



Opportunities in the Solar Sector

Introductions



Sarah Duffy
Deputy Legal Counsel
Illinois Power Agency



Kina Askew
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Outreach
Associate
Illinois Power Agency

Agenda



- **Introduction to the IPA**
- **Understand the role of the IPA in developing solar energy in Illinois**
- **Understand what qualifies as an "equity eligible person" within IPA programs**
- **Basics of IPA Programs and Procurements**
 - **Illinois Shines (or Adjustable Block Program)**
 - **Illinois Solar for All Program**
- **Resources on existing and upcoming workforce training programs, grant opportunities and education around renewable energy**

The Illinois Power Agency



- **Independent State Agency created in 2007**
- **Agency duties include**
 - Development and implementation of procurement plans for electricity supply for residential and small commercial utility customers
 - Implementation of the Renewable Portfolio Standard
 - Development of the strategy for incentivizing renewable energy development (the “Long-Term Plan”)
 - Conduct competitive procurements for utility-scale projects
 - Manage programs for community solar and solar for homes and businesses
 - Conducts competitive procurements of RECs from Utility-scale projects

Overall REC Procurement Targets

New RPS of 40% by 2030, with the intent of reaching 50% by 2040.

45% from Wind, 55% from Photovoltaic

↳ **Of the 55% from solar:**

- **50% from ABP**
- **47% from Utility-scale**
- **3% from Brownfield projects**

<u>Delivery Year</u>	<u>Goal (% of total retail electricity sales)</u>
2021-2022	19.0%
2022-2023	20.5%
2023-2024	22.0%
2024-2025	23.5%
2025-2026	25.0%
2026-2027	28.0%
2027-2028	31.0%
2028-2029	34.0%
2029-2030	37.0%
2030-2031	40.0%

- **Adjustable Block Program (ABP)**
 - Solar projects for mostly private residents and businesses
- **Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA)**
 - Solar projects for low-income private residents and non-profit or public entities that serve low-income communities
- **Utility-scale Wind and Solar Procurements**
 - Large solar or wind projects that sell energy into the wholesale markets
- **Brownfield Site Procurements**
 - Large solar projects located on “brownfield” sites, as defined by statute
- **Self-Direct Program**
 - Private procurement of RECs through long-term energy contracts

Adjustable Block Program

- **Small Distributed Generation (DG) (20%)**
- **Large Distributed Generation (DG) (20%)**
- **Traditional Community Solar (30%)**
- **Community-Driven Community Solar (5%)**
- **Public Schools (15%)**
- **Equity Eligible Contractors (10%)**

ABP Project Categories Under CEJA

Small DG vs. Large DG

- Different maximum project size
 - Small DG – up to 25 kW projects
 - Large DG – 25 kW – 5 MW projects
- Different levels of incentives

Traditional Comm. Solar vs. Community-Driven Comm. Solar

- Traditional Community Solar projects are often large-scale, transactional projects sited in areas with ample land
- Community-Driven Community Solar category aims to drive development of new Community Solar projects sited in the communities they are built in
- Different levels of incentives
- Under CEJA, 50% minimum small subscriber requirement for all Community Solar projects

- **Subprograms:**
 - Single-Family and Small Multifamily DG (1-4 units)
 - Large Multifamily DG (5+ units)
 - Low-Income Community Solar
 - Non-Profit and Public Facilities DG
- **Job trainee requirements, included in all subprograms**
- **25% reserved for Environmental Justice communities**
- **25% reserved for Energy Sovereignty projects**
- **Budget-based allocations rather than MW**



Labor Requirements in Illinois Shines

Prevailing Wage

- **Section 1-75(c)(1)(Q) of IPA Act requires the following project types to comply with Prevailing Wage Act:**
 - New utility-scale solar, wind, and brownfield site projects
 - New solar projects participating in ABP, except:
 - Projects serving residential buildings (single-family or multi-family)
 - Projects no more than 100kW in size that serve "houses of worship"
 - Large DG projects that were on a waitlist as of Dec 14, 2021
 - Any construction that occurred before September 15, 2021 (pre-CEJA), does not need to comply

Prevailing Wage

- **Compliance**
 - Check attestation in project application
 - Submit Certified Transcript of Payroll (CTP) to Dept of Labor (DOL) and IPA
 - CTPs available on DOL public database
- **Applies to construction, maintenance, and repairs**
- **Applies to AVs, contractors, and subcontractors**
- **For utility-scale projects:**
 - Out-of-state projects must comply with local Prevailing Wage or Davis-Bacon wage rates if state does not have Prevailing Wage law, and must submit CTPs
 - Commitment to Prevailing Wage occurs with bid



Equity Requirements for Illinois Shines

- **The Equity Accountability System**
 - Equity Eligible Contractor Category of Illinois Shines
 - Minimum Equity Standards
 - Prioritization of bids within competitive procurements
- **Energy Workforce Equity Database (link listed at end)**
- **Racial Disparity Study**
- **Workforce Data Collection**
- **Outreach to Small and Disadvantage Businesses**

Definitions: Equity Eligible Persons

The IPA Act defines "equity eligible person" as "persons who would most benefit from equitable investments by the State designed to combat discrimination, specifically:

- Graduates or current or former participants in the Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program, Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program, Illinois Climate Works Pre-apprentice Program, Returning Residents Clean Jobs Training Program, or the Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program, and the solar training pipeline and multicultural jobs program ***Note: these programs/program names may change as DCEO implements them*
- Persons who are graduates of or currently enrolled in the foster care system
- Persons who were formerly incarcerated
- Persons whose primary residence is in an equity eligible investment community"

Definitions: Equity Eligible Contractors



- **The IPA Act defines "equity eligible contractor" as:**
 - a business that is majority-owned by eligible persons, or a nonprofit or cooperative that is majority-governed by eligible persons, or is a natural person that is an eligible person offering personal services as an independent contractor.

