



ILLINOIS POWER AGENCY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Illinois Power Agency Director Named 2025 Community Solar Champion

The Coalition for Community Solar Access recognizes IPA Director Brian Granahan for his leadership in expanding and accelerating community solar in Illinois

CHICAGO – The Coalition for Community Solar Access (CCSA), a national trade association representing more than 100 community solar companies, businesses, and nonprofits, has named Illinois Power Agency (IPA) Director Brian Granahan a recipient of its [2025 Community Solar Champion Award](#). Brian joins 11 other leaders nationwide who have been recognized for their exceptional leadership in the expansion of affordable, reliable, and locally generated energy.

“Each of these champions has helped move us closer to an energy system that works for everyone—one that is affordable, reliable, and built close to where power is needed most,” said Jeff Cramer, CEO and President of the CCSA. “Their leadership shows what’s possible when policy, innovation, and persistence come together to deliver real results for families, businesses, and communities.”

To date, the IPA’s solar incentive programs — Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All — have supported 238 successfully energized community solar projects serving over 50,000 subscribers. An additional 510 community solar projects are currently under development.

“During a time when advancing accessible renewable energy development is more important than ever, I’m honored to be recognized as a 2025 Community Solar Champion,” said IPA Director Brian Granahan. “This award is a testament to the collective efforts of our staff, stakeholders, and Program Administrators under the broader vision of the state’s clean energy goals.”

The Agency’s progress in supporting community solar project development is not just quantitative; it is also qualitative, reflecting an inclusive, innovative, and accessible approach to program design:

- [The Community-Driven Community Solar](#) category in Illinois Shines, which prioritizes community ownership and meaningful involvement by community members;
- Illinois Shines Community Solar [project scoring criteria](#) emphasizing pollinator-friendly habitats and agrivoltaics, work performed by Equity Eligible Contractors, and siting in Environmental Justice Communities;



- Energy sovereignty preferences in Illinois Solar for All's Community Solar sub-program supporting subscriber ownership or cooperative models.

Illinois has been consistently recognized as a national model for community solar. Earlier this year, the Institute for Local Self Reliance ranked Illinois as the top state in its [2025 Community Power Scorecard](#) in recognition of the state's focus on community benefits and empowerment. In 2023, Illinois Solar for All was one of five grand prize winners and the only state program winner of the U.S. Department of Energy's [American-Made 2023 Sunny Awards](#) for its success in delivering significant benefits to income-eligible households through community solar.

The IPA's efforts supporting community solar fall under the state's larger goals to achieve 40% renewable energy by 2030 and 50% by 2040. As of September 2025, the Agency's programs and procurements have supported over 100,000 total projects representing 12,000 MW, spanning solar for residents and businesses, community solar, and utility-scale solar and wind projects.

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About the Illinois Power Agency

The Illinois Power Agency (IPA) is an independent state agency established under Illinois law in 2007. It is charged with the development and implementation of energy procurement plans for residential and small commercial customers of Illinois electric utilities. The IPA is also responsible for the development and implementation of other procurement plans, including those to support new renewable energy development and the continued operation of nuclear plants. The IPA administers incentive programs and conducts procurements to promote renewable and zero-carbon energy generation to benefit all Illinoisans. Learn more at ipa.illinois.gov.