



Power Pulse!

**A quarterly newsletter featuring the latest news and
information
from the Illinois Power Agency.**



*Our vision is to provide a clean, reliable, equitable, and cost-effective
energy future for residents and businesses across Illinois.*

April 22, 2022

Director's Message

April 22 marks the 52nd anniversary of Earth Day. What started in 1970 as a movement by 22 million Americans to help raise awareness of environmental issues is now celebrated annually by billions of people around the world.

As the Agency responsible for the implementation of the Illinois Renewable Portfolio Standard which facilitates the development of new renewable generation and other programs, Earth Day presents a perfect opportunity for the Illinois Power Agency to reflect on the work we do to contribute to Illinois' transition to a clean energy future.

For example, since the Adjustable Block Program first opened for project applications in 2019, the Program has supported over 700 MW of new solar distributed generation and community solar projects in Illinois – a vast increase compared to the less than 100 MW of solar that was in Illinois prior to then. In addition, the IPA's competitive procurements have supported over 1,300 MW of new utility-scale solar projects and nearly 700 MW of new utility-scale wind. These successes are leading to environmental benefits for Illinois residents and businesses.

Furthermore, the recent passage of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act in September of 2021 presents an exciting opportunity for the Agency to accelerate its work toward building an equitable clean energy future. CEJA more than doubles the funding for renewables and increases the goals and targets for the Agency's programs and procurements, while also adding important new considerations to ensure that our state's development of a clean energy economy is done in an equitable manner. As an Agency, we have made great progress in advancing the state's clean energy transition, but there is more work to be done to put Illinois on a path to reach 100% clean energy by 2050.

On this Earth Day, I want to take this moment to thank all IPA employees for their hard work and unwavering commitment to support the state's renewable and zero-carbon energy generation. And I would like to thank all the stakeholders who have contributed their input into our development of programs and procurements. I would also like to remind everyone that we can all do our part, big or small, to celebrate and honor Earth Day. Whether you're setting broad policies to increase renewable energy, building community

gardens, or recycling your paper and cans, it all adds up to make a real difference.

-Anthony Star
Director, Illinois Power Agency

The Illinois Power Agency Announces New Program Administrator for the Adjustable Block Program

The Illinois Power Agency has announced that it has selected [Energy Solutions, Inc.](#) to serve as the new Program Administrator for the Adjustable Block Program.

The selection was made by the Agency after a careful evaluation of responses to a [Request for Qualifications](#), and a subsequent [Request for Proposals](#), and was approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission (“ICC”) at its Regular Open Meeting on April 21, 2022, pursuant to the ICC’s authority under Section 16-111.5(b)(5)(ii)(B)(iii) of the Public Utilities Act.

To read the full announcement, visit the [IPA website](#).

Illinois Solar for All Program Makes an Impact



The Illinois Solar for All Program provides greater access to the clean energy economy for low-income residents through

incentives that help make solar installations more affordable and results in measurable savings for participants.

Here's a recent [case study](#) on how the Program helped an Illinois retiree to go solar and save money on her electricity bill.

Did You Know?

Did you know since the Adjustable Block Program first opened for applications in 2019, 26,253 distributed generation photovoltaic projects have been developed and energized, with a combined nameplate capacity of more than 443 megawatts of new solar generation in Illinois?

IPA Employee Spotlights

Kelly Turner

Deputy Legal Counsel, Illinois Power Agency

Kelly Turner is the Deputy Legal Counsel at the Illinois Power Agency.

Kelly joined the IPA in 2020. In this role, she provides legal assistance and support in the development and preparation of procurement plans, including the Agency's annual Electricity Procurement Plan, biennial revisions to the Agency's Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan, and any future planning processes. In addition, she works closely with the IPA Chief Legal Counsel in litigation before the Illinois Commerce Commission, including litigation to seek approval of the IPA's procurement plans among other responsibilities.



"It is so inspiring to work with colleagues who are passionate about what they do. I have always been in support of clean energy and working at the IPA helps me leave work every day feeling fulfilled knowing that the work I do helps advance a clean energy future for residents and businesses in Illinois."

-Kelly Turner

Prior to joining the IPA, Kelly worked as the Senior Attorney for the Citizens Utility Board and as a trial attorney in the Office of General Counsel at the ICC. Over the course of her career, she has developed expertise in energy and

renewables procurements, utility ratemaking, energy efficiency and demand response programs, administrative rulemakings, consumer protection in energy supply, and solar product marketing.

Outside of her professional life, she enjoys spending time in the outdoors with her family and competing in triathlons.



Stephanie Long

Contract Manager, Illinois Power Agency

Stephanie Long is the Contract Manager at the Illinois Power Agency. She joined the IPA in 2015 as the Finance Analyst/Office Administrator and transitioned to her current role in 2018. In this role, she coordinates and manages the IPA's contract administration process for renewable energy procurements and programs .

Prior to joining the IPA, Stephanie worked at Walt Disney World as a Finance/Accounting Associate. In this role, she was responsible for forecasting and budgeting revenue and expenses for food and beverage operations at Walt Disney World (both domestic and international).

"I am truly humbled every day to be a member of the Illinois Power Agency as we continue to expand and move into a more sustainable, clean-energy future. Energy is the driving force of our daily life and how we create and use it is changing rapidly. While there is a lot that needs to be done to transition to a clean energy future, what is clear is that we are well on our way to a world where energy is sustainable and abundant. Within the IPA, I look forward to seeing this vision brought to reality."

