

Illinois Power Agency

POWER BRIEF

June 2023

Volume III

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

TOP INSIGHTS & HIGHLIGHTS

New Electric Rates Established for Default Supply Customers

After completion of the IPA's Spring 2023 Block Energy and Capacity procurement events and the start of a new energy delivery year, new electricity supply rates have been established for customers receiving electricity supply from Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) and Ameren Illinois (Ameren). Supply rates for small residential customers are below, and can also be found [through the IPA's new electricity procurement landing page](#):

Ameren: 7.877 cents per kWh (down from 11.833 cents)

ComEd: 6.809 cents per kWh (down from 9.665 cents)

These rates constitute a substantial decline over the prior delivery year, as wholesale energy prices (and capacity prices) have settled down to more manageable levels following global energy price spikes across 2022.



Please note that these rates only apply for those customers who take default electric supply service from their electric utility ("eligible retail customers"). By law, eligible retail customers are residential and small commercial customers of electric utilities who have not switched to an Alternative Retail Electric Supplier (whether individually or through a municipal aggregation contract) or do not take hourly pricing service. Actual rates may also differ based on application of the purchased electricity adjustment ("PEA"), through which actual electricity costs are settled against estimated costs, or customer consumption levels and rate classifications.

Relatedly, on June 15, 2023, the Illinois Commerce Commission approved the results of the IPA's Zonal Resource Credit capacity procurement event, through which the IPA hedges "capacity" for eligible retail customers of Ameren Illinois for future delivery years. Results [can be found here](#), and the IPA is preparing another capacity procurement event for this fall.

ICC Approves Results of Indexed REC Procurement Event



On June 29, the Illinois Commerce Commission [approved results](#) of the IPA's Indexed REC procurement event for Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) from utility-scale solar, utility-scale wind, and brownfield site photovoltaic projects. The selected utility-scale solar and brownfield site photovoltaic projects will constitute 577.75 megawatts ("MW") of new solar energy generation. No winning wind projects were selected, and the IPA will hold another indexed REC procurement event this fall. By law, participating utility-scale projects must be at least 5 MW in size, be located in Illinois—or meet a set of public interest criteria if located in an adjacent state, as outlined in Chapter 4 (page 93) of [the IPA's 2022 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan](#)—and fulfill project maturity requirements.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the Illinois Solar for All Program Supports Grassroots Education?



Illinois Solar for All

Section 1-56(b)(3) of the Illinois Power Agency Act provides up to 5% of Illinois Solar for All funding to community-based organizations and agencies to engage in grassroots education. The goals of supported grassroots education campaigns are to help ensure that income-eligible households and communities across the state understand the basics of solar energy and to provide details regarding benefits from and eligibility requirements 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 Grassroot Educators create educational resources (some of which are highlighted below) to make sure ILSFA program opportunities and benefits reach both rural and urban communities across the state.

[Champaign Family Saves Money through Illinois Solar for All](#) (A father of five children from Champaign, who shares his excitement about installing a solar project through ILSFA).

[Solar Energy Helps Urbana Child Care Center Invest More in Children](#) (An Urbana-area childcare center shares how participation in the ILSFA program allowed them to generate their own solar power energy so they can put more of their resources toward caring for the children in their facility).

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

Expansion of the Energy Workforce Equity Portal Resources



The IPA is pleased to share recent enhancements to the Energy Workforce Equity Portal to help facilitate more inclusive participation.

The portal now features skills development training programs that can help Equity-Eligible Persons (EEPs) and non-EEPs build their knowledge and skillset to enter the clean energy workforce. While these training programs are not administered by the Agency, by recognizing the need for this information in the Portal and including skills development resources for EEPs, the IPA continues to strengthen and advance equity in the clean energy industry.

These additional education and training resources are available as a drop-down menu under the job seekers page and as a link under the [resources page](#) of the portal.



A shareable flyer for our Portal can be found in the Educational Resources section of this newsletter.

Illinois Shines Application Processing Progress

The Illinois Shines Program continues to process a high volume of project applications. Project applications are submitted into the program by Approved Vendors (vetted solar companies directly participating in the Illinois Shines program) and follow a two-step application and verification process. Part I applications are submitted to secure a REC delivery contract (i.e., to reserve a place to receive incentive funding), whereas Part II applications cannot be submitted until the system is fully installed and connected to authorize disbursement of incentives.

At the beginning of April, the backlog in applications to be processed consisted of 4,440 Part I Small Distributed Generation project applications and 3,843 Part II project applications. As of July 5, that queue has been reduced down to 1,665 Part I project applications and 390 Part II project applications. The Illinois Shines Program Administrator has achieved its two-week-turnaround application review goal, and progress on application review [will continue to be updated three times per week](#).

Stakeholder Input to Inform IPA's Next Draft Long-Term Plan

On June 29, the IPA wrapped up its stakeholder feedback process in the development of its next Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan (Long-Term Plan).

The Agency gathered input from stakeholders on nine topics: the RPS budget and goals; adjacent state project eligibility; competitive procurements; the Large Customer RPS Self-direct Program; consumer protection measures; the Illinois Shines program; the Illinois Solar for All program; DEI initiatives; and administratively established REC pricing.

The IPA received a total of 75 comments from 28 parties. Commenters included businesses that qualify as Equity Eligible Contractors, Approved Vendors, organized labor, environmental and consumer advocates, industry associations, and utilities. Comments can be [found on the IPA website](#). Stakeholders will have another opportunity to comment when the Agency releases its Draft Long-Term Plan this August.

Illinois Solar For All Program Begins Implementing Two Pilot Programs

The IPA's income-eligible solar incentive program, Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA), is currently working on implementing two exciting pilot initiatives.

