

Part II Verification Cut Off for October, October REC Invoicing Opened, Small Subscriber Requirements and Invoicing Under the 20-Year REC Contract

October 2, 2026

Coming up in Illinois Shines

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

- **Key Dates**
 - **October 13** – Annual Reports Finalized (AVs that have NOT signed REC Contract Amendment)
 - **October 15** – [EAS Learning Series Webinar](#)
 - **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
- **Deadlines**
 - **October 13** – Re-Batching Opens for AVs (For October 29, 2026, ICC Meeting)
 - **October 15** – Election Deadline for Project Re-Batch or Withdrawal (For October 29, 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.
- **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: "[Please review installer's contact information, qualified person, and ICC certification details before submission to avoid Need Info delays.](#)"

Program News

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

- **New! 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.
- **New! October REC Invoicing Opened October 1, 2026** – REC invoices and Quarterly Netting Statements were made available for download from AV SharePoint folders on October 1, 2026. Invoices must be submitted to the utility by October 10, 2026, to receive payment for the October invoice period. Any invoice amounts not submitted to the utility by October 10, 2026, will be carried forward and included in the January 2026 period. Please note that reports were sent out to AVs with potentially underperforming systems on September 18, 2026.
- **New! 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 the Project the 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.

- **New! IPA Requests Written Feedback on Storage for All Program Development** – The Illinois Power Agency seeks written stakeholder feedback on various topics related to design and implementation of the Storage for All Program. The request for feedback and more information on the submission process can be found [here](#). Feedback should be submitted to the IPA via email at IPA.Storage@illinois.gov by November 6, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. CT.

This request for written feedback will be followed by a virtual workshop on October 30, 2026, at 2 PM, that will offer a forum to discuss design and implementation ideas for this new program that are contemplated in the written feedback request. [Register here for the workshop](#). Stakeholders interested in supporting the development of this program can sign up for updates on various feedback opportunities the Agency will be hosting [here](#).

- **New! New to the Program Website:**
 - New [Participating in Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All as a Small and Emerging Business](#) Guide ([Become an EEC](#) and [Become an AV or Designee](#) pages)
- **Updated! 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.
- **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 must renew their registration or indicate their withdrawal by November 30, 2026. 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 AV’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](#).
- **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](#).

- **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.
- **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 AVs with reported discrepancies. The 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.

- **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.

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)
10/13/2026	10/15/2026	10/29/2026
10/19/2026	10/21/2026	11/5/2026

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. A series of Portal enhancements were added via the September 30, 2026, release including:
 - Changes in Final Rate Validation
 - Subscriber Management: Subscription Bulk Upload and Edit Subscription Validation Updates
 - Fixed Utility Project ID Not Updating for Changes in Subscriptions
 - Increased Character Limit to 2,000 for 'Additional Details or Explanatory Information' Field

More information about 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 eight 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.
- **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.
