

Designee Renewal Begins Today, Financial Opportunities Webinar Series, IPA Updates Renewable Portfolio Standard Budget Forecast

October 16, 2026

Coming up in Illinois Shines

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

- **Key Dates**
 - **October 19** – Last Day to Inform AVs of Discrepancies (AVs that HAVE signed REC Contract Amendment)
 - **October 19** – 2026-27 Designee Renewal Process Begins
 - **October 26** – Part II Verification for October
 - **October 30** – Annual Reports Are Finalized (For AVs that HAVE signed the REC Contract Amendment)
 - **November 30** – 2026-27 Designee Renewal Process Ends
- **Deadlines**
 - **October 19** – Re-Batching Opens for AVs (For November 5, 2026, ICC Meeting)
 - **October 21** – Election Deadline for Project Re-Batch or Withdrawal (For November 5, 2026, ICC Meeting)

Stakeholder Support

- **Program Administrator Office Hours** – October 21, 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: "[Submit Certified Transcripts of Payroll from IDOL Website to Expedite Part II Application Review](#)."

Program News

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

- **New! EAS Learning Series Webinar Held – Partnering for Equity: Building Genuine and Sustained Relationships with EECs** – The Illinois Shines Equity Accountability System (EAS) Learning Series is designed to equip AVs with resources and support to meet Program equity requirements. The latest EAS Learning Series webinar, *Partnering for Equity: Building Genuine and Sustained Relationships with EECs*, was held October 15, 2026, and highlighted 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. A [Best Practices for Building Genuine and Sustained EEC Partnerships PDF resource](#), [webinar slides](#), and a [pre-recording of the event content](#), can be found on the [EAS Overview](#) page.
- **New! IPA to Host Three-Part Power Hour Webinar Series on Financial Opportunities** – [As previously announced](#), the IPA will host an educational webinar series on financial opportunities in December 2026. The three-part series, designed to support businesses participating in the IPA's clean energy procurement programs, will spotlight business development, grant, and loan opportunities. Attendees will meet and hear from a diverse range of expert presenters sharing valuable opportunity information. Each event will be recorded, and registration

for each webinar is required. Please consult the full announcement for Power Hour descriptions, event dates, and registration links.

- **New! IPA Updates Renewable Portfolio Standard Budget Forecast** – The IPA released an updated [Renewable Portfolio Standard \(RPS\) Budget Forecast](#). This RPS Budget Forecast is the second update released by the Agency since the filing of the 2026 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan. The RPS Budget Model that supports the RPS Budget Forecast has been updated with refreshed underlying data inputs and drivers, including corrections to, and enhancements, of modeling methodology across several Illinois Shines project categories. This update also incorporates new set-asides and program changes mandated by the [Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act \(CRGA\)](#). Further updates and corrections are discussed within the [accompanying Memo](#). With these updates and corrections, as discussed in the accompanying Memo, the total modeled REC spending has decreased as compared to the preceding April 2026 RPS Budget Forecast. As a result, the RPS budget is now expected to reach a deficit in Delivery Year 2029-30 rather than the previously forecast Delivery Year 2027-28. While a deficit is still anticipated in the medium term, these updates, in combination with the changes contained in CRGA, result in additional time before the anticipated deficit in the RPS Budget. The Agency invites stakeholders to review the full RPS Budget Model along with the accompanying Memo detailing updates to the model. Questions regarding the RPS Budget materials may be sent to IPA.ContactUs@illinois.gov.
- **New! Storage for All Program Stakeholder Feedback Workshop** – The Agency is hosting a virtual workshop on October 30, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. CPT that will offer a forum to discuss design and implementation ideas for the new Storage for All program that are contemplated in the previously released [Request for Information](#). Register now with [this link](#). More information on the Storage for All program development process can always be found on the IPA's [Energy Storage webpage](#).
- **New! New to the Program Website:**
 - Updated [Portal Inputs – Current Retail and Supply Rates, and Price to Compare](#) Document ([Program Documents](#) page)
 - [Updated Public Schools Project Guide](#), [Public Schools Brochure](#), and [webpage](#) ([Solar for Schools](#) page)
 - [EAS Learning Series presentation slides](#), [content recording](#), and [stakeholder resource](#) ([EAS Overview](#) page)
- **Updated! 2026-27 Designee Renewal Process** – [As previously announced](#), Designees and Nested Designees registered prior to the start of the 2026–27 Program Year must renew their registration or indicate their withdrawal by November 30, 2026. Designees will receive an email today, October 16, 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 of the [Program Guidebook](#). It is the AV's responsibility to ensure that their Designees and Nested Designees are compliant with renewal requirements. Non-compliance with this requirement may result in possible disciplinary actions, as set out in the Consumer Protection Violation Response Matrix in the [Consumer Protection Handbook](#).
- **CDCS Application Review and Scoring Schedule** – 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 projects was August 31, 2026. Applications submitted have now entered the Application Cure Period, an approximately two-week period where AVs cure deficiencies identified by Program Administrator. Please view [this announcement](#) for more information.
- **Part II Verification Cut Off for October** – The last Part II Verification date for September is October 26, 2026. Applications that are Part II verified on or before October 26, 2026, will be included in the November invoicing period. Application processing will continue throughout the last week of the month and any applications that are reviewed between October 27 and October 31, 2026, will be invoiced in December 2026. Part II Verification Cut Off dates for each month have been added to [Key Dates and Deadlines](#) page.

