illinoisshines.com](mailto:consumer@illinoisshines.com) - 877-736-2455  
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Quick Links:  
[Program Portal](#)  
[Block Capacity Dashboard](#)  
[Project Map](#)  
[Project Application Reports](#)

# Key Changes to Portal for June 1 – Project Applications

## Project applications

- New documents
  - Customer Contract (DG Purchase)
  - Co-location Affidavits (Community Solar and Large DG)
  - Executed Sales Contract, Lease, or Power Purchase Agreement document (All DG)
- EEC CS \$5/REC Self-Perform adder
  - New attestation and required document
- Small DG Customer-Owned \$20/REC adder
  - New attestation and required document
- All projects not yet submitted and batch Paid will be moved to In Progress on June 1<sup>st</sup>
  - To help AVs comply with new program year requirements and to have the option to request REC adders, AVs will be required to resubmit any unbatched project, or project that is batched and not paid/pending payment.

All changes to support the new program year listed on the [Program Portal](#) page.



# Questions and Answers

# Thank you!

**Program Administrator**

**[admin@IllinoisShines.com](mailto:admin@IllinoisShines.com)**





# Appendix