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## Power Pulse!

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

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

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**Illinois Commerce  
Commission Approves the  
2023 Electricity Procurement  
Plan**



**Illinois Power Agency Issues  
Request for Feedback on  
Indexed REC Procurement  
Structure**

To facilitate more successful participation in Indexed REC Procurement events and maximize utility-scale wind and solar project development, the Illinois Power Agency is issuing a Request for Stakeholder Feedback. This Request for Stakeholder Feedback seeks input on structural barriers that may have limited participation in the Spring and Fall 2022

On December 15, 2022, the Illinois Commerce Commission approved the **IPA's 2023 Electricity Procurement Plan**. The Procurement Plan provides a roadmap for the Agency's procurements to secure sufficient electricity, capacity, and associated transmission services, plus any required demand response, to meet the supply needs of residential and small commercial customers of Illinois electric utilities for the 2023 calendar year.

Among the items included in the Commission's Order approving the Plan is a new requirement for disclosure of the fuel mix of energy procurement bids and a reduction in ComEd energy hedging levels in light of the offsetting benefits of Carbon Mitigation Credit contracts. The Agency's first block energy and capacity procurements authorized under the Plan will be scheduled for this spring. The schedule will be available on the **procurement website** in February.

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## Community-Driven Community Solar



On September 1, 2022, Illinois Shines opened the Community-Driven Community Solar (CDCS) subprogram for new project applications. This category includes community solar projects up to 5 MW that provide a more direct and tangible connection and benefit to the communities in which they operate.

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## ILSFA Success Story

Indexed REC Procurement events. In addition, the Agency is interested in suggestions for not only changes to the Indexed REC procurement structure, but also for changes to the IPA's Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan or to Illinois law that could help facilitate the successful development of more utility-scale wind and solar projects.

The IPA welcomes comments from stakeholders on the **Request for Stakeholder Feedback** by February 3, 2023, and is planning a February 15, 2023 workshop to receiving additional feedback.

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## Illinois Power Agency Receives U.S. Department of Energy's Sunny Awards Special Recognition



On January 19, the Illinois Power Agency's (IPA) income-eligible program, Illinois Solar for All's community solar sub-program won **Sunny Awards special recognition** for excellence by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Solar Energy Technologies Office for providing meaningful benefits of community solar through greater household cost savings and promoting access to the benefits of community solar to low- to moderate-income households. Up to three programs and projects were chosen by the DOE under each Meaningful Benefit Category Special Recognition.



In this [video](#), Illinois Solar for All participant Alejandra Flores shares her ILSFA experience and how the program saved her money. Flores, a landlord and single-family homeowner in the Chicago Lawn neighborhood cut her monthly electricity bills from \$185 to just \$39. “We are talking about more than half. It’s incredible,” she said. Going solar not only helped Flores, but it also helped her tenants because a lower electricity bill meant their rent wouldn’t rise.

The Sunny Awards is an initiative of the DOE National Community Solar Partnership (NCSP), a coalition of community solar stakeholders working to expand access to affordable community solar to every U.S. household and enable subscribers and their communities to realize its meaningful benefits.

The IPA would like to thank the ILSFA Program staff, the ILSFA Program Administrator (Elevate Energy), the ILSFA Grassroots Education organizations, and ILSFA Program stakeholders for their continued hard work and support in making ILSFA worthy of national recognition.

## Did You Know?

In 2022, the Illinois Power Agency hosted 11 Power Hour webinars on timely energy topics and themes, featuring regional and national energy thought leaders and experts. On average, 80-100 people attended each webinar.



## Power Hour Recap

**IPA Power Hour 11:  
Navigating the Energy  
Transition - Growing Pains  
and the Path Forward**

**IPA Power Hour 10:  
Net Zero Buildings and  
Role of On-site Solar**



On December 16, 2022, the Illinois Power Agency hosted its tenth Power Hour on Navigating the Energy Transition--Growing Pains and the Path Forward. During the webinar, ComEd Vice President of Strategy and Energy Policy Scott Vogt, University of Notre Dame Associate Professor Emily Grubert, PJM Interconnection Manager of Regulatory and Legislative Affairs, State Government Policy Stephen Bennett, and IPA Fellow Hannah McCorry discussed current issues regarding the energy grid, including best practices to help the grid transition to clean energy. In addition, the presenters also shed light on notable national and local policies aimed at helping Illinois achieve a clean energy future.

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



On November 18, 2022, the Illinois Power Agency hosted its tenth Power Hour on Net Zero Buildings and Role of On-site Solar. During the webinar, IPA Senior Advisor and Interim Planning and Procurement Chief Anthony Star, Wight & Company Senior Vice President Lois Vitt Sale, and Illinois Green Alliance Associate Director Katie Kaluzny discussed the role of net zero buildings to accelerate decarbonization. In addition, the presenters also provided insights into policies and best practices in the landscape of net zero energy buildings nationally and gave an overview on how Illinois is moving toward net-zero energy buildings.

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

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## External Events Featuring IPA Speakers

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### Illinois Solar for All Program Manager Presents at National Community Solar Summits



Second from left: ILSFA Program Manager Jennifer Schmidt presents on a panel at the National Community Solar Partnership (NCSP) Annual Summit.

