

Appendix F – Scoring Criteria for Community-Driven Community Solar Projects

Community-Driven Community Solar projects will be selected based on the following criteria.

Primary Selection Criteria - Maximum of 20 points available.

Criteria	1 Point	2 Points	3 Points	4 Points
<p>A. Community ownership or community wealth-building through having a minimum of 50% of the ownership of the project held by community residents or non-profit organizations which directly serve the community where the project is located. This would include having members of the community being able to participate in decisions regarding the governance, operation, maintenance, and upgrades of and to the project; and members of that community benefiting from the project through subscriptions to the project.</p>	50% ownership	60% ownership	70% ownership	80% and up ownership
<p>B. Additional direct and indirect benefits, beyond project participation as a subscriber, including, but not limited to, economic, environmental, social, cultural, and physical benefits. The application must quantify the value of these benefits and they must represent at least 20% of the REC contract value.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct benefits can include, but are not limited to, financial benefits for the owner(s) and subscribers, such as bill savings, revenues from project ownership, tax credits, and the financial value of the project, as well as job creation, direct income, and increased economic activity in the defined geographic community. <p>Indirect benefits can include, but are not limited to, demonstration of environmental, educational, and cultural benefits.</p>	20% of REC contract value	25% of REC contract value	30% of REC contract value	More than 35% of REC contract value

Criteria	1 Point	2 Points	3 Points	4 Points
<p>C. Meaningful involvement in project organization and development by community members, non-profit organizations, or public entities located in or serving the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meaningful involvement in project organization as used herein can mean, but is not limited to, a process that consists of public input, participation and engagement in the project design process, including workshops, webinars, and public comment periods all of which afford stakeholders (those who have an interest or stake in an issue, such as individuals, interest groups, and communities) the opportunity to influence decisions that impact their community. 	3 or fewer community members or organizations engaged in Moderate project organization and development	3 or fewer community members or organizations engaged in Substantial project organization and development	4 or more community members or organizations engaged in Moderate project organization and development	4 or more community members or organizations engaged in Substantial project organization and development
<p>D. Engagement in project operations and management by nonprofit organizations, public entities, or community members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement as used herein can mean, but is not limited to, continuous community participation and consultation as projects are built, operated, and maintained in a way that affords opportunities for the community to weigh in on and make decisions regarding the project. 	Minimal community members' or organizations' involvement or plans for involvement in project operations and management.	Moderate community members' or organizations' involvement or plans for involvement in project operations and management.	Substantial community members' or organizations' involvement or plans for involvement in project operations and management	Extensive or more community members' or organizations' involvement or plans for involvement in project operations and management
<p>E. Whether the project is developed in response to a site-specific RFP developed by community members, or a non-profit organization or public entity located in or serving the community.</p>	-	-	-	Was indeed developed in response to site-specific RFP

Sufficient demonstration of any of the individual primary selection criteria will be worth up to 4 points each in the scoring system. Demonstration of any of these primary selection criteria should be accomplished through a detailed written narrative description that includes firm commitments and evidence as to how any benefits, resources, and wealth-building will flow to the community that will host the project. Additionally, any community engagement activities and planned community ownership should be documented in a detailed way in this narrative.

Secondary Selection Criteria - Maximum of 16 points available

Criteria	1 Point	2 Points
<p>A. Projects that are developed in collaboration with or to provide complementary opportunities for the Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program, the Illinois Climate Works Pre-apprenticeship Program, the Returning Residents Clean Jobs Training Program, the Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program, or the Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complementary opportunities as used herein can mean, but is not limited to: utilizing graduates of job training programs in project development; hiring job training graduates permanently for future projects, not just the applicant project; an expansion of the goals of the job training programs to include 'business training,' on how to develop a project, get financing, recruit customers, etc. 	<p>Provide complementary opportunities to listed programs</p>	<p>Developed in collaboration w/listed programs</p>
<p>B. Projects that increase the diversity of locations of community solar projects in Illinois, including by locating in urban areas and population centers.</p>	<p>Population of locality is 50,000 – 69,999 (Locality meaning city, town, or village)</p>	<p>Population of locality is 70,000 or more (Locality meaning city, town, or village)</p>
<p>C. Projects that are located in Equity Investment Eligible Communities.</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>Whole project needs to be sited in EIEC; projects that are only partially in an EIEC will be reviewed on case-by-case basis.</p>
<p>D. Projects that are not greenfield projects.</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>Definition of greenfield: Greenfield project means a project proposed at a site that is either previously undeveloped land or agricultural land <u>and</u> that does not meet the definition of a brownfield site or contaminated land</p>
<p>E. Projects that serve only local subscribers. Local subscribers are subscribers in the same county as the project, or if that project's county population is below 50,000, then also in adjacent counties.</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>Need to serve local subscribers for the length of REC contract.</p>

