

Upcoming Annual Report Deadlines, MES Combined Plans Now Past Due, Update on Part I and Part II Application Processing

July 17, 2026

Coming up in Illinois Shines

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

- **Deadlines**
 - **July 21** – Re-Batching Opens for AVs (For August 6, 2026, ICC Meeting)
 - **July 23** – Election Deadline – Project Re-Batch or Withdrawal (For August 6, 2026, ICC Meetings)

Stakeholder Support

- **Program Administrator Office Hours** – July 29, 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: "[Section 3 of the Part II application will be compared to Part II installer information.](#)"

Program News

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

- **New!** **New to the Program Website** – Key additions to the [Program website](#):
 - [July Illinois Shines Data Report](#) ([Illinois Shines Data Report](#) page)
- **Updated!** **Annual Report Due August 3, 2026, for Entities Who Have Signed a REC Contract Amendment** – On July 1, 2026, AVs with an active REC Contract were sent 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 August 3, 2026, for those who have signed a REC Contract Amendment. The submission deadline for entities that did NOT sign the REC Contract Amendment was July 15, 2026. 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. Following the conclusion of the Annual Report cure period on October 30, 2026, the Program Administrator will calculate any potential Drawdowns for the annual REC performance and CS parameters evaluations. The calculation will include any finalized batch or contract assignments, REC delivery obligation reduction requests, or Force Majeure requests that are reported before October 30, 2026. Please review your portfolio to ensure that any contract status is correct and request any changes in a timely manner so the Drawdown calculations can be completed accurately. Please review the [2025-26 Approved Vendor Annual Report Guide](#) and additional AV resource materials under REC Contract and [Annual Report Help Guides](#) for more information.
- **Updated!** **Deadline Passed for Minimum Equity Standard (MES) Combined Compliance and Year-End Reports and Waiver Requests** – [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, was due on July 15,

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. **Failure to submit an *MES Combined Compliance and Year-End Report* or a waiver request by the July 15, 2026 deadline will result in escalation to the Program Administrator's Consumer Protection Team consistent with Sections X.C-D of the [Consumer Protection Handbook](#).** The Program is following up with entities who have not yet submitted the report. Failure to comply may risk future good standing in the Program and may result in disciplinary action.

- **IPA Announces Joint Program Administrator for Illinois Solar for All and Illinois Shines** – On July 2, 2026, the IPA announced its selection of Energy Solutions to serve as the Joint Program Administrator for both Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA) and Illinois Shines solar incentive programs. No change in service is anticipated for Illinois Shines participants and vendors during this transition. ILSFA administration will begin to transition from Elevate to Energy Solutions in July 2026 with that transition expected to be completed by June 30, 2027. Please see the IPA's [full announcement](#) for additional details relating to the transition, and for historical project data and achievements for ILSFA, for which Elevate has served as the Program Administrator.
- **2025-26 Mentorship Program Report Published** – On July 7, 2026, Illinois Shines released the [2025-26 Mentorship Program Final Report](#), which details the creation and delivery of the sessions, including feedback and future recommendations. For more information about the Mentorship Program, or questions about the Mentorship Program Final Report, please visit the [Mentorship Program](#) page on the Program website or email eec@illinoisshines.com.
- **TCS Group A Soft Close Concluded** – [As previously announced](#), on July 9, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CPT the soft close period for TCS Group A concluded. All subsequently submitted applications will be subject to the TCS scoring mechanism outlined in Appendix E of the [2026-27 Program Guidebook](#). Only projects meeting the scoring threshold of 5 points may be considered for an eligible spot on the waitlist for the TCS category. At this time, new capacity for this category is planned for the 2027-28 Program Year and is expected to be available on June 1, 2027.
- **Community Solar Opt-In Batching** – Beginning June 29, 2026, CS projects are now 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 through their re-batching workbook, 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 started fresh under the new process and will be allowed to opt-out of four ICC meetings before being required to opt-in or be permanently withdrawn. **AVs with CS projects will be able to see the number of times they have opted out of ICC submission in their re-batching workbooks. AVs will also receive email notifications each time they opt out of ICC submission with details on the number of meetings remaining until automatic withdrawal.** Please email admin@illinoisshines.com with any questions.
- **2025-26 Illinois Shines AV and Designee Program Satisfaction Survey Results Published** – The Program is pleased to share a summary of the Program Year 2025-26 Illinois Shines [AV and Designee Program Satisfaction Survey results](#). The survey, which opened in February 2026, provides a high-level summary of Program satisfaction levels, identify areas for improvement, and gather ideas for potential changes. The Program Administrator will reissue the survey annually to track satisfaction overtime and gather feedback for improvements. The [survey results](#) can be found on the [About](#) page of the Program website. The Program Administrator thanks stakeholders for participating in the survey.

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)
7/21/2026	7/23/2026	8/6/2026
8/3/2026	8/5/2026	8/19/2026

Beginning with re-batching that opened on June 29, 2026, DG projects are now only 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 will be required to submit to the ICC or withdraw. See Section 5.A of the 2026-27 [Program Guidebook](#) for more detail.

- **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
Subscriber Management: Bugfix when using Update Subscription to upload Subscriptions function	AVs and Designees will be able to now access the "Update Subscriptions" button and upload subscriptions in bulk without the process hanging. They will also receive the response file successfully with each row showing if the update succeeded or had validation errors and hence failed.	July 15, 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.
- **Updated! Update on Part I and Part II Application Processing** – [As previously announced](#), due to a simultaneous spike in Small DG Part I applications and Part II application submissions, including a high volume of applications with battery schematics, the 10-day turnaround time for Part I and Part II application reviews is currently far beyond its expected timeframe. Part I application review time is currently 12 weeks, and Part II application review time is currently eight weeks. To address the queues and resume meeting the two-week processing target, the Program Administrator is in the process of hiring additional application processors as well as developing Portal upgrades. The Program Administrator anticipates a return to the target two-week review time for Part I applications by mid-August and Part II by the end of September. **Part II projects that contain a battery or storage component will undergo additional technical review of the battery schematic diagram, which may extend the initial application review timeline. The Program has added technical review capacity in recent weeks and anticipates a Program Portal upgrade later this summer.** The Program Administrator continues to prioritize the review of applications based upon the submission date and is available to support AVs and Designees with application questions at admin@illinoisshines.com. The status of individual applications can be searched using the [Project Look Up Tool](#) on the Program website.

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