

Illinois Power Agency **POWER BRIEF**

September 2023

Volume VI

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

TOP INSIGHTS & HIGHLIGHTS

Illinois Commerce Commission Approves Results of Fall 2023 Block Energy Procurement

On September 14, the Illinois Commerce Commission **approved the results** of the IPA's 2023 Block Energy Procurement. This procurement event brings a portion of energy under contract to meet the supply requirements of those residential and small commercial customers ("eligible retail customers") of ComEd and Ameren Illinois who have not elected to take service from a competitive supplier. The portion of energy procured is a hedge of anticipated future demand based on past demand data and predictive modeling.

The results of the IPA's block energy procurement event, in part, determine the supply charges that eligible retail customers pay through utility bills. As block energy prices resulting from this procurement event were generally lower than observed in certain prior procurements, the IPA's preliminary analysis is that the Fall 2023 Block Energy Procurement will result in lowering energy prices for eligible retail customers.



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the Illinois Power Agency's income-eligible solar incentive program, Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA), was named as a finalist for the **American-Made 2023 Sunny-Awards for Equitable Community Solar**?

(continued on Page 2...)



DID YOU KNOW? (continued)

The Sunny Awards, organized by the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Energy Technologies Office and the National Community Solar Partnership (NCSP), recognized ILSFA as one of seven finalists for serving as a blueprint for community solar programs that increase households' access to community solar subscriptions, which provide electricity bill savings.

Grand Prize Award winners will be announced in November and will recognize best practices that increase equitable access to the meaningful benefits of community solar for subscribers and their communities. Those best practices will provide a blueprint for community solar developers, state energy offices, utilities, and others to help achieve the NCSP's target of powering the equivalent of five million households with community solar by 2025, generating \$1 billion in electricity bill savings.

In 2022, the inaugural year of the Sunny Awards competition, ILSFA won Sunny Awards Special Recognition for providing meaningful benefits through greater household cost savings and for promoting solar access for low-and moderate-income households.

The IPA thanks ILSFA Program staff, the ILSFA Program Administrator (Elevate Energy), ILSFA Grassroots Education organizations, and ILSFA Program stakeholders for their continued hard work and support in making ILSFA worthy of receiving national recognition once again.

STAFF TRANSITIONS

*Farewell from IPA's Legislative Counsel
Zoe Lanier*



Hi—I wanted to take a minute to thank you all for your interest in this newsletter and the Illinois Power Agency. We launched this Power Brief newsletter six months ago to help legislators and legislative staff better understand the work of the IPA. The energy sector is fascinating and growing rapidly, and with that growth comes many exciting new opportunities. Today (September 29) is my last day as the Illinois Power Agency's Legislative Counsel. In October, I will be transitioning into a new role as a Legal Advisor to the Chairman at the Illinois Commerce Commission.

Please direct legislative questions to IPA Acting Director Brian Granahan moving forward (contact information can be found at the bottom of this newsletter). It has been an honor and pleasure working alongside the legislature and its dedicated staff over the last year. I hope this newsletter continues to be a resource and that you feel empowered to reach out to the fantastic public servants at IPA if you ever have questions!

-Zoe Lanier

NEW STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

On September 18, David Dworkin joined the IPA as Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA) Program Associate. In this role, David will aid IPA Senior Program Manager Jennifer Schmidt on various initiatives, provide updates to program requirements, and oversee compliance by program participants. David is passionate about equity and is dedicated to ensuring equitable access to opportunities in programs that support both households and Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) businesses. Previously, David worked for the Chicago Transit Authority.



On September 1, Chandrika Mital joined the IPA as Director of Renewable Energy Finance. In this role, Chandrika will work to facilitate the development of large-scale wind and solar projects and ensure that the Agency's approach to incentive program REC pricing is sound. Previously, Chandrika worked as Vice President in energy infrastructure private equity for True Green Capital.



On September 1, Christopher Thomas joined the IPA as Contract Specialist. In this role, Chris will help to establish and manage Agency contracts, including monitoring and compliance, timely invoice review, and billing and receivables. Previously, Chris assisted in the procurement and management of government services and construction needs in the Chicagoland area for the General Service Administration.



On August 1, LaTosha Hudson joined the IPA as Human Resources Associate. In this role, LaTosha will support the timely processing of many HR tasks and the development of new HR programs, Agency policies, and other initiatives. Previously, LaTosha had worked for more than ten years meeting the human resources and procurement needs of Northwestern University.



On August 1, LaKeisha Sanders joined the IPA as Operations Assistant. In this role, LaKeisha will work to strengthen the overall governance structure of the Agency (including internal control framework, policies, and protocols). Previously, LaKeisha had worked as an Administrative Assistant for the Department of Central Management Services with the State of Illinois.