Criteria	1 Point	2 Points
F. Projects that have a nameplate capacity that does not exceed 500 kW.	-	Nameplate capacity (project AC size) is 500 kW or less.
G. Projects that are developed by an equity eligible contractor.	-	All development work is done by the EEC. ¹
H. Projects that otherwise meaningfully advance the goals of providing more direct and tangible connection and benefits to the communities which they serve or in which they operate and increasing the variety of community solar locations, models, and options in Illinois.	Need to both provide connection/benefits <u>OR</u> increase variety of locations/models/options	Need to both provide connection/benefits <u>AND</u> increase variety of locations/models/options
I. Projects that are developed in collaboration with local public schools in order to provide experiential learning opportunities or an educational program utilizing the system.	Was developed in collaboration with local public schools	-

For purposes of this category, “project development work” refers to all construction and electrical work on a project, and project-specific site assessment work such as permitting, legal, and other site-specific development work, including work that may have already been undertaken prior to project application. Non-site specific development functions (such as general sales and marketing activities) will not be considered as project development work. This definition also differs from the “project workforce” definition utilized for the Minimum Equity Standards as outlined in P.A. 102-0662 and in this Guidebook’s Glossary, for which a firm’s Illinois-based employees are included in the “project workforce” regardless of function.

Demonstration of any of these additional selection criteria should be accomplished through a detailed, written narrative description separate from the narrative provided for the primary selection criteria outlined directly above. Evidence of any/all additional selection criteria that are applicable to the applicant’s Community- Driven Community Solar project should be outlined as comprehensively as possible in this narrative.

Projects that are awarded points for committing to serve only local subscribers as defined above must meet the local subscriber requirement at the time of Part II verification in order to qualify for a REC contract in the CDCS category. If the project does not meet the requirement, it will be removed from the REC Contract, with forfeiture of collateral and would be eligible to reapply for a Traditional Community Solar Block or waitlist as such capacity becomes available. The local subscriber requirement will be verified at each of the quarterly reports over the first year of the project’s operation. Non-local subscribers will be treated as unsubscribed capacity and REC payments will be adjusted accordingly.

The Community-Driven Community Solar category intends to provide more direct and tangible connection and benefits to the communities which CDCS projects serve or in which they operate and, additionally, to increase the variety of community solar locations, models, and options in Illinois. The IPA Act defines

“Community” as a social unit in which people come together regularly to effect change; a social unit in which participants are marked by a cooperative spirit, a common purpose, or shared interests or characteristics; or a space understood by its residents to be delineated through geographic boundaries or landmarks.

This consistent interpretation of “community” was used across all projects. In Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties, “community” will be limited to township as these are the most populated counties in the state. In all other counties, community will be considered the whole county.

After the Scoring Cure Period concludes, projects will be selected from the application pool in the order of highest to lowest score until the block is fully allocated. A minimum score of 6 points must be achieved to be eligible for a REC contract via the CDCS category. Random selection will be utilized as a tiebreaker only for equally scored projects to fill available capacity, if any. However, should the capacity available be so small as to only accommodate one or more projects below a certain size, then the Agency may only consider those projects small enough to not exceed that remaining capacity. After project selection, projects that have a minimum score of 10 points will be placed on a waitlist. The following rubric has been developed for this CDCS scoring process.

Compliance

Part II Demonstration of Project Commitments and Permissible Changes

At Part II application review, the Program Administrator will request confirmation that any commitments made in the Part I application were fulfilled throughout project development and installation. The Program Administrator will only enforce completion of items proposed in the Part I narrative application and awarded points in the Community Driven Community Solar (“CDCS”) Part I scoring process.

