

# Annual Report Opens July 1, MES Combined Compliance and Year-End Report Submission Deadline, Extension Form Use Required Starting July 1

June 26, 2026

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## Coming up in Illinois Shines

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

- **Key Dates**
  - **June 29** – Community Solar Opt-In Batching Begins
  - **June 29** – Pause Lifted on Two Withhold Limit for Distributed Generation Projects
  - **July 1** – Annual Report Response Period Begins
  - **July 1** – Required Use of [Energization Extension Form](#) Takes Effect
  - **July 3** – Fourth of July Holiday (Observed), IPA and Call Center Closed
- **Deadlines**
  - **June 29** – 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)

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## Stakeholder Support

- **Program Administrator Office Hours** – July 1, 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: "[Add Comments to the Application Overview to Help Prevent Need Info Requests.](#)"

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## Program News

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

- **New! Annual Report Opens July 1, 2026** – On July 1, 2026, AVs with an active REC Contract will receive an email with a link to the Annual Report Response Form and a link to their SharePoint folder where Annual Report data will be housed. Reporting for the Annual Report will run through 11:59 PM CPT on July 15, 2026 (for those who have **not** signed a REC Contract Amendment) or 11:59 PM CPT on August 3, 2026 (for those who **have** signed a REC Contract Amendment). Submission of an Annual Report is a Program requirement, and **failure to submit an Annual Report is an Event of Default under the REC Contract** that puts both the AV and its contracted projects in jeopardy of continued participation in the Program. Please review the [2025-26 Approved Vendor Annual Report Guide](#) for more information.
- **New! Reminder: Minimum Equity Standard (MES) Combined Compliance and Year-End Reports Due on July 15, 2026** – [As previously announced](#), the MES Combined Compliance and Year-End Report, which includes the 2026-27 MES Compliance Plan and the 2025-26 MES Year-End Report opened for submissions on May 26, 2026. All registered AVs and Designees are required to submit this report, regardless of their participation status for the past Program Year. For organizations that did not participate in the Program in the 2025-26 Program Year, this can be reported at the beginning of the form. The Report is due on July 15, 2026.

All Program participants should have received an email from the Program Administrator with a link to the secure MES submission portal. Please use the link and credentials within the email to complete and submit your MES Report. If you do not see the email, please reach out to the Program Administrator at [mes@illinoisshines.com](mailto:mes@illinoisshines.com).

- **New! Reminder: Small Subscriber Requirement for Community Solar Projects Under 20-Year REC Contracts** – For CS projects under 20-Year REC Contracts, if the CS Subscription Mix (small subscriber percentage) is less than 50% as observed on both the first Business Day of June and the first Business Day of December of a Delivery Year, then the percent of Actual Nameplate Capacity that is Subscribed is deemed to be 0% and all the RECs delivered in the Delivery Year shall be returned from Buyer to Seller and Buyer shall not pay for such RECs. This process is reviewed by the Program Administration during the Subscriber Verification process and results are shared with AVs once final. The small subscriber definition is outlined on page 120 of the [Program Guidebook](#).
- **New! Subscriber Management Editing and History Reporting Enhancement** – The Program has released an enhancement to the Portal's Subscriber Management functionality that allows 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. If necessary, AVs will have an opportunity to report any additional subscriber history during the Annual Report cure period of August 4, 2026 - October 30, 2026, and subsequently recalculate daily average subscription rates. The [Training Guide](#) has been updated with instructions on this new enhancement.
- **New! Enhanced Project Lookup Tool Now Available** – The IllinoisShines.com [Project Look Up Tool](#) allows customers or their AVs and Designees to view the status of project applications online, helping customers understand how close their AV is to receiving the incentive payment for the project. The Project Look Up Tool has been updated to provide additional detail about project applications, including sub-status information on submissions, batching and payments, *Need Info* requests, verifications, ICC approvals, and more.
- **New! IPA Lifting Pause on Two Withhold Limit for Distributed Generation Starting June 29** – Beginning with re-batching that opens on June 29, 2026, DG projects will only be permitted to be withheld twice before they must be submitted to the ICC for REC Contract approval or permanently withdrawn from the Program. Projects that have been withheld more than two times already will be required to submit to the ICC or withdraw. This process is further outlined in Section 5.A of the 2026-27 [Program Guidebook](#).
- **New! Community Solar Opt-In Batching Starting June 29** – Beginning June 29, 2026, CS projects will be able to opt-out of ICC submission for up to four ICC meetings. At the fifth ICC meeting, the AV must opt-in to ICC submission or the project will be automatically and permanently withdrawn. This process is further outlined in Section 5.A of the 2026-27 [Program Guidebook](#). Projects that have already been withheld will start fresh under the new process and be allowed to opt-out of four ICC meetings before being required to opt-in or be permanently withdrawn.
- **New! July REC Invoicing Opens July 1, 2026** – REC invoices and Quarterly Netting Statements will be made available for download from AV SharePoint folders on July 1, 2026. Invoices must be submitted to the utility by July 10, 2026, to receive payment for the July invoice period. Any invoice amounts not submitted to the utility by July 10, 2026, will be carried forward and included in the October 2026 invoice period.
- **New! New to the Program Website** – Key additions to the [Program website](#):
  - Updated CS and DG Purchase Disclosure Form Deep Dive resources ([Disclosure Forms](#) page)
  - Updated [Guide to Going Solar](#), [Distributed Generation brochure](#), and [Intro to Illinois Shines](#) brochure ([Program Brochures and Other Resources](#) page)
- **Updated! Reminder: Use of New Energization Extension Request Form Required Starting July 1** – [On June 1](#), the IPA introduced the [Illinois Shines Scheduled Energization Date Extension Request form](#) for the

