

Stakeholder Feedback Request for the 2024 IPA Long-Term Plan

Respondee: Huntley Community School District No. 158

September 29th, 2023

Huntley Community School District No. 158 worked with ForeFront Power on a 5.5 MWdc behind the meter portfolio back in 2018 under the original IL Shines Program enabled by FEJA. The district has seen significant savings and success with this portfolio, proudly hosting the largest ground mount solar array at a school district in the state of IL. We are glad to have been among the first districts in the state to benefit from the IL Shines program and continue to recommend that other districts follow in our footsteps.

After the creation of the Public Schools block enabling both community solar and behind the meter projects, Huntley and ForeFront Power came together again to develop an additional [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] We are excited to see an additional solar project that will have the benefit of lease revenue for the district, additional electricity bill savings on top of the behind the meter portfolio savings, [REDACTED].

Community solar on public school owned land provides benefits to districts and communities on par with behind the meter projects and should not be disadvantaged unnecessarily by the IPA within the Public Schools block. We encourage the IPA not to add further restrictions to the Public Schools block, such as by creating unnecessary delineations between community solar and behind-the-meter project categories. The best path forward for success in the Public Schools block is to maintain the overall capacity and maintain high REC rates to ensure districts have the ability to submit whichever project best suits their needs (whether that is community solar or behind-the-meter) and there are high enough revenue streams for solar to result in savings for each district across the state. We encourage the IPA to recognize that community solar and behind-the-meter projects should not be seen differently within the Public Schools block, and to treat them equally from a program capacity perspective.

Huntley Community School District No. 158 appreciates the opportunity to submit comments to the IPA on the IL Shines Program and looks forward to seeing the continued success of solar at school districts across the state.