

Fall 2026 AV and EEC Roundtables, IPA Beginning Storage for All Program Development, Program Holiday Hours

September 4, 2026

Coming up in Illinois Shines

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

- **Key Dates**
 - September 7 – Labor Day holiday
- **Deadlines**
 - September 8 – Re-Batching Opens for AVs (For September 24, 2026, ICC Meeting)
 - September 10 – Election Deadline for Project Re-Batch or Withdrawal (For Sept. 24, 2026, ICC Meeting)

Stakeholder Support

- **New! Program Holiday Working Hours** – In observance of Labor Day, the Program will have limited services and updates on Monday, September 7, 2026. On this day, the Program Call Center will be closed. Updates to the Block Capacity Dashboard, application tables, application project reports, and waitlists will resume Tuesday.
- **Program Administrator Office Hours** – September 9, 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: "[When to include an 'Unavailability of Net Metering Acknowledgment Form' or a 'Net Metering Letter'](#)"

Program News

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

- **New! 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 September 22, 2026. Additional Roundtable schedule information is forthcoming.
- **New! 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](#).

- **Updated! CDCS Application Review and Scoring Period Begins** – The Program Year 2026-27 CDCS application window closed August 31, 2026, 90 days after the start of the Program Year. Applications are no longer being accepted. Submitted projects will be reviewed and scored based on the scoring criteria as outlined in Appendix F of the [Program Guidebook](#), with projects selected from the application pool in the order of highest to lowest score until the block capacity is fully allocated. A minimum score of 6 points must be achieved to be eligible for a REC contract in the CDCS category. Random selection will be utilized as a tiebreaker only for equally scored projects to fill available capacity, if any. For any questions or support in the CDCS category, please contact communitysolar@illinoisshines.com.
- **Updated! September Consumer Protection Working Group Held** – The [Consumer Protection Working Group](#) was held Friday, September 4, 2026. The Working Group meets quarterly to discuss market trends, best practices, consumer education, updates to Program requirements and documents, and other consumer protection issues for both Illinois Shines and ILSFA. The Program invites stakeholders to submit suggested agenda topics for future meetings to admin@illinoisshines.com. The meeting agenda and notes from past meetings can be found on the [Consumer Protection Working Group](#) page.
- **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.
- **August REC Invoicing Opens September 1, 2026** – REC invoices and Quarterly Netting Statements were made available for download from AV SharePoint folders on September 1, 2026. Invoices must be submitted to the utility by September 10, 2026, to receive payment for the September invoice period. Any invoice amounts not submitted to the utility by September 10, 2026, will be carried forward and included in the December 2026 period.
- **Requesting AV/Designee Feedback for Subscriber Management Portal Feature** – Earlier this year, the Program Administrator successfully delivered a new Subscriber Management portal feature, reflecting stakeholder input. The feature allows users to upload subscription data, edit and terminate subscriptions, and manage subscribed or unsubscribed Disclosure Forms, including project permissions for both AVs and Designees. Resources for this feature can be found at the [Portal Updates](#) page. To continue supporting stakeholders, the Program Administrator seeks feedback from users of this feature via a [5-minute survey](#).
- **Illinois Shines Releases Guide for Real Estate Professionals Supporting a Home Sale with Illinois Shines** – The IPA prioritizes educating consumers about the decision to go solar and has developed a variety of resources to support Program understanding and encourage awareness of available consumer protections. In light of the growing number of homes with energized Illinois Shines projects, the Program published [Navigating a Home Sale with an Illinois Shines Project Installed: Guide for Real Estate Professionals](#). The Program prepared this guide following feedback from participating homeowners who expressed that navigating a home sale with an Illinois Shines solar project installed can be challenging. Homeowners reported feeling unsupported by their real estate agents, who often did not know how to work with a home with solar installed. The guide is designed to help Illinois real estate professionals navigate the distinct sale process and provides an overview of Illinois Shines, solar panel ownership models (including Purchase, Lease, and PPA), REC contracts, legal and administrative logistics of transferring a project, and more.
- **Large DG Case Study Now Available** – The Program's [newest case study](#) spotlights seven municipal solar projects in Harrisburg, Illinois, where the city government partnered with an Illinois Shines AV to develop solar

through the Program's Large and Small DG categories. It also offers insights for municipalities, project developers, and community leaders interested in advancing distributed generation in Illinois, highlighting how local partnerships and visible project success can help build trust in solar and support long-term economic transition. To read this and other case studies, please visit the [Success Spotlights](#) 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)
9/8/2026	9/10/2026	9/24/2026
9/22/2026	9/24/2026	10/8/2026

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! Update on Part I and Part II Application Processing Following Submission Spikes** – [As previously announced](#), application review timelines are significantly delayed; **Part I application review time is eight weeks and Part II application review time is 11 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.
- **Reminder: Phishing Attempts** – The Program reminds stakeholders to remain vigilant against email phishing attempts and avoid opening unexpected emails or clicking suspicious links that appear to be from the Illinois Shines program, its Program Administrator, or the IPA. Official correspondence from these parties will only come from email addresses ending in @illinoisshines.com, @energy-solution.com, @illinoisabp.com, or @illinois.gov – please check our [Contact Us](#) page for more guidelines.

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