

Small DG Part I and Part II Application Processing, Designee Renewal Process Begins Soon, Reminder: October 15 EAS Learning Series Webinar

October 9, 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

- **New! Program Holiday Working Hours** – In observance of Columbus Day and Indigenous People's Day, the Program will have limited services and updates on Monday, October 12, 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** – 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: "[Project Photo Requirements for Part II Application Submissions](#)."

Program News

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

- **New! 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.
- **New! New to the Program Website:**
 - [October Illinois Shines Data Report](#) ([Illinois Shines Data Report](#) page)

- Updated *Introduction to Illinois Shines Brochure* ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)) ([Program Brochures & Other Resources](#) page)
- **Updated! 2026-27 Designee Renewal Process** – [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 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](#).
- **Updated! Reminder: Upcoming EAS Learning Series Webinar – *Partnering for Equity: Building Genuine and Sustained Relationships with EECs*** – [As previously announced](#), the Illinois Shines Equity Accountability System (EAS) Learning Series highlights the importance of equity in the clean energy economy and the Program and is designed to equip AVs 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**. AVs are encouraged to attend the webinar, which 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. A resource tool will be shared at the webinar. [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 on the [EAS Overview](#) page.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **IPA Requests Written Feedback on Storage for All Program Development** – The IPA 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 2:00 p.m. CT, 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](#).

- **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.
- **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. This farm 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 for 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, 2026, 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.

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. 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 six weeks and Part II application review time is currently 11 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.
