

Illinois Shines Public Schools Category

Presented by the Illinois Power Agency
and Illinois Shines Program
Administrator

October 2, 2024



Agenda

- 1** About Illinois Shines

- 2** Public School Project Types and Requirements

- 3** REC Contracts and Market Insights

- 4** Participation History

- 5** Outreach to Increase Participation

- 6** Contact Information



About Illinois Shines



Illinois Shines is a state-administered incentive program that encourages the development of solar photovoltaic systems by offering incentives to offset solar development costs.

The Program was designed to support the state's renewable energy goals. Illinois utilities purchase Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) produced by participating projects from Approved Vendors, allowing participants to offset project development costs.

The Public Schools Category was incorporated into the Program in 2021 following the enhancement of public Act 102-0662, also known as the Climate and Equity Jobs Act (CEJA).

Entities and Roles Within the Program

The Illinois Power Agency (IPA)	Illinois Shines is overseen by the Illinois Power Agency. The IPA's vision is to provide a clean, reliable, equitable, and cost-effective energy future for residents and businesses across Illinois.
The Program Administrator	The Illinois Shines Program Administrator is Energy Solutions, who administers the Program at the direction of the IPA. The Program Administrator supports the enrollment of Approved Vendors (and Designees) and their successful and compliant Program participation, accepts and reviews project applications through the Program Portal, supports rigorous consumer protection and equity goals and requirements, and more.
Approved Vendors (AVs)	AVs are the contractual counterparty with the utility and receive payments from the utility for delivery of RECs. AVs may be various types of entities, such as REC aggregators, project developers, installers, municipalities, etc. An individual school, district, or a Regional Office of Education (ROE) can also act as an AV. AVs are expected to represent the Program with a high level of accuracy and integrity, and failure to meet Program requirements may result in disciplinary action, including temporary or permanent suspension from Program participation.
Utilities operating in the state of Illinois	Utilities are the contractual counterparty that provide the incentive payments to AVs in exchange for RECs.
Project hosts or owners	Project owners or hosts will receive incentives in the form of decreased development cost or a portion of the incentive payment that is paid to the AV from the utility.



Public School Project Types and Requirements

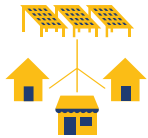
Public School Project Types and Requirements

Illinois Shines supports solar energy across two main project types - Distributed Generation or Community Solar.



Distributed Generation (DG)

- A project designed to meet the electric needs of a school or district building.

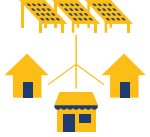


Community Solar (CS)

- A large solar project designed to meet the electricity needs of many subscribers. This type of project could meet not only a school district's combined energy needs, but also supply electricity to other community members or businesses.
- Customers can subscribe to CS projects within their utility's service area.



Public School Category – Additional Requirements



Community Solar Project Requirements

- The public school or school district at which the project is sited must be an anchor subscriber to the Community Solar project, commonly referred to as an “anchor tenant”. As such, the public school or school district must subscribe to a minimum of 10% of the project’s capacity, without exceeding 40% of the project’s capacity.
- 50% of the project capacity must be allocated to small subscribers (subscriptions that are less than 25 kW in size).



Land Ownership

- A school/district must own the land on which a project submitted to the Public Schools category is sited.
 - Projects developed on land leased by a school/district are not permitted for submission to this category, unless the public school is sited on the same parcel of leased land.
- A school/district must continue to own the land the project is sited on for the entire lifetime of the REC Contract (20 years).



REC Contracts and Market Insights

Public School Category REC Contracts



All projects participating in the Program will have a REC Contract associated with them. The contractual parties are the Approved Vendor (seller of RECs) and the Utility (buyer of RECs).



An additional benefit to participation in the Public Schools category is the lack of collateral for projects at Tier 1 and 2 school districts and projects located in Environmental Justice Communities.



REC Contract Length and Payments

- REC Contracts for projects participating in the Public Schools category have 20-year terms.
- Incentive payments will be made to Approved Vendors quarterly based on the amount of energy generated (measured in the number of RECs) by the photovoltaic (PV) system during a given quarter.

Public School		
	Group A	Group B
0 – 25 kW AC	\$77.17	\$93.17
>25 – 100 kW AC	\$68.57	\$84.96
>100 – 200 kW AC	\$65.81	\$76.91
>200 – 500kW AC	\$57.72	\$66.88
>500 – 2,000 Ww AC	\$54.51	\$61.04
>2,000 – 5,000 kW AC	\$42.15	\$46.74

Example: If a Group A project, that is 450 kW in size, produces 100 RECs in a quarter, it will receive \$5,772 in incentives for that quarter.



Market Insights to the Public Schools Category

Approved Vendors reported the following additional barriers when working with schools:

- Due to the high number of stakeholders and other competing demands, schools take time to make decisions.
- Schools are required to go through an RFP process when selecting contractors to work with.
- Lack of renewable energy project experience within school communities.
- Urban schools' lack of access to land.
- Schools' outdated electrical infrastructures.