Any changes to commitments made in the Part I application submission which resulted in more favorable scoring (and thus a higher likelihood of contract award) will be considered an event of default under the REC Delivery Contract resulting in the full forfeiture of collateral, with the system unable to be Part II verified.

At Part II application submission, please submit a detailed narrative demonstrating how the Part I scoring commitments have been achieved and include supporting documentation. The Program Administrator may request additional information during the Part II review process. The scoring commitments must be approved by the Program Administrator during the Part II review process, prior to Part II Verification of the project.

Approved Vendors must submit proper documentation for each scoring criterion sought based on the following table:

Primary Scoring Criterion	What should be submitted at Part II
<p>A. Community ownership or community wealth-building through having a minimum of 50% of the ownership of the project held by community residents or non-profit organizations which directly serve the community where the project is located. This would include having members of the community being able to participate in decisions regarding the governance, operation, maintenance, and upgrades of and to the project; and members of that community benefiting from the project through subscriptions to the project.</p>	<p>Please detail how the percent ownership claimed in Part I has been achieved and provide supporting documentation. Supporting documentation can include proof of ownership by community residents or non-profit organizations and demonstration of decision-making ability and participation.</p> <p>Community subscriptions will be confirmed during the Part II subscriber verification process prior to Part II verification.</p>
<p>B. Additional direct and indirect benefits, beyond project participation as a subscriber, including, but not limited to, economic, environmental, social, cultural, and physical benefits. The application must quantify the value of these benefits and they must represent at least 20% of the REC contract value.</p> <p>Direct benefits can include, but are not limited to, financial benefits for the owner(s) and subscribers, such as bill savings, revenues from project ownership, tax credits, and the financial value of the project, as well as job creation, direct income, and increased economic activity in the defined geographic community. Indirect benefits can include, but are not limited to, demonstration of environmental, educational, and cultural benefits.</p>	<p>Please show that the commitments made in Part I were maintained, addressing each commitment and include any contracts, agreements, or supporting documentation.</p> <p>Here are examples of supporting documentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For a donation, please provide evidence of donation (per IRS): a bank record or a written communication from the qualified organization containing the name of the organization, the amount, and the date of the contribution. This could be in the form of a receipt or an acknowledgement letter/proof of charitable contribution. - For subscriber bill savings, please calculate the annual projected bill savings over the 15-year life of the project. - For increased economic activity (local labor, materials, etc.), please provide contracts/receipts of the work that has already occurred and the planned work that will occur over the life of the contract. - For local taxes, please provide a copy of the annual tax bill. - For demonstration of environmental, educational, and cultural benefits, please provide a narrative related to these benefits and include any relevant documentation of such community benefits. <p>The total local contributions of the contract value over 15 years must be maintained, but changes to the specific contributions and timelines proposed in the narrative are permitted.</p> <p>The Program Administrator may request more information regarding these commitments in the Annual Report.</p>
<p>C. Meaningful involvement in project organization and development by community members, non-profit organizations, or public entities located in or serving the community.</p> <p>Meaningful involvement in project organization as used herein can mean, but is not limited to, a process that consists of public input, participation and engagement in the project design process, including</p>	<p>Please detail the community, non-profit, and or public entity involvement that occurred during project organization and development.</p> <p>Please address each commitment stated in Part I and show how it has been completed. Small changes in the involvement of community members, non-profit organizations or public entities stated in Part I are permitted if the overall level of commitment is maintained.</p>

Primary Scoring Criterion	What should be submitted at Part II
workshops, webinars, and public comment periods all of which afford stakeholders (those who have an interest or stake in an issue, such as individuals, interest groups, and communities) the opportunity to influence decisions that impact their community.	
<p>D. Engagement in project operations and management by nonprofit organizations, public entities, or community members.</p> <p>Engagement as used herein can mean, but is not limited to, continuous community participation and consultation as projects are built, operated, and maintained in a way that affords opportunities for the community to weigh in on and make decisions regarding the project.</p>	<p>Please detail the existing and planned future engagement that will occur throughout the 15-year life of the REC contract.</p> <p>Please address each commitment stated in Part I and show how it has been or will be completed. Small changes in the engagement of community members, non-profit organizations or public entities stated in Part I are permitted if the overall level of commitment is maintained.</p> <p>The Program Administrator may request more information regarding these commitments in the Annual Report.</p>
E. Whether the project is developed in response to a site-specific RFP developed by community members, or a non-profit organization or public entity located in or serving the community.	No explanation or documentation required, as this was verified in Part I application review.

