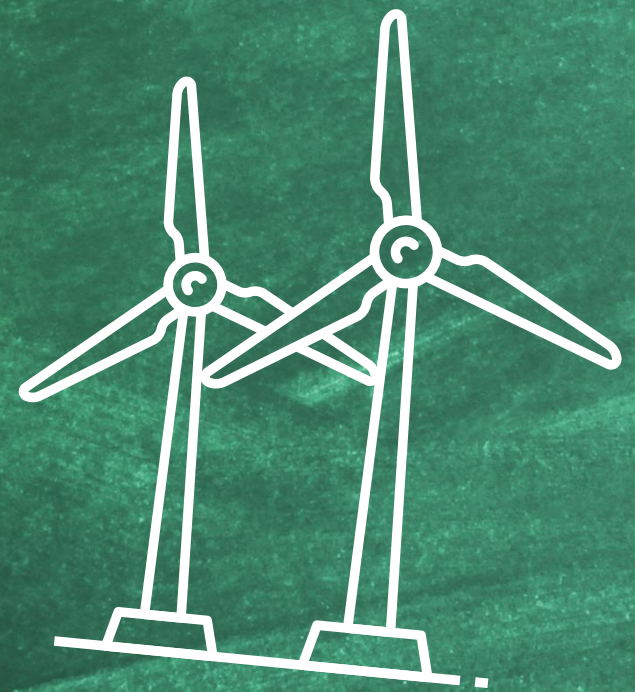


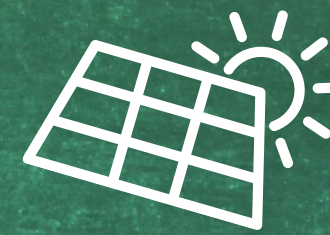
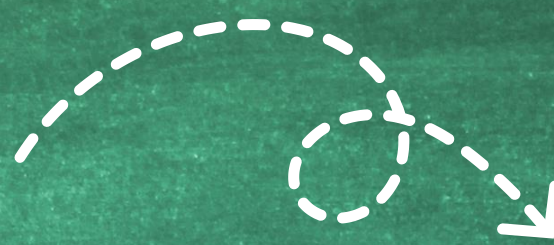
Understanding the IPA's Solar Incentive Programs



Session 1

IPA's Summer School Virtual Series
for Legislators & Staff

7/18/24



IPA Summer School for Legislators & Staff | 2024 Schedule

Session 1: Understanding the IPA's Solar Incentive Programs

Date: Thursday, July 18, 2024, at 12:15 - 1 p.m.

Registration Link: [Register Here](#)

Session 2: How Consumer Protections Work for the IPA's Solar Incentive Programs

Date: Thursday, August 15, 2024, at 12:15 - 1 p.m.

Registration Link: [Register Here](#)

Session 3: Advancing IPA's Equity Initiatives in the Clean Energy Transition

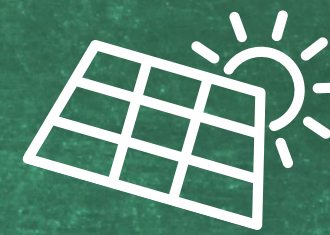
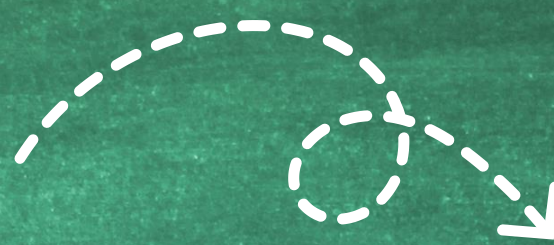
Date: Thursday, September 5, 2024, at 12:15 - 1 p.m.

