



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.

July 28, 2022

Illinois Power Agency Announces the Illinois Commerce Commission's Approval of the 2022 Long-Term Plan

On July 14, 2022, the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) approved the Agency's 2022 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan. The Long-Term Plan was approved by the ICC with modifications as detailed in the [ICC's Final Order](#). The Agency is currently updating the Long-Term Plan based on those modifications and will file a final version of the Plan with the ICC and post it on the Agency's [website](#).

The 2022 Long-Term Plan was released for public comment on January 13, 2022 and filed with the Commission on March 21, 2022. The Plan reflects substantial changes made to the Illinois Renewable Portfolio Standard resulting from the enactment of Public Act 102-0662 (The Climate and Equitable Jobs Act or CEJA) and serves as a roadmap for the Agency's activities related to renewable resources over the next two years. The approved 2022 Long-Term Plan includes the following key changes:

- New Renewable Energy Credit (REC) procurement targets for IPA-administered incentive programs and competitive procurements
- Three new categories of projects under the Adjustable Block Program (ABP): projects located at public schools, community-driven community solar, and projects submitted by equity eligible contractors
- Funding increase for the Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA) Program, which will also increase ILSFA subprogram allocations
- Additional incentives for ILSFA projects that promote energy sovereignty, which will facilitate long-term wealth-building in low-income communities by increasing equity and home values
- Minimum diversity and equity benchmarks for all renewable energy projects
- Prevailing wage requirements for IPA-administered incentive programs and procurements (except for projects up to 100 kw

on houses of worship), ensuring that all employees, contractors, and subcontractors are receiving local prevailing wages set by the Illinois Department of Labor

- A new self-direct program for qualifying large customers procuring RECs from new utility-scale solar and wind projects
- Additional consumer protection measures for IPA-administered incentive programs to protect consumer interests within the growing solar industry in Illinois

“The approval of the Long-Term Plan is an important milestone for the Agency, as it provides a roadmap for the Agency to put Illinois on a path towards a clean energy future while prioritizing diversity, equity, and consumer protection as envisioned by the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act,” said Anthony Star, Director, Illinois Power Agency.

Illinois Power Agency Conducts Stakeholder Comments Processes for Electricity and Capacity Procurement for Eligible Retail Customers, Illinois Solar for All Program Evaluation, and Utility-Scale Wind and Solar Procurements

On June 27, 2022, the Illinois Power Agency issued a request for [Stakeholder Comments](#) related to the Agency’s electricity and capacity procurement for eligible retail customers in light of recent energy market volatility. Comments were due on July 8, 2022. In addition, the IPA conducted a stakeholder workshop on July 13, 2022 to provide stakeholders an additional opportunity to provide feedback on that [issue](#).

Since the energy market volatility played a factor in the results of the Agency’s procurement and affected the prices available to residential and small commercial customers of Illinois’ electric utilities, it is crucial for the Agency to utilize the stakeholder feedback to identify potential challenges that changing energy market conditions could pose to the IPA’s procurement processes. The feedback will be utilized by the Agency to develop the 2023 Electricity Procurement Plan, which will be released for public comment on August 15, 2022. For more information, visit the [IPA website](#).

On July 1, 2022 the Agency issued a request for [Stakeholder Comments](#) related to the scope of the evaluation of the Illinois Solar for All Program and held a stakeholder feedback session on July 8, 2022. Comments were due on July 22, 2022. This input will help the Agency develop the scope of the evaluation of the program for use in the upcoming process of selecting a new third-party evaluator for the program. For more information, visit the [IPA website](#).

On July 1, 2022 the Agency also released a request for [Stakeholder Comments](#) related to procurements for RECs from utility-scale wind and solar projects. Comments were due on July 19, 2022 and the Agency will be holding a stakeholder workshop on August 2, 2022. The goal of this stakeholder feedback process is to help the Agency understand market factors that may have limited participation in the Agency's Spring 2022 procurement, which was the first procurement held under the new indexed REC model, and potentially make adjustments for subsequent procurements. For more information, visit the [IPA website](#).

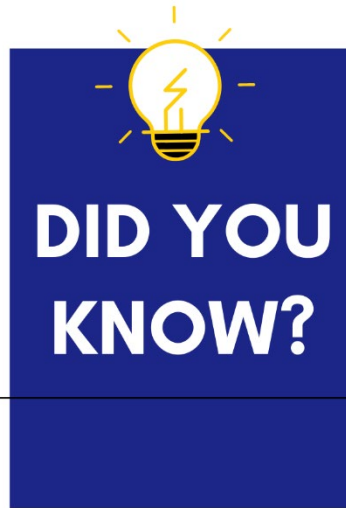
Illinois Power Agency's Adjustable Block Program Welcomes a New Program Administrator

On April 21, 2022, the Illinois Commerce Commission approved the selection of Energy Solutions as the new Program Administrator for the Adjustable Block Program (also known as Illinois Shines). As of July 1, 2022, Energy Solutions has assumed the administration of the program. With CEJA's expansion of the program into its vital second phase with a distinct focus on diversity and equity, Energy Solutions will provide program administration services to support the growth given their decades of experience designing and administering nationally recognized solar programs. For more information, visit [Energy Solutions' website](#).

Did You Know?

Did you know the IPA website URL has changed? The new URL is ipa.illinois.gov. In addition to the new domain name, the IPA has made some improvements to the website, including:

- A new, enhanced homepage that displays events and announcements effectively
- A responsive website that adapts to the screen size, device, and orientation of each user, creating an optimal experience for desktops, tablets, and smartphones
- An “expandable/collapsible” option for website content
- Translation services on the website
- An improved search bar that allows you to search everything IPA-related



Recap of Past Illinois Power Agency's Events

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

On April 29, 2022 the Illinois Power Agency hosted its third Power Hour of 2022: Net Metering Updates and Implications for Distributed Generation in Illinois.

