Illinois Shines

Illinois Shines is a state incentive program that supports the development of solar energy in Illinois. Illinois Shines is the brand name for the Adjustable Block Program. The Illinois Power Agency (IPA) developed this program to help Illinois meet its renewable energy goals and encourage solar installations across the state, regardless of income. The program is administered by Energy Solutions.

Participation

Illinois residents can participate in Illinois Shines in a couple of ways:

- Install a solar photovoltaic (PV) system on a personal property or rooftop.
  - ❖ Approved Vendors, or entities authorized to submit applications to the program, offer a variety of options including purchase of systems, leases, and power purchase agreements (payments tied to the production of the system).
- Participate as a subscriber in a community solar project located within the customer's utility service territory.

To be eligible for participation, Illinois residents must work with Approved Vendors (companies that submit project applications to the Program) registered with the IPA's Illinois Shines program. On behalf of consumers, Approved Vendors will submit the solar project to the Program or register the community solar subscription with an previously established Community Solar project. The Program provides payments in exchange for 15 years of Renewable Energy Credits ("RECs")[1] from a utility contracted to buy the

[1] RECs are certificates that represent the environmental benefits of electricity generated from solar panels that can be sold or bought.

Illinois Shines (continued)

RECs from Approved Vendors. These payments to Approved Vendors will help offset the cost of customers' new PV system or community solar subscription.
Approved Vendors participating in the program are vetted and approved by the Program Administrator and must meet rigorous program requirements. To hold Approved Vendors participating in Illinois Shines to consumer protection standards, the IPA has incorporated comprehensive, robust, and effective consumer protection guidelines. Furthermore, when working on an Illinois Shines project, Approved Vendors are required to give consumers a standard Disclosure Form, which gives consumers clear information about the system and their transaction. To prevent misleading sales practices, the completion of the Disclosure Form is required for the system to be eligible for Illinois Shines. Ultimately, IPA's consumer protection efforts in the Illinois Shines program help residents and business make informed choices about whether and how to go solar.

Benefits

- Save money via net metering credits from production of solar PV system installed on a roof or property or by subscribing to a community solar project in your neighborhood.
- Offset the cost of new solar PV system by selling RECs to a utility through an Approved Vendor authorized by Illinois Shines.
- Support solar development in Illinois.
- Stimulate economic development through job creation.

Illinois Shines (continued)

Types of Projects:

Distributed Generation. A distributed generation project is a solar project that is installed on the roof of a customer's home or business or is ground-mounted on the land surrounding a home or business. A distributed generation system is located on-site, behind a customer's meter, and used primarily to offset a single customer's electric load.

Community Solar. Community solar is an arrangement under which many customers subscribe to a single, large solar PV project whose electricity production is used to offset the electricity use of all subscribers. By subscribing, individual customers offset their own electricity use with a portion of the electricity generated by the community solar system. The project might be located near the customer or many miles away, but it must be in the same utility service territory as the customer. Community solar is a good option for customers who don't own their homes or who prefer not to install solar panels on their property.

To learn more about Illinois Shines, visit www.illinoisshines.com

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