Registration Link: [Register Here](#)

Session 4: IPA's Clean Energy Dashboard & Progress Toward State Clean Energy Goals

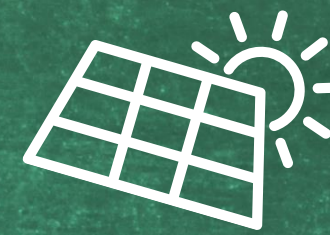
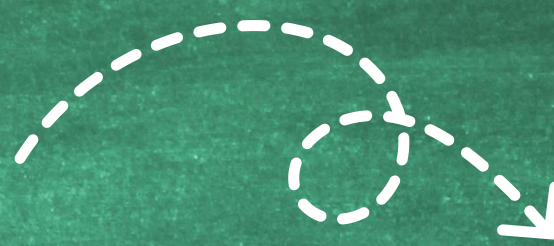
Date: Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 12:15 - 1 p.m.

Registration Link: [Register Here](#)



What is the Illinois Power Agency?

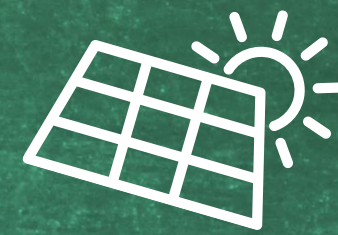
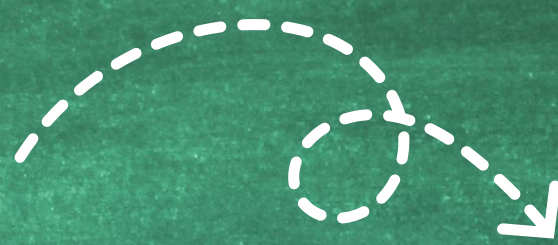
- Today's focus on clean energy transition (expansion under CEJA/FEJA)
 - Responsible for implementation of Illinois Renewable Portfolio Standard
 - Implement the state's two solar incentive programs
 - Clean energy work incorporates equity provisions
- Continues to procure electricity for 20-25% of eligible retail customers in Illinois, established in 2007
- What distinguishes us from the ICC



Session 1: Understanding the IPA's Solar Incentive Programs

Agenda

- Introduction to IPA's state solar incentive programs
- Illinois Shines
- Illinois Solar for All
- Best practices for going solar
- How incentives work
- Q&A



Today's Speakers



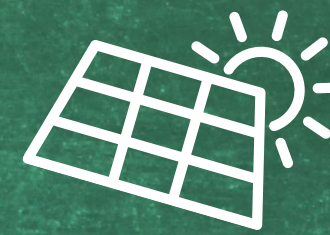
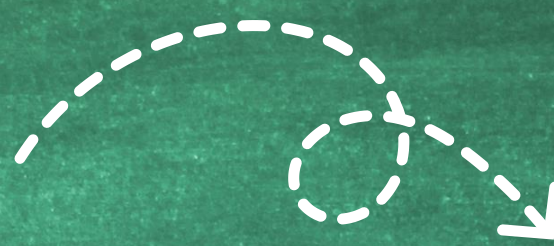
Brian Granahan
Director,
Illinois Power Agency



Audrey Steinbach
Senior Program Manager,
Illinois Shines



Jennifer Schmidt
Senior Program Manager,
Illinois Solar for All



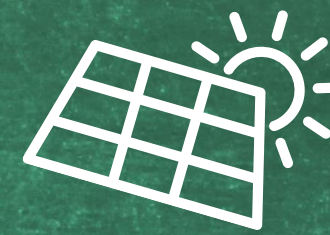
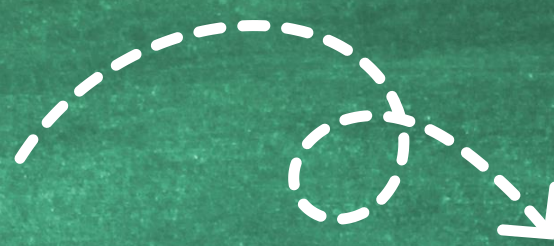
Why Illinois Shines & Illinois Solar for All?