The IPA has defined "majority-owned" to mean owning at least 50% of the corporate entity for a business or holding a majority of governing board positions for nonprofits and cooperatives.

Program Requirements and Features: Equity Eligible Category in Illinois Shines



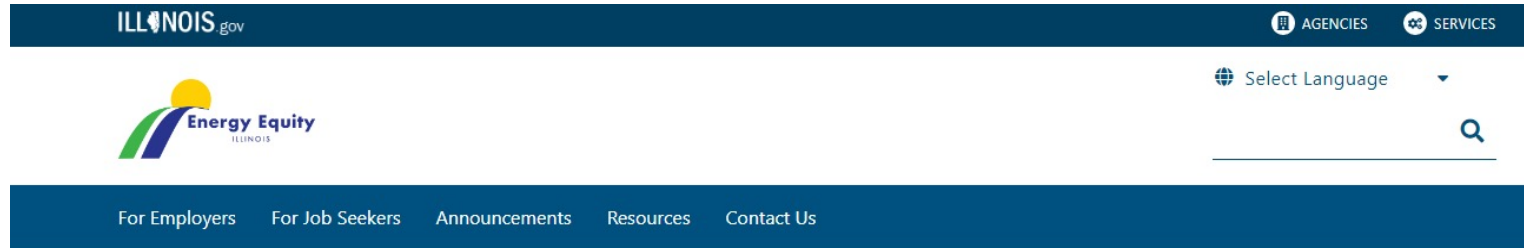
- **The EEC Block is a designated capacity block available for Distributed Generation and Community Solar projects submitted by EECs.**
 - EECs may apply for Advance of Capital up to 50% of contract value after contract execution in this block
 - Only EEC Approved Vendors may submit projects to this category
 - EEC certified Approved Vendors are NOT limited to EEC Block
 - Any type of project is eligible
- **CEJA requires minimum 10% of program capacity, increasing to 40% by 2030**

Program Requirements and Features: Minimum Equity Standard



- **Minimum Equity Standard - minimum percentage of project workforce for participating projects that consists of equity eligible persons.**
- **Applies to Illinois Shines and utility-scale wind, solar, and brownfield projects**
 - Approved Vendors and utility-scale developers must submit plan to achieve the MES at beginning of year and report on compliance at end of year
- **Beginning in Program Year 2023-2024**
 - At least **10%** of project workforce for each entity must be comprised of Equity Eligible Persons (EEPs)
- **By 2030**
 - At least **30%** of the project workforce for each entity participating in a procurement program is comprised of EEPs

Energy Workforce Equity Portal



Welcome to the Energy Workforce Equity Portal

For Employers

CONNECT TO JOB SEEKERS, REGISTER AS A CLEAN ENERGY COMPANY, AND POST JOBS

For Job Seekers

CONNECT TO EMPLOYERS, EXPLORE JOBS, AND APPLY TO BECOME EQUITY ELIGIBLE PERSONS



- **Get Certified as an Equity Eligible Person or Equity Eligible Contractor**
- **Post a job**
- **View available EEPs**
- **View maps of eligible communities**

Relevant Websites:



IPA's website: <https://ipa.illinois.gov/>

Illinois Shines: <https://illinoisshines.com/about/>

Illinois Solar for All: <https://www.illinoissfa.com/>

Energy Workforce Equity Portal: for employers, EEPs, EECs, and jobs seekers to connect on employment in Illinois' clean energy sector:

<https://energyequity.illinois.gov/>

[Energy Equity Home \(illinois.gov\)](https://energyequity.illinois.gov/)

Workforce Resources:



[CEJA Workforce Training Programs](#)

[Other CEJA Programs](#)

[Illinois Contractor Programs](#)

[Illinois Works Jobs Program Act - Illinois Works](#)

[Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program - Illinois Works](#)

[Community Action Agencies](#)

Resources for Grants, Renewable Energy Education & Advocacy:



DCEO's Small Business Development Center locator [SBDC Locator](#)

(Search based on your Location)

DCEO offers Small Business Assistance [Small Business Assistance](#)

(Small Business assistance and resources)

DCEO Grants [Apply for Funding - Grant Opportunities](#)

Grantee Resources [Grantee Resources - Grant Opportunities](#)

Training & Workforce Resources [Illinois workNet](#)

Illinois Solar Energy Association (ISEA) [Illinois Solar Energy Association](#)

(Renewable Energy Advocacy & Education)

[Community Development Block Grant Programs - Community Development](#)

Thank You!

Sarah Duffy, Deputy Legal Counsel

Email: Sarah.Duffy@illinois.gov

Kina Askew, DEI Outreach Associate

Email: Kina.J.Askew@illinois.gov