-Stephanie Long

Outside of work, Stephanie enjoys spending time with family, traveling, anything and everything sports related, and exploring the many hidden gems of the greater Chicago area. Her next goal is to put her passport to use to go to Europe, including London and Paris, which obviously includes a visit to Disneyland Paris.

Register for Upcoming 2022 Power Hour Webinars

IPA Power Hour 3: *Net Metering Updates and Implications for Distributed Generation in Illinois*

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022

Time: 12p.m.-1 p.m. CDT

[REGISTER HERE](#)

IPA Power Hour 4: *Green Hydrogen-Exploring Pathways to Decarbonization*

Date: Friday, May 27, 2022

Time: 12 p.m.-1p.m. CDT

[REGISTER HERE](#)

IPA Power Hour 5: *Buy/Lease/PPA- Comparing Models of Rooftop Solar Participation*

Date: Friday, June 24, 2022

Time: 12 p.m. -1p.m. CDT

[REGISTER HERE](#)

IPA Power Hour 6: *Understanding Power Procurement for Residential and Small Commercial Customers of Illinois Electric Utilities*

Date: Friday, July 29, 2022

Time: 12 p.m. -1 p.m. CDT

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Recap of Past Events!

IPA Power Hour 1: Renewable Energy Credits: What Are They and How Are They Used to Meet RPS Compliance?

On February 25, the Illinois Power Agency hosted its first IPA Power Hour of 2022 on Renewable Energy Credits and Renewable Portfolio Standard Compliance. During this webinar, IPA Director Anthony Star, IPA Chief Legal Counsel Brian Granahan, and Managing Partner of Karbone Jonathan Burnston, discussed how RECs are purchased and retired by electric utilities to comply with the Illinois Renewable Portfolio Standard policy, and provided a comparative analysis on how RECs are designed, defined, and used across different states in the U.S.

To view the presentation and recording of the IPA Power Hour Webinar on RECs and RPS compliance, visit the [IPA Events](#) page.

IPA Power Hour 2: What Does Consumer Protection Look Like in the Evolving Illinois Solar Market?

On March 18, the Illinois Power Agency hosted its second 2022 IPA Power Hour Webinar on consumer protections in Illinois. During the webinar, IPA Deputy Legal Counsel Kelly Turner, IPA Consumer Protection Counsel Rachel Granneman, and Citizens Utility Board Deputy Director Sarah Moskowitz discussed the history of customer choice and protection in the electric sector of Illinois. They reviewed changes in the law governing Illinois solar programs and how the IPA monitors and enforces consumer protection standards. The IPA also offered this webinar for continuing legal education credits.

To view the presentation and recording of the IPA Power Hour Webinar on consumer protection, visit the [IPA Events](#) page.

Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) 100% Collaborative Discussion: Exploring Equity in Illinois' Recent Climate and Energy Legislation

On March 30, IPA Director Anthony Star and IPA Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Manager Sharon Johnson presented at the Clean Energy States Alliance ("CESA") *100% Collaborative Discussion: Exploring Equity in Illinois' Recent Climate & Energy Legislation*. During the meeting, Anthony and Sharon discussed the new equity focus of CEJA for the IPA's incentive programs and procurements. In addition, they provided a summary of activities that the Agency will be implementing to prioritize diversity and equity in the IPA-administered renewable energy programs and procurements.

National Regulatory Research Institute: Pathways to Successful Community Solar Programs

On March 16, Illinois Power Agency Chief Legal Counsel Brian Granahan presented at the National Regulatory Research Institute webinar, *Pathways to Successful Community Solar Programs*, alongside national clean energy leaders.

During the webinar, presenters discussed barriers and best practices around community solar and highlighted how federal and state policies can play an integral role in community solar development. In addition, Brian provided an

overview on how community solar fits into Illinois' RPS and discussed how the IPA-administered incentive programs support community solar developments in Illinois.

To view the recording of the webinar, visit the [NRRI's YouTube](#) channel.

Illinois Power Agency's 2022 Hires!

- Rachel Granneman, Consumer Protection Counsel
- Ganita Young, IT Coordinator
- Andrea Herrera, Program Associate, Adjustable Block Program
- Olivia Mathews, Program Associate, Adjustable Block Program

The IPA wishes new hires a warm welcome and good wishes on their endeavors at the Agency. As the IPA continues to grow, the Agency is actively recruiting for these positions:

- [Renewable Development Advisor](#)
- [Communications Specialist](#)
- [Communications Associate](#)
- [Planning and Procurement Analyst](#)
- [Program Associate, Illinois Solar for All](#)

The IPA is committed to shaping the state's clean energy future. The right candidates will play important roles in helping the Agency accomplish its vision of a clean, reliable, and cost-effective energy future for residents and businesses across Illinois.

To learn more and to apply, visit the [IPA website](#).

[Visit Our Website](#)

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The IPA is committed to the planning and procurement of reliable, efficient, and cost-effective electricity for residents and businesses in an ethical and objective manner, insulated from improper influence. The IPA also administers incentive programs and procurements to promote renewable and zero-carbon energy generation, while building an equitable clean energy future for all Illinoisans.