- Helps achieve clean energy goals
- Open to the public in 2019 after passage of the Future Energy Jobs Act (2016)
- Expanded under Climate & Equitable Jobs Act (2021)
- Benefits of solar energy



**Illinois
Solar for All**



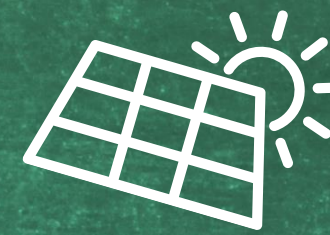
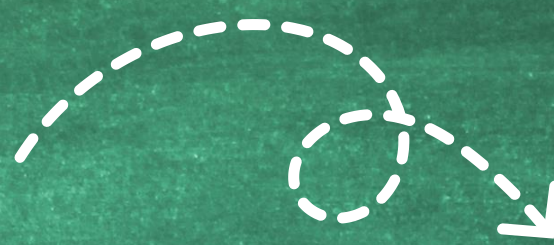
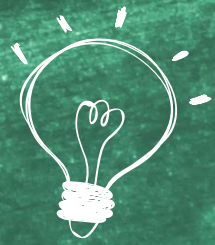


Illinois Shines

Similarities:

Illinois Solar for All

- Both programs support solar project development in Illinois.
- Both allow participants to either install solar on-site (called “Distributed Generation” projects) or subscribe to a participating Community Solar Project.
- Both are managed by third-party Program Administrators, who oversee the day-to-day operation of the programs. The firms were selected through RFQ/RFP processes run by the IPA.
- Participation in both programs occurs through Approved Vendors - solar companies who are registered with the programs and agree to comply with the associated consumer protection standards.



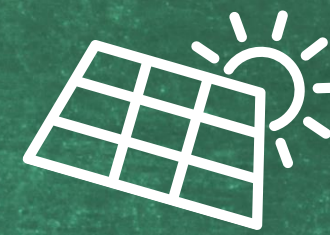
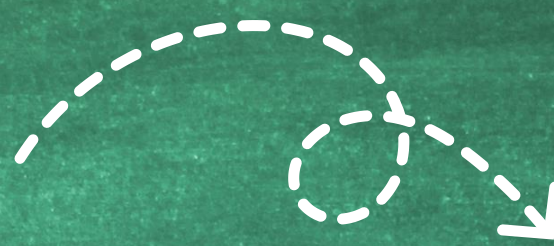
Who is eligible?

Illinois Shines

- All Illinois residents
- Commercial/industrial customers
 - Public Schools
- *Equity-eligible contractors

Illinois Solar for All

- Income-eligible households (both renters and owners)
- Nonprofit orgs and public entities located in environmental justice or income-eligible communities

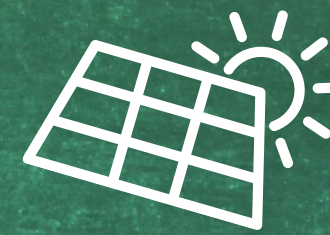
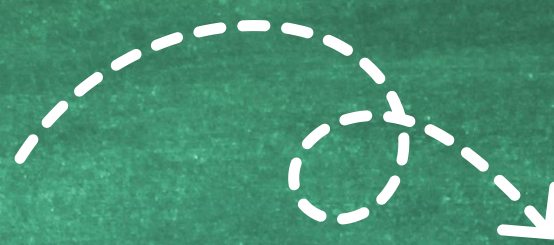


To participate in either program:

- Customers must work with Approved Vendors (AVs), solar developers and contractors registered with the program of choice

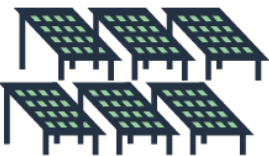
Approved Vendors are responsible for:

