



Illinois Shines is a state incentive program that supports the development of solar energy in Illinois. Illinois Shines is the brand name for the Adjustable Block Program. Illinois Shines was developed under the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA) and implemented by the Illinois Power Agency (IPA) to help Illinois meet its renewable energy goals and encourage solar installations across the state, regardless of income.

## Participation

Illinois residents can participate in Illinois Shines in a couple of ways:

- Install a solar photovoltaic (PV) system on a personal property or rooftop.  
  
Solar developers and contractors, or entities authorized to submit applications to the program, offer a variety of options including purchase of systems, leases, and power purchase agreements (payments tied to the production of the system).
- Participate as a subscriber in a community solar project located within the customer's utility service territory.

On behalf of consumers, solar developers and contractors will submit the solar system to the Program or register the community solar subscription with an already established Community Solar project. The Program provides payments in exchange for 15 years of Renewable Energy Credits ("RECs")<sup>1</sup> from a utility contracted to buy the RECs from solar developers and contractors. These payments to solar developers and contractors will help offset the cost of each customer's new solar PV system or community solar subscription.

Solar developers and contractors participating in the program are vetted and approved by the Program Administrator and must meet rigorous program requirements.

To hold these entities participating in Illinois Shines to consumer protection standards, the IPA has incorporated



<sup>1</sup> RECs are certificates that represent the environmental benefits of electricity generated from solar panels that can be sold or bought.



## Illinois Shines (continued)

comprehensive, robust, and effective consumer protection guidelines. Furthermore, when working on an Illinois Shines project, solar developers and contractors are required to give consumers a standard Disclosure Form, which gives consumers clear information about the system and their transaction. To prevent misleading sales practices, the completion of the Disclosure Form is required for the system to be eligible for Illinois Shines program.

### Benefits

- Save money via net metering credits<sup>2</sup> from production of solar PV system installed on a roof or property, or by subscribing to a community solar project in your neighborhood.
- Offset the cost of new solar PV system by selling RECs to a utility through an Approved Vendor authorized by Illinois Shines.
- Support solar development in Illinois.
- Stimulate economic development through creation of equitable and diverse jobs.

### Types of Projects:

***Distributed Generation.*** A distributed generation project is a solar project that is installed on the roof of a customer's home or business or is ground-mounted on the land surrounding a home or business. A distributed generation system is located on-site, behind a customer's meter, and used primarily to offset a single customer's electric load.

***Community Solar.*** Community solar is an arrangement under which many customers subscribe to a single, large solar PV project whose electricity production is used to offset the electricity use of all subscribers. By subscribing, individual customers offset their own electricity use with a portion of the electricity generated by the community solar system. The project might be located near the customer or many miles away, but it must be in the same utility service territory as the customer. Community solar is a good option for customers who don't own their homes or who prefer not to install solar panels on their property.

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<sup>2</sup> Net metering is a benefit of installing solar, but not of Illinois Shines' participation. Utilities with regulation from the Illinois Commerce Commission set net metering rules.



## Illinois Shines (continued)

***Public School Projects:*** Illinois Shines now offers incentives to solar projects that are developed to serve public schools. This provides a carve-out for solar developed on school property within the Program. If a school you know is interested in the requirements for qualification, please reach out to the Program for more information.

***Community-Driven Solar Projects:*** Similar to Community Solar projects, this type of project is developed for and by community members per requirements outlined by the Program. If your community is interested in the requirements, please reach out to the Program for more information.

To learn more about Illinois Shines (for consumers), visit [www.illinoisshines.com](http://www.illinoisshines.com)

To learn more about Adjustable Block Program (for new solar developers and contractors interested in or already participating in the Program), visit [www.illinoisabp.com](http://www.illinoisabp.com)