

Illinois Power Agency **POWER BRIEF**

August 2023

Volume V

A monthly roundup of news and top highlights from the Illinois Power Agency

TOP INSIGHTS & HIGHLIGHTS

IPA Announces Plan for New Data Project to Enhance Public Awareness of Renewable Energy Development

The IPA is excited to announce its plans to develop the Illinois Clean Energy Dashboard, a new data project designed to convey the story of renewable energy development through data visualization tools.

Through this initiative, the IPA seeks to quantify and illustrate a compelling story of renewable energy growth in Illinois and bolster public understanding of how the IPA's renewable energy programs and procurements support that growth. Features will include maps, charts, and statistics charting the development of new solar, wind, and other projects in Illinois, presented in an accessible and visually engaging manner.

Providing accessible data on renewable energy development is crucial for driving in renewable energy and allowing legislators, the media, and other key constituencies to quickly answer common questions about the growth of renewable energy in Illinois. The IPA looks forward to the development of the Illinois Clean Energy Dashboard and will continue to provide updates on the progress of the project through *Power Brief*.



IPA Announces Plan to Conduct Policy Study



On August 23, the **IPA announced** that it will be conducting a Policy Study on three energy policy proposals outlined in **House Bill 3445** (HB 3445) during the 103rd Illinois General Assembly's (ILGA) Spring 2023 Legislative Session. The following proposals will be the subject of the IPA's Study:

- **Senate Bill 1587** would require the Agency to develop a storage procurement plan to support the development of new energy storage projects.
- **House Bill 2132** would require the Agency to develop a procurement process to support the development of a new utility-scale offshore wind project in Lake Michigan.
- A policy requiring the Agency to conduct a procurement process to support the development of a new High Voltage Direct Current ("HVDC") transmission project, which the Agency understands to be the Soo Green HVDC Link.

While HB 3445 received an amendatory veto around bill language unrelated to the policy study on August 16, 2023, the Agency plans on proceeding with the Study regardless of the final disposition of

HB 3445. The Agency will publish a draft of the Policy Study by January 21, 2024 for public comment and will publish a final Policy Study no later than March 1, 2024.

The Agency has developed the **IPA Policy Study webpage** to share key information and provide visibility into the timeline for Policy Study development.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the IPA hosted an August 31 Power Hour Webinar, "***Bring Solar to School: Benefits, Challenges, and Opportunities?***"