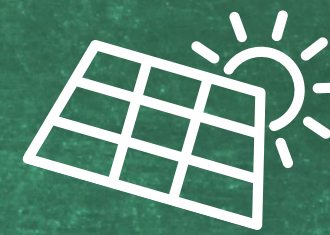
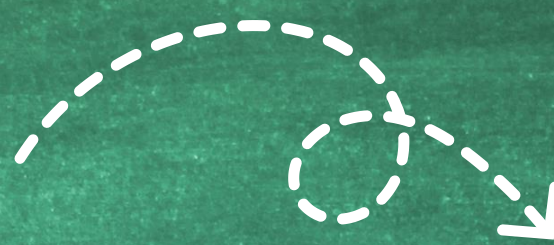
- Submitting an application for the project to the applicable program (in the case of distributed generation projects), *or*
- Subscribing a customer to an established community solar project



Distributed generation vs. Community solar

- **Distributed generation projects** refer to a variety of technologies that generate electricity at or near where they will be used, such as solar panels. Solar panels are the most common type of DG projects and can be installed directly on the roof or land of a given property.
- **Community solar project** refers to a large solar project in a specific utility territory shared by multiple subscribers who receive credits on their utility bills for their share of power generated by the project.





Deeper dive into *Illinois Shines*

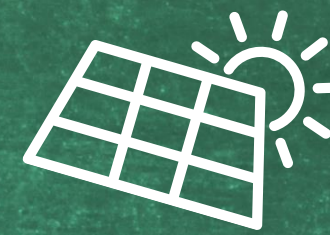
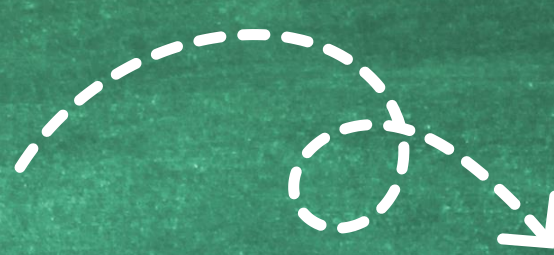
Who is eligible?

All Illinois residents, commercial and industrial customers, and public schools

How to participate?

- ***Decide on Project Type:*** Distributed Generation project *or* subscribe to a participating Community Solar project.
- ***Choose an Approved Vendor*** through the program website

Visit the "[Exploring Distributed Generation](#)" and "[Exploring Community Solar](#)" pages on the *Illinois Shines* website for more information.

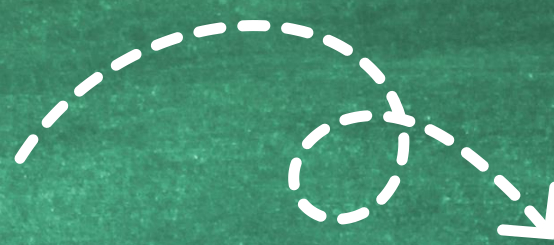


Deeper dive into *Illinois Shines*

What's the installation and application process like for Distributed Generation projects?



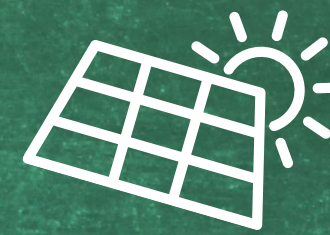
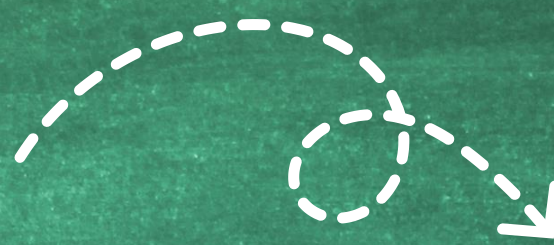
Review our ["Guide to Going Solar with Illinois Shines"](#) for a full process overview



Deeper dive into *Illinois Shines*

If I can't install solar on my property – what does subscribing to a Community Solar project look like?

