

Self-Performance REC Adder Guidelines, June 26 IPA Power Hour on Elective Pay

June 19, 2026

Coming up in Illinois Shines

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

- **Key Dates**
 - **June 19** – Juneteenth Holiday, IPA and Call Center Closed
 - **June 26** – [IPA Power Hour - Elective Pay: Clean Energy Credits for Tax-Exempt Entities](#)
 - **July 3** – Fourth of July Holiday (Observed), IPA and Call Center Closed
- **Deadlines**
 - **June 24** – Re-Batching Opens for AVs (For July 16, 2026, ICC Meeting)
 - **July 1** – Election Deadline – Project Re-Batch or Withdrawal (For July 16, 2026, ICC Meeting), Annual Report Response Period Begins, and Use of [Energization Extension Form Takes Effect](#)

Stakeholder Support

- **Program Administrator Office Hours** – June 24, 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: ["Applications for a distributed renewable energy generation projects must submit an affidavit attesting that the project is not affiliated with any other project."](#)

Program News

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

- **New! Community Solar Self-Performance REC Adder Guidelines** – [As previously announced](#), beginning with Program Year 2026-27, a new \$5/REC adder will be applied to the REC price for projects where the EEC AV “self-performs” at least 50% of the engineering, procurement and construction (“EPC”) or development work, as determined by the IPA or Program Administrator. As established in the [2026 Long-Term Plan, and specified in section 1.J of the Program Guidebook](#), only projects participating in the CS subcategory of the EEC category are eligible for the Self-Performance REC Adder. To facilitate this process, the Program Administrator developed a [CS Self-Performance Adder Evaluation Template](#) that quantifies each task and its related point value, and can be found on the [EEC Project Category Hub](#) on the Program website. As a part of their application, AVs must provide a written narrative describing all the pre-development activities performed prior to Part I Application and all the activities to be performed prior to Energization of the project. At the time of Part I submission, AVs requesting the EEC CS Self-Performance REC Adder must attest to the attestation in Appendix H of the Guidebook and submit a filled CS Self-Performance Adder Evaluation Template through the Portal.

- **New! New to the Program Website** – Key additions to the [Program website](#):
 - Updated [Energy Workforce Equity Portal FAQs \(Vendor FAQs page\)](#)
 - [Community Solar Self-Performance Adder Evaluation Template \(EEC Project Category Hub\)](#)
- **June 26 IPA Power Hour on Elective Pay** – The IPA will host a Power Hour on June 26, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. This educational webinar will explore Elective Pay, a mechanism that enables tax-exempt entities to benefit from remaining federal clean energy tax credits. Learn how public bodies, non-profit organizations, houses of worship, and other tax-exempt entities can still leverage federal tax credits (even with no tax liability) to reduce the overall cost of clean energy projects. The webinar will review eligibility requirements for Elective Pay, including changes enacted by Congress last year and requirements specific to battery storage and geothermal projects. Speakers for this session include CYR Strategies' Cassie Rowlands, an expert in Elective Pay, and IPA Director of External Affairs Sarah Duffy. Please register with [this link](#).
- **Detailed Memo on Capacity Reallocation Published** – On May 28, 2026, the Program [published the results](#) of the uncontracted capacity reallocation of 308.01 MW, including outlining the steps the Agency took to reallocate remaining capacity from the 2025-26 Program Year for use in the 2026-27 Program Year, and on June 10, 2026, [published a detailed memo](#) on the process. The [Block Capacity Dashboard](#), updated daily, provides a breakdown of project capacity for each Illinois Shines project category.
- **IPA Launches Equity Data Dashboard** – On Monday, June 8, 2026, the IPA announced the launch of the [Equity Data Dashboard](#), a transparent, data-driven tool designed to provide insight into the implementation and progress of the Equity Accountability System (EAS), established under the [Climate and Equitable Jobs Act](#). The Dashboard features interactive visuals and regularly updated metrics that provide stakeholders with a clearer understanding of participation across Illinois' clean energy economy, highlights who is participating, where opportunities are emerging, and how progress is advancing toward the goals established by the EAS.
- **Illinois Shines Program Year 2026-27 Opened** – On June 1, 2026, the Illinois Shines 2026-27 Program Year opened with new capacity for project categories to continue the expansion of solar development in Illinois. Stakeholders are expected to comply with updated Program requirements effective immediately. New requirements and Program features, updated Program documents, new REC prices, new REC Delivery contracts and minimum contract requirements, stakeholder resources, and more, can be found in [this announcement](#). Many of these updates were summarized in the “Welcome to Program Year 2026-27” webinar, with a [recording](#), [presentation slides](#), and [Q&A](#) on the [Webinars](#) page of the Program website.
- **New Program Year Updates for Community Solar** – [As previously shared](#), the available 2026-27 TCS block capacity allocation was not exceeded for either Group A or B on the first day of the Program Year, and as such, all applicant projects that otherwise qualify will be deemed acceptable and qualify for a REC Delivery Contract. The 90-day application window for CDCS projects opened on June 1, 2026, and applications may be submitted until August 30, 2026. CDCS projects will be reviewed and scored based on the scoring criteria as outlined in Appendix F of the [Program Guidebook](#), with projects selected from the application pool in the order of highest to lowest score until the available block capacity is fully allocated.
- **IPA Publishes Final 2026 Long-Term Plan** – [On June 1, 2026](#), the IPA published its final [2026 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan](#), which was approved by the ICC in [Docket 25-0945](#) on February 17, 2026, and modified to conform with the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act (CRGA). Please visit the [CRGA implementation](#) page on the IPA website for more information about specific implementation activities. The Plan can be found on the [Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan](#) page of the IPA website, along with appendices and a redline comparison of this final modified Plan with the one filed on April 20, 2026.
- **IPA Publishes Final 2026 REC Delivery Contracts** – The 2026 REC Delivery Contracts have been updated pursuant to the final Long-Term Plan. These contracts are for use on projects approved in the 2026-27 and 2027-28 Illinois Shines Program Years. All projects approved by the ICC after June 1, 2026, will use the new 2026 REC Contracts, regardless of application submission date. The Program will provide an “off-ramp” option