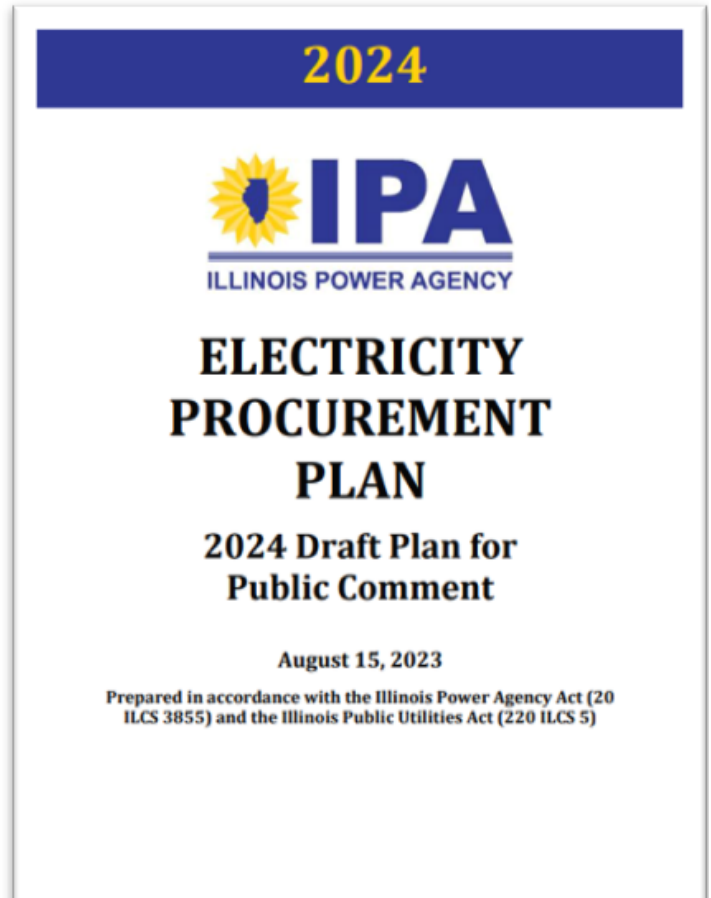
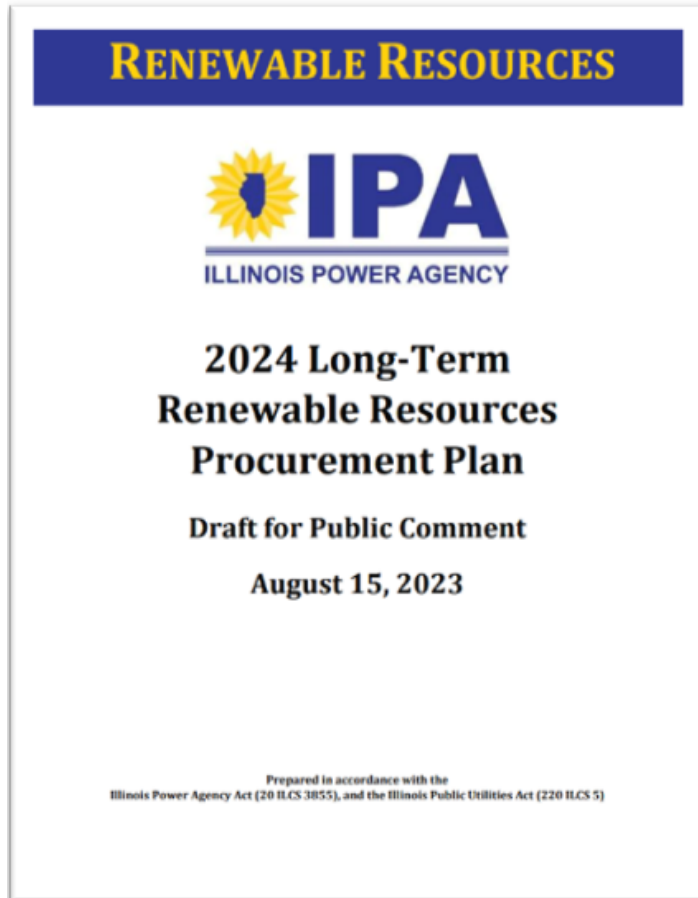
The webinar highlighted how public schools (K-12) can overcome challenges and take advantages of state incentives to install solar. In addition, the speakers discussed opportunities and best practices for solar adoption. Speakers for the webinar included **Audrey Steinbach**, Senior Program Manager for Illinois Shines; **Dr. Matt Seaton**, Chief Financial Officer, Illinois State Board of Education; **Gabriela Martin**, Program Director (Energy), Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation; and **Mia Korinke**, Campaign Mobilization Director, Climate Jobs IL.



To view a recording of the webinar, please click the video thumbnail above. For presentation slides and more, visit the **[Events page](#)** of the IPA website, under About IPA.

IPA Publishes Two Draft Procurement Plans for Stakeholder Feedback

On August 15, the Illinois Power Agency released two draft procurement plans for public comment. Parties seeking to provide comments on the Agency's draft plans are encouraged to [review these plans and submit written feedback](#). Additionally, the IPA will be holding virtual public hearings in conjunction with each of these plans. More information on the plans and how to comment can be found below.



The **Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan (or Long-Term Plan)** is developed and published every two years and details the goals and strategies for the IPA's renewable energy programs and procurements. *Written comments for the draft 2024 Long-Term Plan are due on Friday, September 29.* The IPA will also hold a virtual public hearing for the draft 2024 Long-Term Plan on Friday, September 15. For more information on how to participate in the virtual hearing, and how to submit written comments, see the [draft 2024 Long-Term Plan's Cover Letter and Hearing Notice](#).

The **Annual Electricity Procurement Plan** is developed and published every year and provides a roadmap for the IPA's approach to meeting the electricity supply needs of residential and small commercial customers taking fixed price service from Illinois electric utilities. *Written comments for the draft 2024 Annual Electricity Procurement Plan are due on Thursday, September 14.* The IPA will also hold a virtual public hearing for the draft 2024 Electricity Procurement Plan on Friday, September 8. For more information on how to participate in the virtual hearing, and how to submit written comments, see the [draft 2024 Electricity Procurement Plan's Cover Letter and Hearing Notice](#).

