

Update to Proof of Property Tax Exemption, Contracting Utility Registry Accounts Matrix Updated, Program Year 2025-26 End of Year Report Published

July 31, 2026

Coming up in Illinois Shines

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

- **Key Dates**
 - **August 3** – Annual Report Response Period Ends (For AVs that have signed the REC Contract Amendment)
 - **August 4** – Annual Report Cure Period Begins (For AVs that have signed the REC Contract Amendment)
- **Deadlines**
 - **August 3** – Re-Batching Opens for AVs (For August 19, 2026, ICC Meeting)
 - **August 5** – Election Deadline – Project Re-Batch or Withdrawal (For August 19, 2026, ICC Meeting)

Stakeholder Support

- **Program Administrator Office Hours** – August 12, 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: ["Revisit Project Applications Before Responding to "Need Info" Requests to Avoid Delays."](#)

Program News

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

- **New! Update to Proof of Property Tax Exemption for Houses of Worship** – Previously, only a Non-Homestead Property Tax Exemption Certificate was acceptable proof of property tax exemption for projects up to 100 kW AC sited on Houses of Worship. If the AV cannot provide the Non-Homestead Property Tax Exemption Certificate, alternate means of proof of property tax exemption include:
 - A letter from the county, on county letterhead, confirming the project address is in exempt status. It is best practice for the letter to detail the land and buildings that are exempt from taxation under the non-homestead exemption law.
 - A screenshot from the county website showing a Zero Tax Bill or a parcel summary that shows the project address/parcel is exempt or doesn't have a taxable assessment/assessed value.
- **New! Contracting Utility Registry Accounts Matrix Updated** – Contracting Utilities have various accounts to organize REC transfers by contract version and/or type. Standing Orders must be set up with the Contracting Utility in the appropriate tracking registry account. Following the completion of the 2026 REC Contracts, the Utilities have confirmed which GATS and M-RETS tracking registry accounts standing orders should be set to for projects under the 2026 REC Contract. The Program Administrator has updated the [Contracting Utility Registry Accounts](#) matrix with this updated guidance on the [Program Documents](#) page.

- **New! Renewal Process for Approved Vendors with Common Ownership** – Beginning in 2025, the Program modified the annual renewal process for AVs who share common ownership with, one or more, other AVs. In September and October, all AVs who share common ownership will be required to submit their annual renewals at one time in a single Excel file. Questions on the renewal form are not changing. Beginning in early August and into September, the Program will provide additional information, including links to where AVs can submit their renewals and company's specific due dates, to these AVs about the updated process.
- **New! CDCS Application Deadline for Program Year 2026-27 is August 31, 2026** – As outlined in Section 5 of the [Program Guidebook](#), the CDCS application window closes 90 days after the start of the Program Year. With the Program Year commencing on June 1, 2026, the application submission deadline for Program Year 2026-27 CDCS category is August 31, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CPT. Applications are not accepted after the close of the application window. Additional information about the review and scoring and CDCS project applications will be published following the close of the application window. For any questions or support in the CDCS category, please contact communitysolar@illinoisshines.com.
- **New! Part II Verification Cut Off for August** – The last Part II Verification date for August is August 25, 2026. Applications that were Part II verified on or before August 25, 2026, will be included in the September invoicing period. Application processing will continue throughout the last week of the month and any applications that are reviewed between August 26 and August 31, 2026, will be invoiced in October 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! August REC Invoicing Open August 1, 2026** – REC invoices and Quarterly Netting Statements will be made available for download from AV SharePoint folders by August 1, 2026. Invoices must be submitted to the utility by August 10, 2026, to receive payment for the August invoice period. Any invoice amounts not submitted to the utility by August 10, 2026, will be carried forward and included in the November 2026 invoice period.
- **New! IPA Wins National Clean Energy Awards for Illinois Shines Mentorship Program and Solar Consumer Protection Initiatives** – This week, the IPA's Illinois Shines Mentorship Program and Solar Consumer Protection Initiatives were each recognized with national State Leadership in Clean Energy (SLICE) Awards from the [Clean Energy States Alliance](#), a bipartisan coalition of state energy agencies. The SLICE Awards recognize innovative state-led programs that are accelerating the adoption of clean energy technologies. Selected by an independent panel of distinguished judges, award recipients are evaluated on leadership, innovation, cost-effectiveness, and replicability. Please see the [IPA press release](#) for additional details.
- **New! IPA Issues Illinois Shines Program Year 2025-26 End of Year Report** – On July 31, 2026, the Program released the [Program Year 2025-26 End of Year Report](#). The Report highlights data on some of the most significant and high-impact activities produced by the Program and its participating stakeholders. The full report is available on the [About](#) page of the Illinois Shines website.
- **New! New to Program Website:**
 - Updated [Contracting Utility Registry Accounts](#) matrix ([Program Documents](#) page)
 - [Program Year 2025-26 End of Year Report](#) ([About](#) page)
- **Annual Report Submission Deadlines and Cure Period Begins** – 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. The Annual Report submission deadline for entities that did NOT sign the REC Contract Amendment was July 15, and the Annual Report Cure Period began July 16, 2026, where the Program Administrator contacted AVs to cure any report discrepancies. The Annual Report submission deadline for entities who have signed a REC Contract Amendment is 11:59 PM CPT on August 3, 2026, and the Annual Report Cure Period for these entities begins August 4, 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.

- **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 Protections Team consistent with Sections X.C-D of the [Consumer Protection Handbook](#) and may risk future good standing in the Program and disciplinary action. The Program is following up with entities who have not yet submitted the report.**

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)
8/3/2026	8/5/2026	8/19/2026
8/18/2026	8/20/2026	9/3/2026

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:
- **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! Part I and Part II Application Processing Timelines** – [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 14 weeks, and Part II application review time is currently 10 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, including 200+ hours per month for battery schematic review, and anticipates a Program Portal upgrade later this summer. Battery schematic review will move into the Portal at the end of August, which is expected to significantly reduce admin time and decrease turnaround for review. 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.

Other Opportunities

- **Safer Foundation Job Fair** – The Safer Foundation is hosting a job fair on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Safer Foundation Danny K. Davis Second Chance Center on Chicago's West Side. The Safer Foundation is a CEJA Workforce Hub that trains returning residents across multiple industries, including clean energy. Program participants looking to connect with EEPs are encouraged to table free of charge. Interested employers should sign up following the instructions on [this form](#).

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