2026-27 Program Year, replacing the email submission Extension Request process. The new form streamlines the submission process and automatically notifies necessary stakeholders at the IPA, Program Administrator, and Utilities upon submission. **Starting July 1, 2026, the Agency expects all Extension Requests to be submitted through the Extension Request Form and will not accept requests made via email.** The Extension Request Form can be accessed on the [Project Extensions and Removals](#) page of the Illinois Shines website, along with a [Guide to Extension Requests](#) and [updated FAQs](#). For any questions, AVs should reach out to [IPA.Solar@illinois.gov](mailto:IPA.Solar@illinois.gov).

- 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 Part I application, AVs requesting the EEC CS Self-Performance REC Adder must certify that the project work conforms with the "self-perform" definition in the Program Guidebook and submit a completed [CS Self-Performance Adder Evaluation Template](#) via the Portal.
- 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.

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## 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 [Portal Updates](#) page of the Program website. Upcoming portal enhancements include:

Development Focus	Details	Delivery
<b>Project Labor Agreement Attestation</b>	A new attestation added to the Part I CS project applications requires AVs to attest that they are aware of Project Labor Agreement requirements for the construction of the project.	June 24, 2026

<b>Updated AV application link</b>	An updated link for new AV Registration on the Illinois Shines Portal log in page will redirect AVs to the "Become an AV or Designee" page on the Illinois Shines website.	June 24, 2026
<b>Updated Advance of Capital link</b>	In Part I of CS and DG applications, a template has been provided for "Request Advance of Capital". This ensures that AVs have access to the template in order to request early payment projects. This can be found under Applications -> Application Number -> Part I -> Section 2 -> "Would you like to request an Advance of Capital for this project? -> Yes.	June 24, 2026
<b>Increased "Application ID of the existing facility" character limit</b>	The "Application ID of the existing facility" field in the Part I CS and DG application updated to allow unlimited characters, so that all projects for an expansion can be listed. Under Applications -> Application Number -> Part 1 -> Section 2 -> the "Application ID of the existing facility" field appears if "Is this an expansion of an existing facility?" is set to yes.	June 24, 2026
<b>Qualified Person field should not auto-populate from AV data in Part 2</b>	Auto population of the "Name of the Qualified Person who conducted the installation" field for AVs in Part II of the CS and DG project application removed to prevent incorrect information from being entered on the application. Navigate to Applications -> Part II - Section 3 -> Select the option to "Assign Approved Vendor", the "Name of Qualified Person who conducted the installation" will remain blank for manual entry.	June 24, 2026
<b>Corrected Latitude/Longitude validations</b>	Corrected an issue in which some latitude and longitude coordinates were not recognized as being in Illinois and could not be saved. AVs can now enter correct latitude and longitude coordinates for a project.	June 24, 2026
<b>Added "Earliest Signed Disclosure Form" optional document to project applications</b>	A new optional document upload has been added to Part I DG applications called "Earliest Signed Disclosure Form". This allows AVs to provide the signed Disclosure Form with final terms to the project so that they are not asked to provide additional information later.	June 24, 2026
<b>Added ability to edit Subscription Size and Status History</b>	AVs and Designees will now be able to edit both individual subscription records and their historical event timeline so that they can cure any subscriber verification issues including daily averages. They will be able to edit historical data for Activations, Terminations, and Size Changes.	June 24, 2026
<b>Updated Population of Subscription Timeline in Subscription History upon Subscription Upload to align w/New Subscription Detail</b>	When Vendors and Designees use the "Update Subscription" process to import subscription records, events like status change, size change and termination details now stored as a timeline based on the import and accessible to individually view and edit on the Subscriptions page.	June 24, 2026

- **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](mailto:admin@IllinoisShines.com).
  - Following both the spike in submissions related to the change in REC payment structure for Small DG projects, as well as a substantial increase in battery schematic submissions requiring review, 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, and is also developing process improvements to increase battery schematic review efficiency and capacity it expects to implement in the next two months.

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## Other Opportunities

- **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](#).

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

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