for any already-applied projects expecting to receive an award under the 2024 REC Delivery Contract that is unable to be developed under the updated 2026 REC Delivery Contracts. REC Delivery Contracts can be found at the [Program Documents](#) page of the Program website.

- IPA Launches Phase II of the Solar Restitution Program and Expands Program Caps** – [As previously announced](#), on June 1, 2026, the IPA and Program Administrator launched Phase II of the Solar Restitution Program (SRP). The IPA launched Phase I of the SRP on May 6, 2025. Under Phase I, customers were eligible to receive restitution if they were promised a pass-through of the Illinois Shines REC payment by their AV, but they did not receive any portion of that payment (and they met other eligibility requirements). To date, 170 customers have received nearly \$473,000 in restitution from the SRP. In Phase II, the IPA is expanding the SRP to cover customers who were promised a pass-through payment but received only a portion of that payment. Customers who applied for restitution during Phase I of the program but were found to be partially or fully ineligible for restitution because they received a portion of their pass-through payment will automatically be reconsidered for restitution under Phase II. These customers do not need to submit another restitution claim, and they will receive an email from the Program notifying them of their eligibility within the next few weeks. Full details about eligibility requirements, applicable caps, and how to submit a restitution claim can be found on the [SRP](#) page of the Program website. Questions on the SRP should be directed to restitution@illinoisshines.com.
- Part II Verification Cut Off for June** – The last Part II Verification date for June is June 24, 2026. Applications that were Part II verified on or before June 24, 2026, will be included in the July invoicing period. Application processing will continue throughout the last week of the month and any applications that are reviewed between June 25 and June 30, 2026, will be invoiced in August 2026. Part II Verification Cut Off dates for each month have been added to the [Key Dates and Deadlines](#) page on the Program website.
- New Energization Extension Request Process for PY 2026-27** – [As previously announced](#), the IPA introduced a new Illinois Shines Energization Extension Request Form for the 2026-27 Program Year that will replace the existing Extension Request process. The Extension Request Form is now live and can be accessed on the new [Project Extensions and Renewals](#) page of the Program website. **Starting July 1, 2026**, the IPA expects all Extension Requests to be made through the Extension Request Form and will not accept requests made via email. The Program has additionally published 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.

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. 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. Upcoming portal enhancements include:

- **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. AVs will have an opportunity to report any additional subscriber history during the Annual Report cure period.
- **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 are temporarily running 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.

Following the spike in submissions related to the change in REC payment structure for Small DG projects, review of Part I and Part II applications has exceeded the 10-day expected turnaround time. The Program Administrator is working to bring application review back into the expected turnaround time and will continue to inform stakeholders of progress. In addition to information available at the [Project Application Reports](#) page, the status of individual project applications can be checked with the [Project Look Up Tool](#) on the Program website.

Other Opportunities

- **New! Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) Program** – C-PACE is a national program that offers low-cost, long-term financing for energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation and resiliency projects in commercial buildings. Commercial property owners can obtain up to 100% upfront financing from private capital providers for qualified upgrades to their HVAC, lighting and solar photovoltaic systems, and many more amenities in both existing buildings and new construction projects. C-PACE is secured by a special assessment lien on the property and is repaid as a line item on the property tax bill. The program is administered at the local level in jurisdictions with C-PACE programs. For more information and to see if a project qualifies for this opportunity, please visit Illinois C-PACE administrators' websites, including [Illinois Energy Conservation Authority](#), [Illinois Finance Authority](#), and [Cook County C-PACE](#).

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