

Designee Renewal Process, Upcoming Schedule for Need Info Requests, New Small DG Case Study

September 25, 2026

Coming up in Illinois Shines

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

- **Key Dates**
 - **October 15** – [EAS Learning Series Webinar](#)
 - **October 19** – 2026-27 Designee Renewal Process Begins
 - **October 26** – Part II Verification for October
- **Deadlines**
 - **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** – October 7, 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.
- **New! Upcoming Schedule for Need Info Requests** - *Need Info* emails are typically sent twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays. Please note that next week *Need Info* emails will be sent on Monday, September 28, 2026, and Thursday, October 1, 2026, resuming their regular cadence the following week.
- **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: "[Provide Project Application ID, Batch ID, and Involved Entities for AV Switch Requests](#)."

Program News

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

- **New! 2026-27 Designee Renewal Process Begins Soon** – As [previously shared](#), Designees and Nested Designees registered prior to the start of the 2026–27 Program Year will be required to renew their registration by Monday, November 30, 2026, to maintain active registration in the Illinois Shines program. Designees will receive an email on Monday, October 19, 2026, containing a link to their renewal form and unique login credentials. EEC Designees and Subcontractors may also renew their status and will receive an updated EEC certificate following the renewal review. For additional information please refer to Section 4.G, Designee Renewal, of the [Program Guidebook](#). It is the Approved Vendor's responsibility to ensure that their Designees and Nested Designees are compliant with renewal requirements. Non-compliance with this requirement may result in follow up from the Program Administrator and possible disciplinary actions, as set out in the Consumer Protection Violation Response Matrix in the [Consumer Protection Handbook](#).
- **New! Small DG Case Study Published** – The Program's new [case study](#) spotlights Gragg Street Farm, a veteran-owned small farm and farmers market staple in Centralia, Illinois, that used a Small DG project to cut monthly

electricity bills in half, achieve energy reliability for farm operations, and gain peace of mind for their family and care of their livestock. The study offers insights for homeowners, farming households, and small businesses interested in how solar and storage can address both affordability and reliability through Illinois Shines. To read this and other case studies, please visit the [Success Spotlights](#) page.

- **New! New to the Program Website:**

- [Small DG Case Study](#) ([Success Spotlights](#) page)

- **Updated! Fall 2026 AV and EEC Roundtables** – The Program Administrator announced the next round of Illinois Shines AV and EEC Roundtables. Roundtables provide opportunity for participants to share program feedback and offer insights on market challenges and conditions, and prior Roundtables have helped drive specific Program improvements. Roundtable Interest Forms closed on September 22, and the Program Administrator will soon contact AVs who indicated interest.
- **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.

- **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 if a system is underperforming, overperforming, or on track, based on estimates.
 - This report is an estimate and should not be used as a predictor of actual Illinois Shines system performance, including any potential future Drawdowns.
- **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 [Project Labor Agreement Submission Form](#). Submission of PLA documents will not be accepted via email. 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](#).
- **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.

- **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.

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)
9/28/2026	9/30/2026	10/15/2026
10/13/2026	10/15/2026	10/29/2026

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.
- **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 Small DG Part I and Part II Application Processing** – [As previously announced](#), Small DG application review timelines are significantly delayed; Part I application review time is currently seven weeks and Part II application review time is currently 12 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.

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