IN THE COMMUNITY

Outreach Events

- YWCA Hiring Event, YWCA, September 12
- South Suburban Pop-Up Fair, South Suburban College Career and Success Center, September 13
- 50th Ward Job Fair, City of Chicago, September 14
- Jobs Plus, Centers for New Horizons/CHA, September 19
- Community Support Advisory Council-South, Target Area-CSAC South, September 27

Outreach Trainings & Meetings

- Energy Workforce Equity Portal Meeting (New Legacy Power), September 11
- Workforce Opportunities in Clean Energy for EEPs (Chicago Urban League), September 11
- Energy Workforce Equity Portal Meeting (Heartland Alliance), September 18
- Energy Workforce Equity Portal Meeting (Trilogy Inc.), September 18
- Energy Workforce Equity Portal Meeting (Centers for New Horizons), September 21
- Outreach for the Workforce Meeting (DCEO), September 22



IPA DEI Outreach Associate **Kina Askew** (right) conducts outreach at YWCA Hiring Event, September 12



Illinois Power Agency Staff Attends Illinois Renewable Energy Conference

Across September 20 and 21, fourteen members of the Illinois Power Agency attended the Illinois Renewable Energy Conference in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois, with four IPA employees providing presentations at the conference.

IPA Acting Director Brian Granahan spoke on the 'Energy Policy Panel' alongside Illinois Commerce Commissioner Doug Scott and Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Deputy Director (Energy) Hilary Scott-Ogunrinde. During the panel discussion, panelists provided key highlights on their respective agencies' implementation of activities under the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA). Brian provided an overview on IPA's CEJA implementation activities and shared his vision for how the IPA can grow to be a thought leader in the clean energy space in the Midwest.



Top: Members of Illinois Power Agency attend Illinois Renewable Energy Conference in Bloomington-Normal, IL

Bottom: IPA Acting Director **Brian Granahan** presents on 'Energy Policy Panel'

Additionally, IPA Senior Advisor and Planning and Procurement Bureau Chief Anthony Star presented at the ‘Where Do We Go from Here?’ session. Anthony highlighted successes of Illinois’ robust solar market and pointed out that Illinois is well-positioned in the Midwest to lead an equitable clean energy transition. Anthony’s presentation also highlighted unique challenges on the renewable energy front, as well as how the Agency plans to utilize opportunities to tackle these challenges through policy and legislative work.



DEI Data Analyst **Alexa Mittenthal** (left) and Chief DEI Officer **Tanvi Shah** (Right) conduct outreach at Illinois Renewable Energy Conference in Bloomington-Normal, IL

Lastly, IPA Chief Strategy and Communications Officer Megha Hamal and Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer Tanvi Shah presented at the ‘Equity Requirements’ session. Megha and Tanvi highlighted the IPA’s work on implementing CEJA’s equity requirements and provided a tour of the Energy Workforce Equity Portal, which is intended to connect clean energy companies with equity eligible job seekers looking for work in the clean energy industry.

The conference was attended by clean energy policymakers, industry leaders, contractors, educators, key stakeholders, and students of Illinois State University.

LOOKING AHEAD



Outreach Events

- Pop-Up Job Fair, The College and Career Success Center at South Suburban College, October 11 *EIEC
- 2nd Annual Chicagoland Workforce Development Symposium, Malcolm X College, October 12 *EIEC

*Event held in Equity Investment Eligible Community

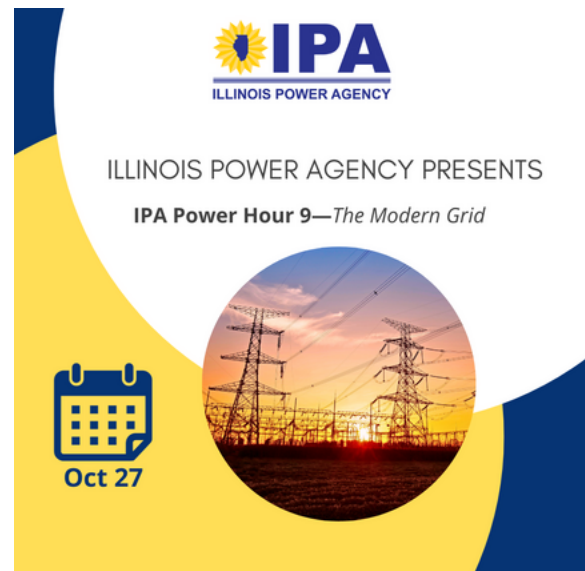
Upcoming Webinar

IPA Power Hour 9—*The Modern Grid*

Date: October 27, 2023

Time: 12pm-1pm CT

REGISTER NOW



IN THE NEWS

Austin Weekly News: **Solar energy program pilots in West Garfield Park**

This news coverage highlights how Illinois Solar for All's Bright Neighborhoods Pilot initiative, launched in August, seeks to reduce barriers to participation and increase access for income-eligible households to the Residential Solar sub-program in West Garfield Park.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

- [Public Schools Informational Brochure](#)
- [Public Schools Project Guide](#)
- [The Work Ahead: Staffing the Clean Energy Economy](#)
- [Consumer Protection Factsheet](#)
- [Equity Factsheet](#)
- [Equitable Solar Workforce Development: Challenges and Opportunities](#)
- [Energy Workforce Equity Portal Flyer](#) (includes Spanish translation)
- [Equity Eligible Person \(EEP\) Postcard](#) (includes Spanish translation)

CONTACT US

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