- **Array is installed off-site**, connected to the electric grid, and anyone with electricity account can subscribe to a share of that array.
- **Customers choose** between projects within their electric utility service territory and between Traditional or Community-Driven Community Solar Projects.
- Subscriber's electricity **bill is credited** based on their share of energy generated
- **Subscriber pay** a subscription fee through a separate bill or charge on utility bill.



Deeper dive into *Illinois Shines*

Here to help! Illinois Shines can help prospective customers find approved solar vendors, understand what project type may be a good fit, and understand the financial considerations of these options.

Program Administrator - Energy Solutions

Website: illinoisshines.com

General Contact

Email: admin@illinoisshines.com

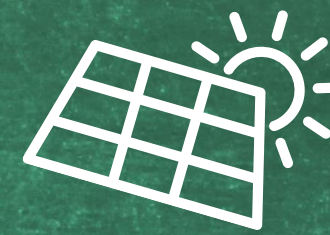
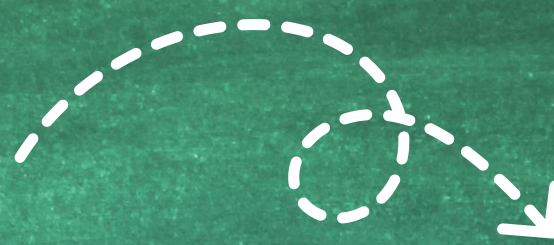
Phone Number: [\(877\) 783-1820](tel:(877)783-1820)

Consumer Complaint Center

Email: complaints@illinoisshines.com

Phone Number: [\(877\) 708-3456](tel:(877)708-3456)

Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. CPT, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays



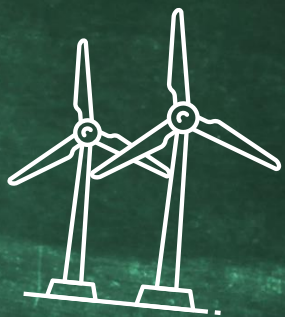
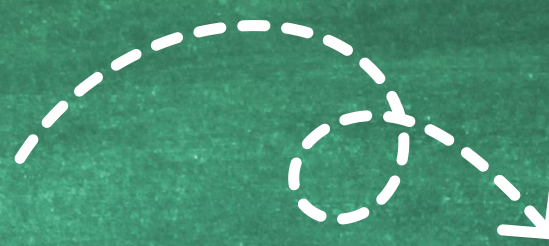
Deeper dive into *Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA)*

Who is eligible?

Income-eligible residents (homeowners and renters), non-profits and public facilities located in environmental justice or income-eligible communities

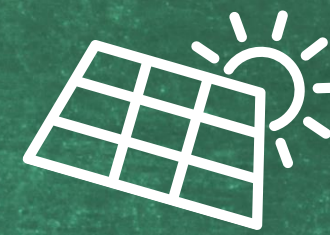
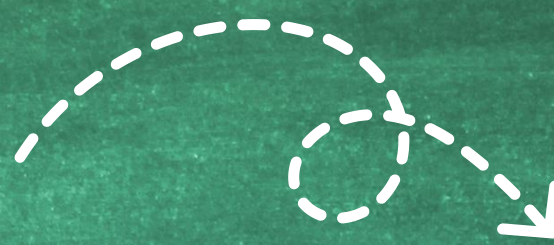
Eligibility criteria:

- Illinois residents may be eligible if their household income is 80% or less of the area median income. Take the [eligibility quiz](#) to find out!
- Eligibility criteria for non-profits and public entities listed on the website



Get Started with *ILSFA*

- 1. Confirm eligibility.** Determine if a DG or CS project is best for the customer.
- 2. Search the program directory to find a registered solar company.** Contact them and compare offers.
- 3. Plan your project.** For residential projects, the approved vendor will help prospective customers plan the project and submit it for review and installation. For community solar, the company will help determine the size and type of subscription based on their energy use.
- 4. Start saving.** Approved Vendors are required to ensure customers see savings.



