

2025-26 Annual Report Cure Period, REC Delivery Underperformance Notification Process, Project Labor Agreement Submission Process

September 18, 2026

Coming up in Illinois Shines

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

- **Key Dates**
 - **September 22** – Fall 2026 AV and EEC Roundtables Interest Form Due
 - **September 24** – Part II Verification for September
 - **October 15** – [EAS Learning Series Webinar](#)
- **Deadlines**
 - **September 22** – Re-Batching Opens for AVs (For October 8, 2026, ICC Meeting)
 - **September 24** – Election Deadline for Project Re-Batch or Withdrawal (For October 8, 2026, ICC Meeting)
 - **September 28** – Re-Batching Opens for AVs (For October 15, 2026, ICC Meeting)
 - **September 30** – Election Deadline for Project Re-Batch or Withdrawal (For October 15, 2026, ICC Meeting)

Stakeholder Support

- **Program Administrator Office Hours** – September 23, 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: "[Understanding Assignment and Assumption Agreement and AV Switch Forms](#)."

Program News

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

- **New! 2025-26 Annual Report Cure Period** – As part of the Annual Report process, the Program Administrator has sent emails to all Approved Vendors with reported discrepancies. This Annual Report Cure Period concludes on October 13, 2026, for AVs that have not signed a REC Contract Amendment and on October 30, 2026, for AVs who have signed a REC Contract Amendment. At this point, Annual Report data (including REC delivery quantities and daily average subscription rates) are considered final.

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 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. AVs should review their portfolio to ensure that any contract status is correct and should request any changes in a timely manner so the Drawdown calculations can be completed accurately.

- **New! REC Delivery Underperformance Notification Process** – The Program Administrator has developed a new process to estimate actual REC delivery quantities for the Delivery Year against expected REC delivery

quantities to aid Approved Vendors in identifying systems that may be underperforming. The new process was piloted and received positive feedback from participants. The Program Administrator will roll the process out to all Approved Vendors starting this month.

- On a quarterly basis, the Program Administrator will send a report to Approved Vendors with systems that are Energized and delivered at least 1 REC prior to the start of the current Delivery Year (DY). Reports will be sent in September, December, and March, not including the first quarter of the DY due to insufficient data.
 - The report will identify, based on estimates, if a system is underperforming, overperforming, or on track.
 - This report is an estimate and should not be used as a predictor of actual Illinois Shines system performance, including any potential future Drawdowns.
- **New! Project Labor Agreement Submission Process** – The Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act ([Public Act 104-0458](#), or “CRGA”), passed on October 31, 2025, amended the IPA Act and introduced a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) requirement for community solar projects approved for a REC Delivery contract after June 1, 2026, where the aggregate capacity, including co-located projects, exceeds 3 MW. To fulfill the requirement for applicable projects, AVs must submit the PLA as attachment(s) (3.5MB size limit per document) through the secure Salesforce.com [Project Labor Agreement Submission Form](#). PLA requirements are addressed in Section 4.R of the [2026-27 Illinois Shines Program Guidebook](#). For more information about PLA requirements, please refer to the [full announcement](#).
- **New! Updated TCS Part I and New TCS Part II Application Example Help Guides** – The Program developed an updated [TCS Part I](#) and a new [TCS Part II](#) Application Example to assist stakeholders. These resources are intended for use by AVs as a reference and a guide for TCS applications and include annotations to explain project application fields and input expectations, as well as sample scoring document responses. AVs submitting to the TCS category are encouraged to review the help guides, found on the [TCS Project Category Hub](#). For assistance in the TCS project category, contact the Community Solar Sector Strategist at communitysolar@illinoisshines.com.
- **New! New to the Program Website:**
 - Updated [TCS Part I](#) and [New TCS Part II](#) application examples ([Help Guides & Application Tips page](#))
 - [September Illinois Shines Data Report](#) ([Illinois Shines Data Report](#) page)
 - Updated Navigating H.R. 1 information ([Navigating H.R.1](#) page)
- **Fall 2026 AV and EEC Roundtables** – The Program Administrator is excited to announce the next round of Illinois Shines AV and EEC Roundtables. The Roundtables provide an opportunity for participants to share program feedback and offer insights on market challenges and conditions. Roundtable participants will connect with other AVs and EECs, Illinois Shines Sector Strategists, and other Program Administrator team members. Prior Roundtables have helped drive specific Program improvements. The Program Administrator emailed AVs and EECs a Roundtable Interest Form on September 1, 2026. Those wishing to participate should complete the interest form by this Tuesday, **September 22, 2026**. Meeting dates are as follows:
 - Thursday, November 5, 2026 – DG Roundtable
 - Thursday, November 19, 2026 – CS Roundtable
 - Thursday, December 3, 2026 – Public Schools Roundtable
 - Thursday, December 10, 2026 – EEC Roundtable
- **Upcoming EAS Learning Series Webinar** – Earlier this year, the Program Administrator and the IPA DEI Team launched the Illinois Shines Equity Accountability System (EAS) Learning Series, to highlight the importance of equity in the clean energy economy and the program, and to equip vendors with resources and support to meet and exceed Program equity requirements. The next webinar in the EAS Learning Series, *Partnering for Equity: Building Genuine and Sustained Relationships with EECs*, will take place Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 12:00