Secondary Scoring Criterion	What should be submitted at Part II
<p>A. Projects that are developed in collaboration with or to provide complementary opportunities for the Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program, the Illinois Climate Works Pre-apprenticeship Program, the Returning Residents Clean Jobs Training Program, the Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program, or the Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program.</p> <p>Complementary opportunities as used herein can mean, but is not limited to utilizing graduates of job training programs in project development; hiring job training graduates permanently for future projects, not just the applicant project; an expansion of the goals of the job training programs to include ‘business training,’ on how to develop a project, get financing, recruit customers, etc.</p>	<p>Please demonstrate how the project has collaborated with or provided complementary opportunities for the Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program, the Illinois Climate Works Pre-apprenticeship Program, the Returning Residents Clean Jobs Training Program, the Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program, or the Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program. If these Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) workforce programs are still in development at the time of Part II submission, please provide an explanation as to why the collaboration/complementary opportunities have not occurred and a written commitment/plan for future collaboration or complementary opportunities over the project’s life.</p> <p>The Program Administrator may request more information regarding these commitments in the Annual Report.</p>
<p>B. Projects that increase the diversity of locations of community solar projects in Illinois, including by locating in urban areas and population centers.</p>	<p>No explanation or documentation required, as this was verified in Part I application review.</p>
<p>C. Projects that are located in Equity Investment Eligible Communities.</p>	<p>No explanation or documentation required, as this was verified in Part I application review.</p>
<p>D. Projects that are not greenfield projects.</p>	<p>No explanation or documentation required, as this was verified in Part I application review.</p>
<p>E. Projects that serve only local subscribers. Local subscribers are subscribers in the same county as the project, or if that project’s county population is below 50,000, then also in adjacent counties.</p>	<p>Please submit subscriber information (as of the energization date) including proof that minimum subscriber commitments have been met (50% of capacity must be subscribed, and all subscribers must be local). Also include the percentage of small subscribers (as a share of total system capacity). This information will be verified during Part II subscriber verification.</p>

Secondary Scoring Criterion	What should be submitted at Part II
F. Projects that have a nameplate capacity that does not exceed 500 kW.	No explanation or documentation required, as this was verified in Part I application review.
G. Projects that are developed by an Equity Eligible Contractor.	<p>Please demonstrate that all “project development work” (all construction and electrical work on a project, and project-specific site assessment work such as permitting, legal, and other site-specific development work, including work that may have already been undertaken prior to project application) has been completed by the equity eligible contractor (EEC) stated in the Part I application. Non-site specific development functions (such as general sales and marketing activities) will not be considered as project development work.</p> <p>Documentation can include an electrical procurement construction (EPC) contract, or other relevant contractual agreements.</p>
H. Projects that otherwise meaningfully advance the goals of providing more direct and tangible connection and benefits to the communities which they serve or in which they operate and increasing the variety of community solar locations, models, and options in Illinois.	Please demonstrate via narrative and relevant supporting documentation how the project is working towards the goals of providing more direct and tangible connection and benefits to the communities which they serve, and a plan to continue this work throughout the life of the project.
I. Projects that are developed in collaboration with local public schools in order to provide experiential learning opportunities or an educational program utilizing the system.	Please detail the local public school involvement that occurred during project development and the planned future learning opportunities or educational programs utilizing the system.

After Part II Verification

As most of the scoring criteria for Community Driven Community Solar projects will take place during the project development cycle (thus take place across the Part I and Part II application process), there is a limited scope of criteria that the Agency will need to monitor after Part II verification. If applicable, the Program Administrator will seek to monitor some requirements throughout the life of the REC Delivery Contract. The Program Administrator will request updated reporting at the Annual Report each July for such commitments and will also seek to ensure that projects that have made these commitments are in compliance via random project inspections. Failure to uphold these commitments may result in an Event of Default under the REC Contract