

Equity Accountability Learning Series:

Partnering for Equity: Building Genuine and Sustained Relationships with EECs

October 15, 2026

Presented by Illinois Power Agency and Energy Solutions



AI Notetaking Prohibition



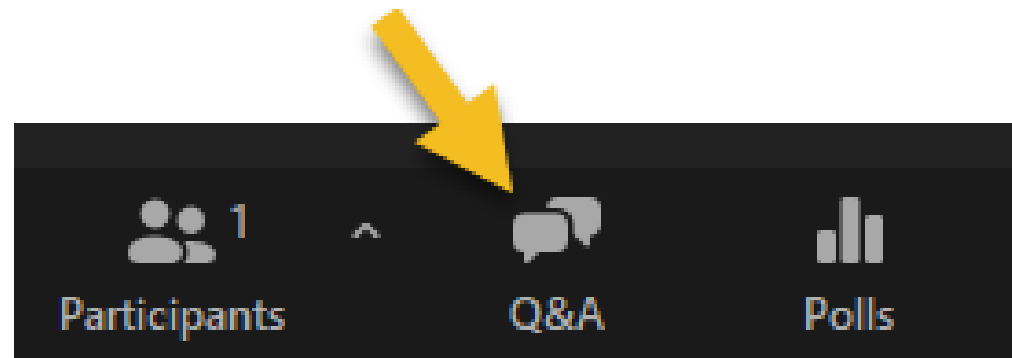
In considering privacy, intellectual property, and accuracy concerns, and to encourage active and candid participation, the Agency has determined that the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) notetaking tools will not be permitted in this meeting.

The Agency and/or its Program Administrator will remove AI notetakers from the meeting. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



Q&A

Please submit questions to the panelists utilizing the Q&A box:



Today's Facilitators



KC Doyle
Energy Solutions
Strategy/DEI Team Lead



Jess Blue
Energy Solutions
Senior Project Manager

Agenda

1 Equity Accountability System
Learning Series Background

2 Business Case for Partnering with
EECs

3 EEC Panel

4 Best Practice for Building Genuine
and Sustained EEC Partnerships

5 Closing & Feedback Survey





Equity Accountability Learning Series: Background

Illinois Clean Energy Economy and the Equity Accountability System

Illinois passed the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) in 2021 and the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act (CRGA) in 2025 to ensure the clean energy economy is more equitable and accessible.

To advance that objective, the Equity Accountability System (EAS) was established, which includes:

- Minimum Equity Standard (MES) applicable to all applicants to the Agency's renewable energy procurements, both through Illinois Shines and the Agency's competitive procurements.
- Establishes the Equity Eligible Contractor category with Illinois Shines.
- Energy Equity Workforce Portal

Who are Equity Eligible Contractors (“EECs”)?

EEC:

- a business majority-owned by equity eligible persons
- a nonprofit or cooperative that is majority-governed by equity eligible persons
- a natural person that is an eligible person offering personal services as an independent contractor.

The IPA Act defines EEPs as:

- 1 Graduates or current or former participants in the Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program, Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program, Illinois Climate Works Preapprentice Program, Returning Residents Clean Jobs Training Program, or the Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program, and the solar training pipeline and multicultural jobs program created by the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (FEJA)
- 2 Persons who are graduates of or currently enrolled in the foster care system
- 3 Persons who were formerly incarcerated
- 4 Persons whose primary residence is in an equity investment eligible community



Equity Accountability System(EAS) Learning Series

Highlighting the importance of equity in the clean energy economy and the Illinois Shines Program through a series of virtual trainings and resources

Today's training will cover:

- 1 The business case for embracing a diverse and equitable business partnerships.
- 2 Practical steps Approved Vendors can take for building genuine and sustained relationships with Equity Eligible Contractors (“EECs”).
- 3 Feedback from EECs on best practices for partnerships.

We will facilitate a panel discussion to hear directly from EECs on their experiences and best practices for partnership.



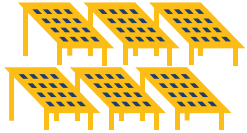


Business Case for Partnering with EECs

Illinois Shines Opportunities for EECs and Project Partners



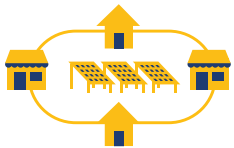
Dedicated blocks of Program capacity reserved for EECs (248MWs in the 2026-27 Program Year).



EEC REC Adders: \$5/REC adder for all EEC DG applications and CS projects in which most of the engineering, procurement and construction (“EPC”) or development work is completed by the EEC.