- **Small Subscriber Requirements and Invoicing Under the 20-Year REC Contract** – The Section 2.6(C) of the [20-Year REC Contract](#) states, “if the Community Solar Subscription Mix is less than fifty percent (50%) as observed on both the first Business Day of June and the first Business Day of December of a Delivery Year, then the percent of Actual Nameplate Capacity that is Subscribed is deemed to be zero percent (0%) and all the RECs Delivered in the Delivery Year shall be returned from Buyer to Seller and Buyer shall not pay for such RECs.”

For projects with a verified June Subscriber Mix below 50%, no payment shall be made in October or January. If a Project’s Subscription Mix exceeds 50% during the December verification, the October and January invoice amounts will be handled as a true-up payment on the April invoice.

- **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 AVs in identifying systems that may be underperforming. The new process was piloted and received positive feedback from participants. The Program Administrator sent the first reports on September 18, 2026.
 - On a quarterly basis, the Program Administrator will send a report to AVs with systems that are Energized and delivered at least 1 REC prior to the start of the current Delivery Year. Reports will be sent in September, December, and March, not including the first quarter of the Delivery Year 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.

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)
10/19/2026	10/21/2026	11/5/2026
10/30/2026	11/4/2026	11/19/2026

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. More information about 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
SalesForce Integration Phase 1: Added/Removed/Updated Fields on AV Details Dashboard	AVs and Program Administrators will now see the following new fields when drilling down on Vendor Details: • Renewal Month • SEB End Date and information on whether the Vendor is a Current SEB Vendor • Date Suspended (for Suspended Vendors)	October 14, 2026

	In addition, some fields that are not used or collected during Vendor registration will no longer show on view and some fields labels are being updated to match Salesforce: • Renewal Status and Renewal Date are being added and made visible to Vendor so Vendor can clearly see once Renewals are approved. • Vendor Status is being updated with suitable options indicating the Status of a Vendor and some legacy options that are no longer relevant are being removed.	
Allows Users to Name Additional Documents on Project Applications	AVs and Program Administrators will now be able to select the "Type of Document" being uploaded in the "Additional Documents" section of project applications. If the document being uploaded is not one of the standard documents, users will be able to pick "Other" and provide details on the type of document. In addition, document details will now be displayed as a grid with capability to sort, filter, and search for specific documents.	October 14, 2026
Fixed Issue Where Input Field in CS Disclosure Form Auto Populates, Preventing Input of More than One Digit	Fixed "The energy supply rate initially charged (\$/kWh)" field on CS Disclosure Forms that was auto-populating to all zeros. Users can now input any number with two decimal places in this field. This field can be found in the Portal, under "Disclosure Forms" -> "Create CS" -> "Additional Terms and Disclosures" section -> "Does the subscription require the subscriber to receive service from a specific Alternative Retail Electric Supplier?" -> "Yes" -> "The energy supply rate initially charged (\$/kWh)" field.	October 14, 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 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 six weeks and Part II application review time is currently 12 weeks**. The Program anticipates returning to the target two-week review time for Part I applications by the end of October and Part II by the end of November. Please see [this announcement](#) for more details, including ways the Program Administrator is expanding the Application Processing team and implementing automated review enhancements to improve efficiency and increase application review capacity.

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