On January 18 and 19, 2023, Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA) Program Manager Jennifer Schmidt presented on panels at the Coalition for Community Solar Access (CCSA) Community Solar Power Summit and the National Community Solar Partnership (NCSP) Annual Summit, organized by the Department of Energy's Solar Energy Technologies Office. The combined summits brought together leading community solar businesses, utilities, non-profits, and policymakers for in-depth conversations on community solar's role in providing equitable energy opportunities in communities.

On January 18, Jennifer presented on a panel, **"Energy Communities and Community Solar"** which highlighted community solar programs that focus on community involvement and support low- and moderate-income subscribers. On January 19, she was a panelist in **"Putting the Customer First: Expanding Equitable Access to Community Solar,"** where the panelists discussed strategies and opportunities for equitable customer engagement and expanding access to community solar. In sharing how ILSFA is engaging communities and promoting equitable access to Illinois' growing solar market, Jennifer highlighted ILSFA's initiatives to expand access to the Program through the grassroots education efforts and creating an ILSFA Advisory Group. These initiatives help the Program connect to communities to build awareness of the benefits of solar and ILSFA participation opportunities in their areas.

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## Illinois Power Agency Acting Director Presents at the National Conference for State Legislators



On November 29, 2022, the Illinois Power Agency Acting Director Brian Granahan presented as part of a panel for the National Conference of State Legislatures Nuclear Working Group on the steps Illinois has taken to support the continued operation of nuclear power plants at risk of closure. Select state legislators from all around the country, each with a defined interest in nuclear power generation, attended the panel presentation.

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## **Illinois Power Agency Staff Present at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Meeting**

On December 6, 2022, the Illinois Power Agency Interim Chief Legal Counsel Kelly Turner, Deputy Legal Counsel Sarah Duffy, and former Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Manager Sharon Johnson presented at the training event for International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 134. The presentation covered information on the IPA's solar programs, CEJA's equity requirements, prevailing wage compliance processes, and project labor agreement requirements for renewable energy projects participating in the IPA's programs and procurements.

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## **Employee Spotlight: Kevin Hayes**

Kevin Hayes is the Chief Financial Officer of the Illinois Power Agency. Kevin joined the Agency on December 16, 2022. In this role, he will be responsible for managing all financial operations of the Agency including accounting, budgeting, cash management, and financial reporting.

Kevin comes to the IPA from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, where he served as a senior auditor. In that role, he examined the records of organizations contracting with DCFS for compliance, checking for financial health, fraud, waste, and abuse.

Prior to that, Kevin spent 24 years working in the accounting and finance arenas, implementing and automating systems that significantly improved accounting and

project management functions. That period included more than a decade working as a Chief Financial Officer for Trice Construction Company and Development Solutions, Inc. (a commercial construction firm), both in Chicago.

“The business model that the IPA has created and the service it provides to stakeholders are rare—it’s probably the only organization of its type in the state. I look forward to working with the IPA senior leadership in supporting the Agency in implementing its forward-looking vision of clean energy economy in the state of Illinois,” said Kevin.

Kevin earned a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting and minor in Economics from Southern Illinois University, and team-service experience in the U.S. Army. Outside of work, Kevin enjoys attending concerts and theatre, traveling, playing a round of golf, bidding a game of whist, and even tipping a glass of cognac.

## IPA Recent Hires

The Illinois Power Agency is pleased to welcome these recent hires:

- **Karen Craig**, Consumer Protection Specialist
- **Matt Kuzma**, Senior Project Manager
- **Sabrina Jeffries**, Office Administrator
- **Kevin Hayes**, Chief Financial Officer
- **Kina Askew**, DEI Outreach Associate
- **Marcus Amos**, IT Generalist

## IPA in the News

Energy News Network:  
**“State, federal solar incentives help Illinois feed mill slash energy costs.”**

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## IPA Honors Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy and to recognize the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, the Illinois Power Agency collected and donated PPE supplies, winter apparel (hats, gloves, scarves), and home goods to over 500 seniors across Chicago through local nonprofit **My Block, My Hood, My City**.



# Register for 2023 Power Hour Webinars!



ILLINOIS POWER AGENCY PRESENTS  
**IPA Power Hour 1: Equitable Solar Workforce Development: Challenges and Opportunities**



February 24th



IPA Power Hour 1:  
*Equitable Solar Workforce Development-Challenges and Opportunities.*  
Date: February 24, 2023  
Time: 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.  
**REGISTER HERE**

IPA Power Hour 2:  
*On-Site Solar Project Development in Illinois - From Ideation to Implementation*  
Date: March 31, 2023  
Time: 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.  
**REGISTER HERE**

## The IPA is Hiring!

The IPA is currently hiring for Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer to help foster the growth of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the expanding clean energy economy of Illinois. The IPA's Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Officer will oversee a team focused on implementing the Agency's DEI-related opportunities and requirements for renewable energy programs and procurements. To apply, please visit the **IPA Careers page**.



**THE IPA IS HIRING...**

**Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer**

- Foster growth of DEI in Illinois' clean energy industry
- Develop strategies for increasing access to Illinois' clean energy economy
- Build relationships and partnerships with key external stakeholders
- Oversee internal DEI team

Apply today!  
[ipa.illinois.gov/about-ipa/current-open-positions.html](https://ipa.illinois.gov/about-ipa/current-open-positions.html)



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