Deeper dive into *ILSFA*

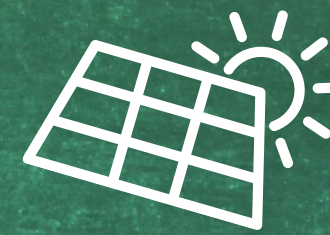
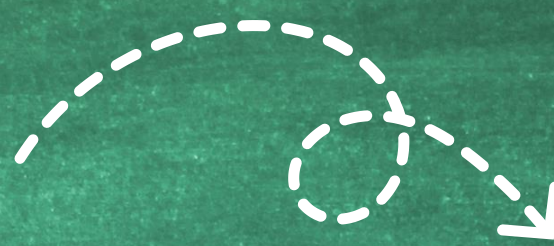
Here to help! ILSFA can help prospective customers find approved solar vendors, understand what project type may be a good fit, and understand the financial considerations of these options.

Program Administrator: Elevate

Website: **illinoisSFA.com**

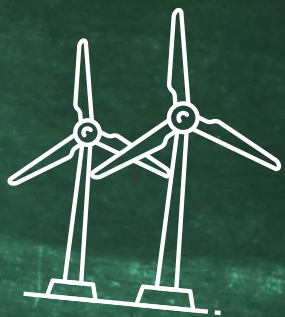
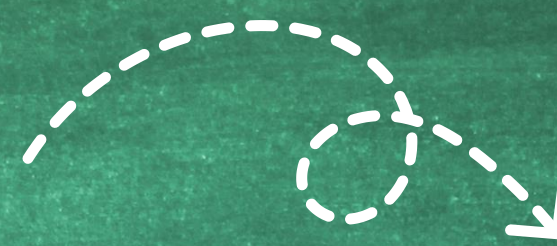
Email: **info@illinoisSFA.com**

Phone: 1.888.970.ISFA (English or Spanish)



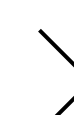
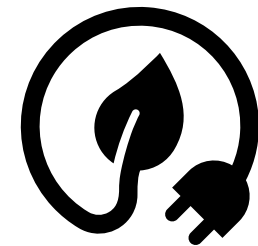
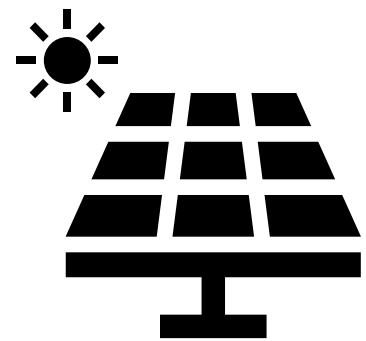
Best Practices When Going Solar

- 1. Make any efficiency and electrification upgrades first.**
- 2. Ask questions.** Our websites provide a detailed overview of useful questions by project type.
- 3. Get multiple bids** and compare the disclosure form in detail.
- 4. Do your research.** Get customer references, review consumer protections databases and the complaints report.
- 5. Unsure? Reach out** to us or the Program Administrator with questions as you navigate this process. We're here to support you and your constituents.



How the incentives work

Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) form the basis of the incentive structure. They are widely used in energy markets and represent the environmental value of energy generated by renewables, including solar.