p.m. CPT. This webinar will highlight the business case for embracing diverse and equitable business partnerships, practical steps AVs can take for building genuine and sustained relationships with EECs, and feedback from EECs on best practices for partnerships. [To attend, please register with this link.](#) Meeting resources from the first EAS Learning Series webinar, *Advancing Equity Through Inclusive Recruitment and Retention of EEPs*, can be found at the [EAS Overview page](#).

- **Illinois Shines Releases Solar Restitution Program and Escrow Process Materials** – The IPA and Program Administrator have developed collateral to inform legislators and other stakeholders on the CP initiatives developed following the 2024 Long Term Plan. Brochures for the [Solar Restitution Program](#) and [Escrow Process](#) are available on the [Solar Restitution Program](#) page and new [Illinois Shines Escrow Process](#) page, respectively. These brochures detail the context surrounding initiative creation, development details, success data, next steps, FAQs, and in the case of the Solar Restitution Program guide, eligibility criteria for consumers.
- **IPA Beginning Storage for All Program Development** – The IPA is beginning development work for the forthcoming Storage for All Program this Fall. The Storage for All program is outlined in the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act and is set to be a companion program to the Agency’s Illinois Solar for All program. A written feedback request is tentatively planned for late September and a workshop in late October. Stakeholders interested in supporting the development of this program can sign up for updates on various feedback opportunities the Agency will be hosting [via this link](#).
- **Disclosure Form and Designee Registration Requirements for Stranded Customer Projects Document** – The Program has developed a [resource](#), published on the [AVs and Designees Assisting Stranded Customers](#) page, to help participants determine when and whether a new Disclosure Form is needed as it relates to the identity of the AV or Designee changing. The chart should be used in combination with the [Circumstances Requiring New DF Issuance and Signature](#) document.
- **Part II Verification Cut Off for September** – The last Part II Verification date for September is September 24, 2026. Applications that are Part II verified on or before September 24, 2026, will be included in the October invoicing period. Application processing will continue throughout the last week of the month and any applications that are reviewed between September 26 and September 30, 2026, will be invoiced in November 2026. Part II Verification Cut Off dates for each month have been added to the [Key Dates and Deadlines](#) page.

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)
9/22/2026	9/24/2026	10/8/2026
9/28/2026	9/30/2026	10/15/2026

DG projects are 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.

Development Focus	Details	Delivery
Incorrect data printing on Spanish DG Disclosure Form PDFs	For Spanish language Distributed Generation Lease and PPA Disclosure Form PDFs, the text in the "Final Payment → When payment is due" cell was incorrectly also appearing in the "First Payment → When payment is due" cell. With this bug fix the correct text now appears in each cell.	September 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](#). For questions about specific project applications, please contact the Program Administrator at admin@illinoisshines.com.
- **Updated! Status of Part I and Part II Application Processing** – [As previously announced](#), application review timelines are significantly delayed; **Part I application review time is now five weeks and Part II application review time is eight weeks**. The Program Administrator is expanding the Application Processing team and implementing automated review enhancements to improve efficiency and increase application review capacity. The Program Administrator anticipates a return to the target two-week review time for Part I applications by mid-October and Part II by the end of November. Part II projects with a battery or storage component undergo additional technical review which may extend the initial application review timeline. The Program has added 200+ hours per month for battery schematic review and anticipates moving battery schematic reviews to the Portal to reduce admin time and turnaround time for review. Please see [this announcement](#) for more details.

Other Opportunities

- **New! Solar Career Fair; Employers Invited** – On September 25, 2026, Lewis & Clark Community College will host a solar career fair for students completing its CEJA Solar Workforce Training. Students completing the program, who are qualified EEPs, are trained in a variety of aspects of solar including installation, site survey, design and sales, will have OSHA30 and CPR/First Aid Certification, and are prepared to take the NABCEP (North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners) exam. The school seeks employers to participate in the career fair and will provide tables and chairs as well as ability to virtually attend. The fair will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Scott Bibb Center, 1004 E. 5th Street, Alton, IL. Contact Julie Jobryce at (618) 468-4114 or jjobryce@lc.edu to attend or for questions.

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