The [Residential Solar Pilot initiative](#) was established through the IPA's 2022 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan and seeks to ease and encourage participation in Illinois Solar for All by utilizing the ILSFA Program Administrator to help find income-eligible households to participate in select communities. Under this initiative, the ILSFA Program Administrator will manage marketing, public outreach, participant interactions, income verification, and an initial site suitability assessment. By doing this, the IPA aims to reduce barriers to participation and increase access for income-eligible households to the Residential Solar sub-program within ILSFA.

Three communities were selected for the Residential Solar Pilot: West Garfield Park, Chicago; Waukegan; and the Carbondale-Marion Micropolitan Area (including the Jackson, Williamson, and Johnson counties). The Pilot has a goal of 50-100 total installations within each of the three communities. The pilot initiative is expected to launch this August.

The Solar for All program is also conducting a [Home Repairs and Upgrades Pilot](#). This Pilot is intended to solve the barrier of home repair necessity across small residential customers through to gathering information on the frequency and extent of electrical and roof repair needs. The Pilot is expected to serve 100 -125 projects. The Program Administrator plans to begin educational efforts with Approved Vendors around the Home Repairs and Upgrades Pilot this July.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Community Outreach Events

(A walkthrough of the equity portal outreach events attended by the IPA in June)

- Juneteenth Illinois Equity Resource Fair at Malcolm X College on June 17
- Bronzeville's 2023 Juneteenth Celebration: Strengthening the roots at Absolutely Essential on June 17
- Level Up Career Conference Present by Good Green at Malcolm X College on June 19
- Tinley Park Diversity Job Fair at Tinley Park Convention Center on June 20
- South Suburban Cook County Hiring Event at Chicago Heights Park District on June 21
- Illinois Department of Human Services Virtual Recruitment Event (Virtual) on June 21
- Senator Peters, State Rep Buckner, State Rep Tarver, and Cook County Commissioner Lowery Job Fair at Kenwood High School on June 22
- Alumni Resource Fair at Butler College Prep on June 23
- Men's Resource Event at Rev BT Little Community Center on June 24
- Chicago Women in Trades at Chicago Women in Trades Center on June 28
- Westside Hiring Event & Resource Expo 2622 West Jackson Blvd on June 29
- Career Connector Youth Opportunity Fair at Ebenezer Church Gymnasium on June 29
- Centers for New Horizons WIOA Fest at Bee Branch Library on June 30



IPA DEI Outreach Associate **Kina Askew** distributes IPA materials at the South Suburban Jobs Fair in Chicago Heights, IL.

IN THE COMMUNITY (Continued)

DEI Trainings/Outreach Meetings

(Conducted trainings on equity portal, ILSFA and Illinois Shines overview)

- Equity Workforce Portal, ILSFA and IL Shines- State of Illinois (Office of Strategy, Equity & Transformation) on May 31
- Diversifying the Workforce in Clean Energy- ScaleLIT (formerly Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition) and E&ES (eesforjobs.com) on June 6
- Reimagine Public Safety Community Conveners-Illinois Department of Human Services on June 7
- Equity Eligible Person (EEP)-Diversifying the workforce in Clean Energy-Illinois Department of Children & Family Services (Office of Racial Equity Practice) on June 14
- Diversity Inclusion for Individuals with Disabilities-Illinois Department of Human Services (Division of Rehabilitation Services) on June 15

LOOKING AHEAD



DEI Outreach Calendar for July

- African/Caribbean International Festival of Life/JSV Fest at Washington Park on July 1
- Community Resource Fair at Woodson Regional Library on July 5
- Workforce Wednesday at Evanston Public Library on July 12
- Millennium Solar Electric Training Academy (MSETA) Event on July 15
- Community Resource Fair at Woodson Regional Library on July 19
- [Sustainable Energy Summit](#) (Virtual) on July 25-26

Upcoming Webinars

Power Hour 6: Unpacking Community Solar in Illinois Solar for All

Date: July 28, 2023
Time: 12pm-1pm CT
[REGISTER NOW](#)

Power Hour 7: Bring Solar to School: Benefits, Challenges, and Opportunities

Date: August 31, 2023
Time: 12pm-1pm CT
[REGISTER NOW](#)

NEW STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

On June 1, Georgina White joined the IPA as our Deputy Director. Georgina will oversee administrative, finance, human resource, and related functions. Georgina previously served as the Illinois Department of Transportation's Chief of Staff. As Chief of Staff, Georgina served as the primary advisor to the Secretary of Transportation on all fiscal, budgetary, and administrative matters. Georgina had previously been with the IPA from 2012-2014 and we are delighted to welcome Georgina back to our team!



On June 16, Tanvi Shah joined the IPA as our Chief DEI Officer. Tanvi will oversee the new and growing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Bureau. She previously served as Director of Capacity Building at the Chicago Jobs Council. Tanvi's knowledge of workforce development will be central to the IPA's work in ensuring that clean energy economy grows in a diverse and equitable manner. We are excited to welcome Tanvi to our team!



IN THE NEWS

This month, IPA Deputy Legal Counsel, Sarah Duffy, moderated a panel discussion on the unique challenges around collecting data to support energy-burdened communities.

[\(Utility Dive\)](#)

More solar incentive funding available in Illinois Shines' 2023-24 Program Year which opened in June amid dwindling project application processing timelines.

[\(Energy News Network\)](#)

Illinois Shines 2023-24 Program Year features new equity rules for participating contractors and companies.

[\(WAND-TV\)](#)

What you need to know about Illinois' two solar incentive programs.

[\(CNET\)](#)

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

- [Equitable Solar Workforce Development: Challenges and Opportunities](#)
- [Equity Factsheet](#)
- [Energy Workforce Equity Portal Flyer](#)

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