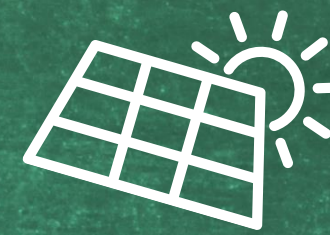
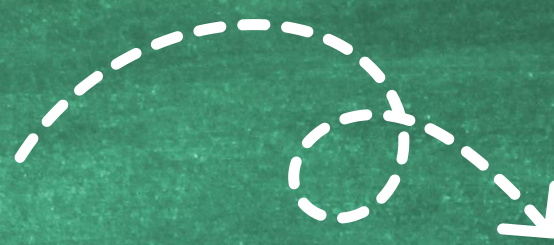


Solar project produces energy, which is measured in RECs

RECs produced and put into grid

Contracting utility sends developer \$ for # of RECs generated

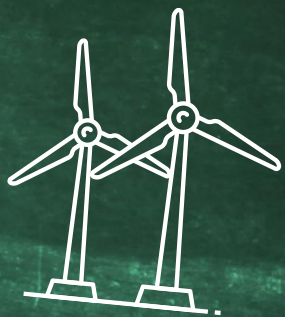
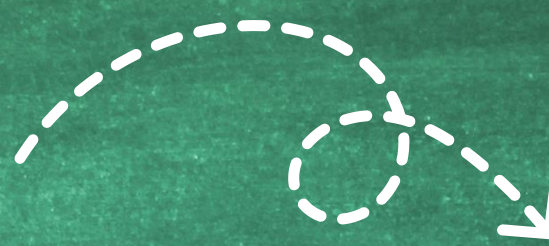
Savings passed on to customer based on contract terms



Q&A

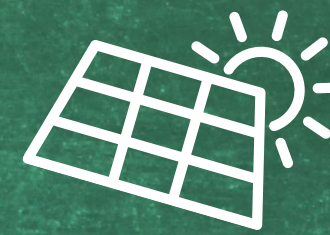
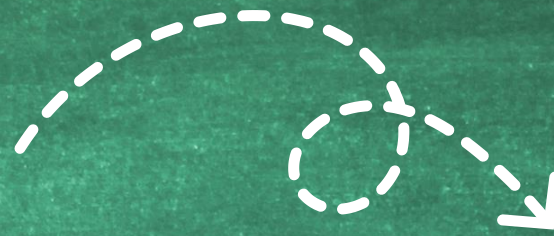
We welcome you to ask general questions related to today's program. Please contact us with more specific questions about these programs or related topics.

(And sign up for next month's session on how consumer protections are built into these solar incentive programs!)



Additional Resources

- **Illinois Shines:**
 - [Guide to Going Solar](#)
 - [Find an AV, Designee, or Subcontractor](#)
 - [System Design Best Practices](#)
- **ILSFA:** [Find an AV, Designee, or Subcontractor](#)
- **View [previous Power Hour webinars](#) on various solar topics, like:**
 - [On-Site Solar Project Development in Illinois: From Ideation to Implementation](#)
 - [Unpacking Community Solar in ILSFA](#)
 - [Buy/Lease/PPA – Comparing Models of Rooftop Solar Participation](#)
 - [Renewable Energy Credits – What Are They and How Are They Used to Meet RPS Compliance?](#)

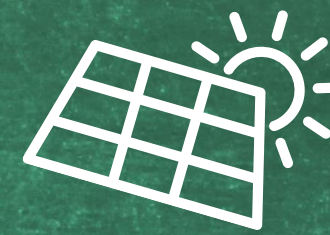
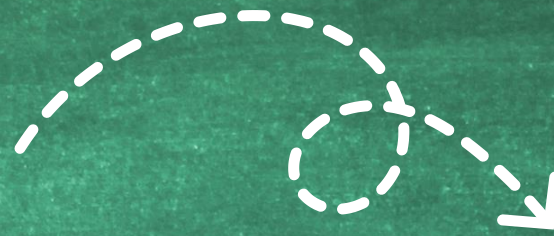


Thank you for coming!

Register for upcoming sessions in the series [here](#).

Join us next month:

Session 2: How Consumer Protections
for the IPA's Solar Incentive Programs Work
Thursday, August 15 at 12:15pm



Contact us

Whitney Richardson

IPA Legislative Affairs Manager

Whitney.Richardson@Illinois.gov

312-639-9486