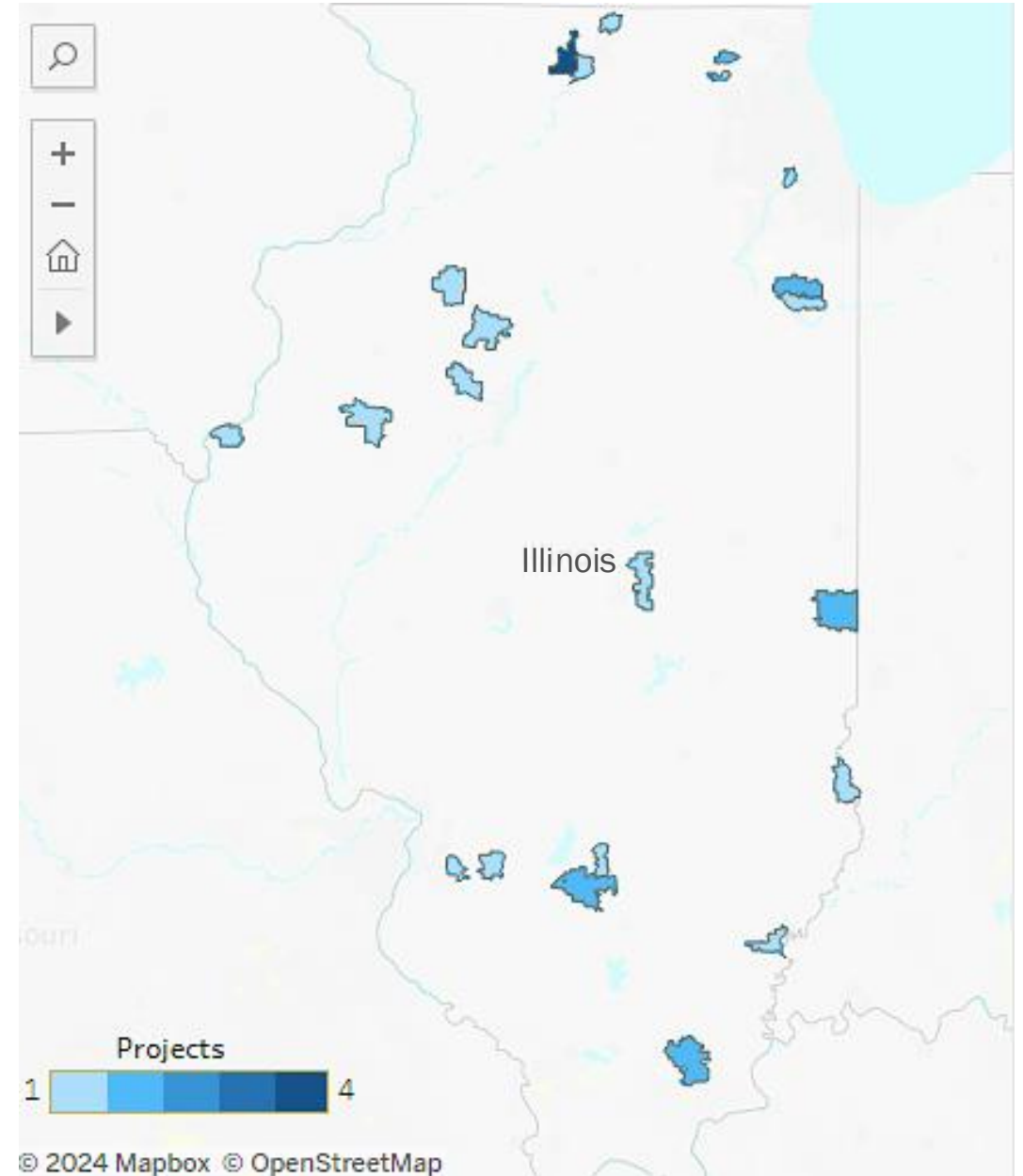


Participation History

Participation History

There are 29 active Public Schools projects submitted to the Illinois Shines program by 16 Approved Vendors:

- 8 are Community Solar projects
- 21 are Distributed Generation projects
 - 13 Power Purchase Agreements (PPA)
 - 8 owned by the schools
- One is located at a higher education institution
- 93% of the K-12 projects are located at Tier 1 or 2 school districts



Incentive Amounts

Of the 29 active Public Schools projects submitted to the Program, 24 were awarded REC Contracts.

The average quarterly REC incentive payment will be \$51,550 for CS projects and \$578 for DG projects.

For DG projects with PPAs, the average starting rate is 6¢/kWh.

Public School Project Data

	Community Solar	Distributed Generation
Range of AC size	875 – 5000 kW	48 - 893 kW
Average AC size	2191 kW	277 kW
Median AC size	1500 kW	186 kW
Average # of RECs	97,983	6,651
Average REC value	\$4,123,959	\$406,207





Outreach to Increase Participation

Public Schools Outreach

The Program will provide public school administrators clear guidelines and actionable steps to meet the goal of increased participation:

- Publishing Case Study
- Outreach to K-12 public schools that expressed interest in energy efficiency assessments and improvements
- K-12 and higher education project workshops

Case Study

Resulting from interviews with public school administrators sharing approaches to overcome difficulties faced during project development.

The case study will be published on the Illinois Shines website as a guide and to highlight successful approaches to project development.

Energy Efficiency Outreach

K-12 schools in Ameren and ComEd service territories can request a free Carbon Free Assessment. The report delivered will comment on the school's potential for solar development.

Project Workshops

K-12 and higher education-specific project planning workshops will be held, providing resources and guidance for project initiation and development for each audience.



Questions

Thank you!

For additional questions or support, please contact:

Emily Asbury

Illinois Shines Program Associate

Illinois Power Agency

emily.asbury@illinois.gov

Jozsef Raduly

Public Schools Sector Strategist

Illinois Shines Program Administrator

510.482.4420 x653

schools@IllinoisShines.com