Advance of Capital up to \$750,000 or 50% of the REC contract value per project to reduce financial barriers and ensure access to the Program

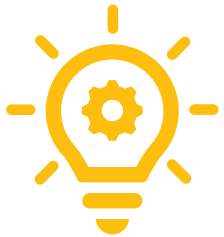


Additional points on Traditional Community Solar (“TCS”) and Community-Driven Community Solar (“CDCS”) project applications for partnering with EECs.

Business Case for EEC Partnerships

A strong business case exists for embracing genuine and sustained relationships with EECs. These partnerships can benefit Approved Vendors and Designees by:

Building market knowledge
and stronger networks



Expanded project capacity



Workforce development



Localized economic growth





EEC Panel

Today's EEC Panelists



Tomás de'Medici
Ion Stewards Energy
CEO



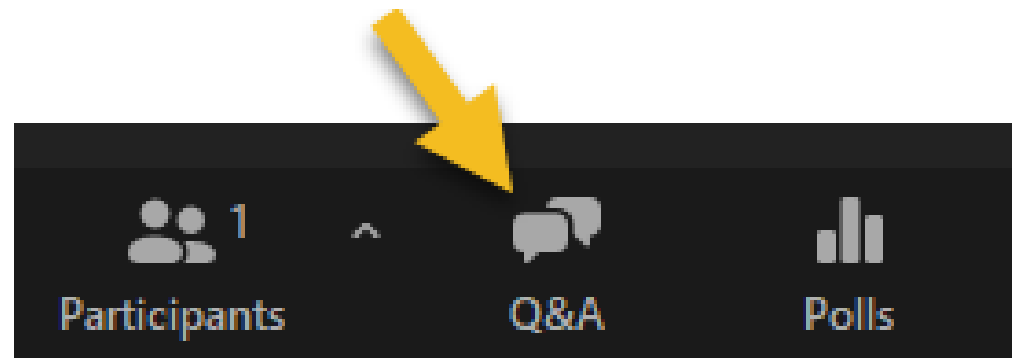
Joseph Smith
Adl Solutions LLC
CEO



Brady Briska
LiveWire Electrical Systems
Division Manager of Clean
Energy Development &
Regulatory Affairs

Q&A

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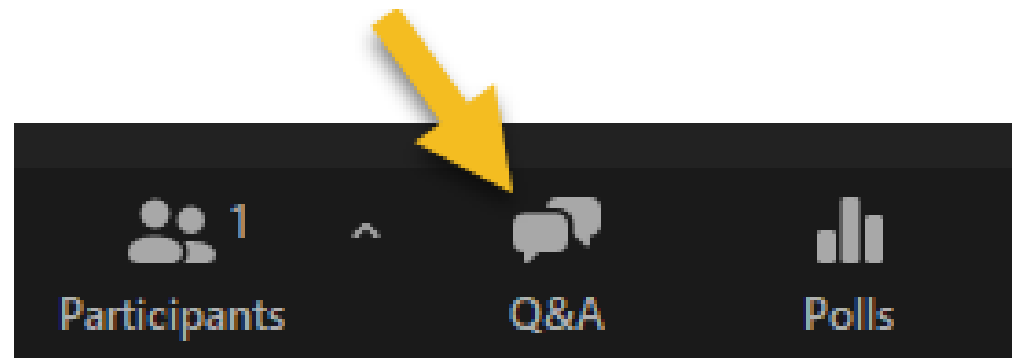


Questions to EEC Panelists

1. Describe the strengths and expertise EECs bring to the solar market.
2. What does a successful solar project partnership look like from your perspective?
3. What are some best practices when it comes building genuine and sustained relationships with EECs?
4. What would you like companies to understand before they approach an EEC to partner on a solar project?

Q&A

Please submit questions to the panelists utilizing the Q&A box:





Best Practices for Building Genuine and Sustained EEC Partnerships

Best Practices for Building Genuine and Sustained EEC Partnerships



Fair and equitable partnership:

- Build EEC partnerships in the early stages of a project.
- Foster mutual understanding, open communication and transparency.
- Offer fair contracts and ensuring they are at fair market value.



Two-way knowledge-sharing:

- When establishing relationships with EECs, identify skills and knowledge each partner can bring to the table that can strengthen project development.



Opportunities for EEC development:

- Foster opportunities for continued partnership and growth outside of REC management (co-development, EPC opportunities, fencing, landscaping, etc.)
- Access to additional resources such as job-training or legal services.



Resources for EEC Partnership

Approved Vendors/Designees are encouraged to use resources such as:

- One-pager on Best Practices for Building Genuine and Sustained EEC Partnerships
- Previous EAS Learning Series webinar and resources
- EEC Category page of the IL Shines website
- TCS and CDCS scoring criteria listed on the IL Shines website
- Find an AV, Designee, or Subcontractor page of the IL Shines website





Closing & Feedback Survey



Thank you!

