The Climate and Equitable Jobs Act established an **Equity Accountability System** to expand access to the clean energy economy, including establishing a project category for Equity Eligible Contractors (EECs) in Illinois Shines. The EEC category provides:

- A separate, reserved block of project capacity available only to EEC Approved Vendors (AVs)
- Opportunities to receive an advance of capital for REC incentives

Illinois Shines and the Illinois Power Agency are committed to the success of Equity Eligible Contractors. For assistance at any time, contact the EEC Sector Strategist Conner Rettig at eec@illinoisshines.com or the Program Administration team at admin@illinoisshines.com.

Simple steps to becoming a certified Equity Eligible Contractor:

1. **Review the Eligibility Criteria**
   Note that both Approved Vendors and Designees can become certified as an Equity Eligible Contractor.

2. **Complete and submit the AV or Designee registration and attestation form**
   The Program Administrator may also request additional documentation showing proof of eligibility. It’s helpful to have these documents ready to make your application process easier.

3. **Check your email frequently and respond to any Program Administrator follow up requests**
   Application review typically takes two weeks.

A dedicated EEC Sector Strategist is ready to support prospective & current EECs with:

- Illinois Shines Approved Vendor and/or Designee enrollment or renewal
- Fulfilling required Program reporting
- Submitting project applications, including accessing technical support
- Supporting prospective EEC mentees
- Directing EECs to the [Energy Workforce Equity Portal](#) to connect with job seekers
- And more!

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