IN THE COMMUNITY

Community Outreach Events

- Workforce Opportunity Resource Center (WORC) Career Pathway Event, The Chicago Housing Authority, August 1
- Community Resource Fair at Woodson Regional Library, August 2
- Wellness/Back to School/Family Resource Fair, City of Chicago, August 19
- IDES/NAJC Job Fair at Truman College, August 23
- Ase' Holistic House Job Fair, August 28
- CBOC Southside Hiring Event, 10am-2pm at Blue Door Neighborhood Center, August 31

DEI Trainings/Outreach Meetings

- AV/EEC Application Overview Training (Naturally Urban Green), August 1
- Energy Equity Portal Overview (Elevate), August 14
- Barriers in Solar Energy Education for EEPs (SNAP Employment & Training), August 14
- EEC/EEP Opportunities and Energy Equity Portal Overview (InChargeE), August 15
- CEJA Workforce Development Webinar (DCEO), August 17
- Workforce Opportunities in Clean Energy (Governors State University), August 24
- CEJA Workforce Development Webinar (DCEO), August 24
- CEJA Workforce Development Webinar (DCEO), August 31

Grassroots Educators Share Community Solar Testimonials

Section 1-56(b)(3) of the IPA Act allows for up to 5% of Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA) program funding to support community-based organizations and agencies engaging in grassroots education. Grassroots education campaigns ensure that income-eligible households and communities across the state understand the basics of solar energy and receive benefits and eligibility information for participation in the ILSFA program. ILSFA grassroots educators can be community-based non-profits serving cities, towns, and rural communities anywhere in Illinois. ILSFA grassroots organizations have strong local ties and a history of running successful public education campaigns.

To maximize community participation, ILSFA Grassroots Educators create educational resources (like the testimonial highlighted here) to make sure ILSFA program opportunities and benefits reach both rural and urban communities across the state.

To see if your district has a grassroots educator operating in it, check out our [Grassroots Educator map tool](#).



IPA DEI Outreach Associate **Kina Askew** joins Cook County Commissioner **Bill Lowery** at a Back-to-School Fair and Resource Event in Chicago, IL.

Lawndale Resident Saves \$50 per month with Community Solar



A Lawndale resident shares their experience going solar to save money on their electric bill while also helping the environment.

LOOKING AHEAD



DEI Outreach Calendar

- 34th Annual African Fest, Washington Park, September 1
- Community Hiring Event, YWCA, September 12
- Pop-Up Career Fair, South Suburban College, September 13
- 50th Ward Job Fair, Northtown Library, September 19
- CEJA / FEJA Construction Fair, September 20

Upcoming Webinar

Power Hour 8: *The Work Ahead: Staffing the Clean Energy Economy*

Accelerating the shift to a clean energy economy requires a workforce that is diverse, skilled, and ready. This webinar will examine the role of workforce development, and look at challenges and opportunities, for ensuring a smooth transition.



ILLINOIS POWER AGENCY PRESENTS
IPA Power Hour 8: *The Work Ahead: Staffing the Clean Energy Economy*



September 29



Tanvi Shah

Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer, Illinois Power Agency



Joseph W. Kane

Fellow, Brookings Institution



Hugo Avila

Co-Director for Central States SER /SERC



Hilary Scott-Ogunrinde

Deputy Director of Energy & Utility, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Speakers include Tanvi Shah, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer, Illinois Power Agency; Joseph W. Kane, Fellow, Brookings Institution; Hugo Avila, Co-Director for Central States SER /SERC, and Hilary Scott-Ogunrinde, Deputy Director of Energy & Utility, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

Date: September 29, 2023

Time: 12pm-1pm CT

[**REGISTER NOW**](#)

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

- [Consumer Protection Fact Sheet](#)
 - [Equity Factsheet](#)
 - [IPA Power Hour Webinar: Equitable Solar Workforce Development: Challenges and Opportunities](#)
 - [Energy Workforce Equity Portal Flyer](#) (includes Spanish translation)
 - [Equity Eligible Person \(EEP\) Postcard](#) (includes Spanish translation)
 - [IPA Power Hour Webinar: The Impacts of Wind and Solar Projects to the Local Economy](#)
-

CONTACT US

Brian Granahan

Acting Director

Illinois Power Agency

Email: Brian.Granahan@illinois.gov

Telephone: (312) 814-4635

Zoe Lanier

Legislative Counsel

Illinois Power Agency

Email: Zoe.Lanier@illinois.gov

Telephone: (312) 814-1886