

End of Year Report

Program
Year
2025-26

The 2025-26 Illinois Shines Program Year delivered significant solar development and economic impact to Illinois. Amidst the backdrop of the Clean and Reliability Grid Affordability Act's passage and changes to Federal tax credits, the IPA re-opened the 2024 Long-Term Plan and allocated more than 800 MW of additional capacity across Illinois Shines project categories. The Program protected customers through the implementation of consumer protection initiatives including a Solar Restitution Program, an escrow process for REC payments to customers, and REC adders to incentivize Approved Vendors that support stranded customers. Illinois Shines supported equity progress through the Equity Accountability System Learning Series, more efficient Minimum Equity Standard reporting, and the Mentorship Program expansion.

- Andrea O'Shea, Program Manager/Illinois Shines — Illinois Power Agency

\$393,406,209
Total Incentive
Payments Invoiced

Project Approvals by the Numbers

	Part I & II Applications Reviewed	Applications ICC Approved	Final Capacity Allocated
Small DG	27,568	22,126	234.4 MW
Large DG	634	400	67.0 MW
Traditional Community Solar	133	108	522.9 MW
Community - Driven Community Solar	128	70	274.6 MW
Public Schools	52	37	21.5 MW
EECs	327	256	362.1 MW



135,464
Homes & Businesses
Benefiting from
Approved 2025-26
Community
Solar Projects
(Traditional CS and
Community-
Driven CS projects)

Distributed Generation (DG) Applications Reviewed by Financing Type

	Purchase	Lease	Power Purchase Agreement
Small DG	7,738 (28%)	8,843 (32%)	10,987 (40%)
Large DG	562 (89%)	8 (1%)	64 (10%)
Public Schools	31 (63%)	0 (0%)	18 (37%)
Equity Eligible Contractors DG	155 (70%)	6 (3%)	60 (27%)

Approved Vendors by Sector*

Small DG: **159**
Large DG: **178**
Community Solar: **432**
Public Schools: **26**
EEC: **173**
Uncategorized: **6**

*not including Single Project AVs

Participating Approved Vendors and Designees (as of May 31, 2026)

Total AVs: **974***
New AVs: **58***
13.8% EECs*
16% of AVs submitted projects
Total Designees: **852**
New Designees: **102**

*not including Single Project AVs

Complaints

Received: **995**
Resolved: **580***
Closed Due to Non-Responsive AV or Customer: **523***
Under Investigation: **418***
Closed Where Unable to Reach Resolution: **117***

*Totals for Resolved, Closed, and Under Investigation include complaints received prior to 2025-26

Solar Restitution Program

Claims approved and paid: **156**
Total amount paid to restitution claimants: **\$400,000**

Mentorship Program

Combined Fall and Winter Cohort Data

Mentees: **37**
(33 graduated)
Mentors: **11**
Subject matter experts: **15**
Virtual Trainings: **16**
(20 hours content)
Syllabi: **6**
(107 resources/citation)
Courses: **31**
(four+ hours content)
Mentee Check-Ins: **33**

EEC Certifications

EEC AVs certified: **56**
(including Single Project AVs)
EEC AVs certified: **21**
(excluding Single Project AVs)
EEC Designees certified: **10**
EEC Subcontractors certified: **32**

Market Monitoring

Companies issued Informal Outreach or Notice of Potential Violations (NOPV) for apparent marketing violations: **122**

Disciplinary Action

Informal outreaches conducted: **128**
NOPVs issued: **278**
Warnings issued: **21**
Suspensions issued: **11**

Stranded Customer REC Adder

Projects submitted: **2,837**
Projects approved : **1,459**

Stranded Customer Support

*Newly registered stranded customers in 2025-26: **95***

Customers unstranded in 2025-26: **43**

Participating AVs and Designees registered to assist stranded customers: **27**

Minimum Equity Standard (MES)

2025-26 MES Compliance Plans received: **1,037**
2025-26 MES Mid-Year Reports received: **575**
MES Combined Compliance and Year End Reports: **665**
(as of 7/15/26; Combined Plan introduced May 2026)

Program Support

Project Inspections

Total Inspections: **349**

Small DG: **312**
Large DG: **21**
Community Solar: **16**

Portal Enhancements for Project Management

Launched CS Subscriber Management feature
Launched Batch Fee Reporting feature
Portal navigation and access improvements

Expanded Program Messaging

Consumer and Public Schools digital advertising
Program website enhancements
Outreach events: **39**

New Solar for Schools webpage
Project case studies: **2**
Presentations provided: **18**

Support and Feedback

AV Roundtables: **5**
Vendor 1:1s: **352**
Office hours sessions hosted: **73**
Stakeholder support cases: **8,476**

- Increased satisfaction score on annual AV/Designee Program Satisfaction Survey
- Consumer Protection Working Group meetings
- Annual *Customer Satisfaction Survey*

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