During this webinar, IPA Deputy Legal Counsel Kelly Turner and Environmental Law & Policy Center Senior Attorney Brad Klein provided an overview on net metering, the history of net metering in Illinois, how net metering is evolving, and an overview of states' net metering policies. To view the presentation and recording of this IPA Power Hour Webinar, visit the [IPA Events](#) page.

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

On May 27, 2022 the Illinois Power Agency hosted its fourth Power Hour of 2022: Green Hydrogen-Exploring Pathways to Decarbonization. During this webinar, IPA Associate Legal Counsel Sarah Duffy and RMI Manager Patrick Molloy provided an overview on green hydrogen, discussed prospects and challenges of the green hydrogen economy, and observed global policy trends around green hydrogen. To view the presentation and recording of this IPA Power Hour Webinar, visit the [IPA Events](#) page.

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

On June 24, 2022 the Illinois Power Agency hosted its fifth Power Hour of 2022: Buy/Lease/PPA – Comparing Models of Rooftop Solar Participation. During this webinar, IPA Director Anthony Star, Elevate Associate Director of Policy MeLena Hessel, and NC Clean Energy Technology Center Director of Policy and Markets Autumn Proudlove provided an overview on different solar financing models, discussed solar financing trends in Illinois, and observed national policy trends. To view the presentation and recording of this IPA Power Hour Webinar, visit the [IPA Events](#) page.

IPA Hosts AAPI Panel: Advancing Leaders through Collaboration

On May 20, 2022 the IPA hosted its first Asian-American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month Panel: Advancing Leaders through Collaboration. The IPA AAPI panel discussion featured IPA Chief Operating Officer Sanjay Patel, Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection Assistant Commissioner Edwin Tumlos, and Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology (DoIT) Legal Counsel Rupal Mehta. The panel was moderated by IPA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Manager Sharon Johnson.

During the panel discussion, panelists shared their perspectives on leadership, discussed barriers they've overcome as AAPI leaders, and highlighted best practices on collaborative leadership in the workplace. To view the recording of the AAPI virtual panel, visit the [IPA YouTube](#) page.

Illinois Power Agency Staff Attend CESA's Annual Meeting

In June, Illinois Power Agency Chief Legal Counsel Brian Granahan, Illinois Solar for All Program Manager Jennifer Schmidt, Deputy Legal Counsel Kelly Turner, Associate Legal Counsel Sarah Duffy attended the Clean Energy State's Alliance (CESA) Annual Meeting in Washington D.C.

The CESA Annual Meeting provides an opportunity for CESA members (mostly state agencies, including the IPA) to collaborate on multi-state efforts, learn from each other about emerging clean energy challenges, and learn best practices from other policy experts across the country.



Illinois Power Agency Chief Legal Counsel Brian Granahan moderating the presentation from Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Commissioner Allison Clements.

This year, CESA's Annual Meeting discussed embedding equity into clean energy programs, challenges to clean energy expansion toward 100% statewide targets, and the view of state clean energy challenges from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The FERC session included a presentation from Commissioner Allison Clements, which was moderated by IPA Chief Legal Counsel Brian Granahan.

Illinois Power Agency Staff Presents at the IACZO's 2022 Summer Meeting

On July 20, Illinois Power Agency Associate Legal Counsel Sarah Duffy presented at the Illinois Association of County Zoning Officials (IACZO) 2022 summer meeting. During the presentation, Sarah highlighted the changes for IPA-administered incentive programs and procurements as envisioned by CEJA. In addition, the presentation provided a snapshot of changes for the IPA utility-scale projects under CEJA, including projects on the horizon.

Employee Spotlight



Hannah McCorry

Fellow, Illinois Power Agency

Hannah McCorry is the Illinois Power Agency Fellow. She joined the Agency in 2022.

In this role, Hannah supports the IPA leaders and subject-matter experts on policy research and analysis on emerging clean energy trends and issues. In addition, Hannah works alongside the IPA staff to produce energy white papers, presentations, reports, and stakeholder correspondences.

"I hope to continue to advance my knowledge in electricity markets and contribute my skillset in helping the IPA put Illinois on a path to a 100 percent clean-energy future by 2050. As a state, we are in a great position to lead by example in pursuing clean energy goals, fighting climate change, and leading the U.S. on green energy job growth."

Prior to joining the IPA, Hannah worked as a Graduate Research Assistant at the Institute for Regulatory Policy Studies at Illinois State University. In this role, she was tasked with creating reports on the economic viability of Offshore Wind development in the United States, including the possibility for development in the Great Lakes region. Hannah's favorite research project was conducting a cost-benefit analysis of beneficial electrification of

residential heating in Illinois, which included the home heating costs saved by electrifying a home.

Hannah holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from Illinois State University and a master's degree in Applied Economics with a focus in Electricity, Natural Gas, and Telecommunications Economics from Illinois State University.

Outside of work, Hannah enjoys karaoke, experimenting with pickling produce, and taking long nature walks.

Register for Upcoming Power Hour Webinars!

IPA Power Hour 7: The Role of Regional Transmission Organizations in the Development of Renewables

Date: August 26, 2022

Time: 12-1pm CST

[REGISTER HERE](#)

IPA Power Hour 8: CEJA Turns One: Key Highlights from the IPA

Date: September 30, 2022

Time: 12-1pm CST

[REGISTER HERE](#)

IPA Power Hour 9: The Role of Energy Storage for Accelerating the Transition to a Decarbonized, Clean Energy Future in Illinois

Date: October 28, 2022

Time: 12-1pm CST

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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.