

Program Mission Statement

Through a plan developed as part of the implementation of the Future Energy Jobs Act (Public Act 99-0906) enacted in December 2016, the Illinois Power Agency established the Illinois Solar for All Program, which “include[s] incentives for low-income distributed generation and community solar projects” with the following objectives:

“to bring photovoltaics to low-income communities in this State in a manner that maximizes the development of new photovoltaic generating facilities, to create a long-term, low-income solar marketplace throughout this State, to integrate, through interaction with stakeholders with existing energy efficiency initiatives, and to minimize administrative costs.”

Illinois Solar for All includes four sub-programs: Low-Income Distributed Generation; Low-Income Community Solar; Non-profits & Public Facilities; and Low-Income Community Solar Pilot Projects. In general, these sub-programs provide funding for new solar facilities in low-income communities, through 15-year contracts for renewable energy credits. In each sub-program, 25% of funding is reserved for projects in environmental justice communities (defined based on a methodology developed and approved by Illinois agencies).

Vendors will be required to ensure that program participants face no upfront costs, and also that ongoing costs and fees charged to participants do not exceed 50% of net metering value. For master-metered multi-family buildings, vendors will be required to demonstrate that at least 50% of net metering value is being passed to tenants through rent reductions, avoided rent increases, or other benefits.

Low-income Community Definition & Eligibility

Low income is generally defined based on the law's definition: 80% of Area Median Income (“AMI”), adjusted for household size. For administration of the Program in calendar year 2019, Illinois is using 2017 Area Median Income data published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”).

Households can qualify by submitting federal income tax returns or going through a third-party income verification system. Households can also qualify by showing participation in another low-income program where the income eligibility standard is below 80% of AMI.

For a multi-family building, the building as a whole may qualify by showing that at least half of individual households have the qualifying income level, or by meeting a definition of “affordable housing” under state law, or by participating in an energy efficiency program with an income eligibility requirement equal to or less than 80% of AMI.

For community solar subscribers only, an additional income verification pathway would be if a household resides in a HUD Qualified Census Tract and self-certifies as being below 80% of AMI.

Measures of Program Success

- Number of projects installed
- Total installed capacity in kilowatts
- Average cost per kilowatt of installed capacity
- Number of jobs or job opportunities created
- Economic, social, and environmental benefits created
- Total administrative costs

Program Type

- Low-income distributed generation (on-site) projects for single family or multifamily residential buildings
- Low-income community solar projects, i.e. projects that show a partnership with community stakeholders and have low-income subscribers
- Non-profit and public facilities, i.e. on-site projects at buildings housing non-profit organizations, or at public buildings housing public entities
- Low-income community solar pilot projects: projects that generally meet the requirements of the Low-Income Community Solar sub-program but are selected through competitive bidding and may include utility ownership

Objective # 1: Implement Illinois Solar for All

Objective Summary

Illinois Solar for All's objectives in calendar year 2019 are to, first, ensure that communities throughout the State of Illinois are aware of the Illinois Solar for All Program; second, to efficiently process Approved Vendor registrations and project applications; and third, to work with vendors and program participants to ensure that they are individually and collectively meeting all requirements of the Program.

Key Partners and Roles

- Illinois Power Agency (State Agency overseeing program)
- Elevate Energy (Program Administrator)
- Commonwealth Edison Company, Ameren Illinois Company, MidAmerican Energy Company (interconnecting utilities and REC contract counterparties)

Action Steps to Reach Objective

Action Step	Date Start and End	Resources Needed	Resource Provider	Status	Success Indicators
Secure funding	December 7, 2016	Funding	Renewable Energy Resources Fund; Utilities	Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding structure determined through enactment of Public Act 99-0906
Set budget	April 3, 2018	Secure funding	Renewable Energy Resources Fund; Utilities	Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget created via approval of Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan

Action Step	Date Start and End	Resources Needed	Resource Provider	Status	Success Indicators
					("Plan")
Set incentive levels	June 4, 2018	Funding for incentives	Illinois Power Agency's Procurement Planning Consultant (Levitan & Associates)	Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> REC prices approved via Plan
Provide guidance and education	Spring 2019	Educational and guidance material	Program Administrator and subcontractor educators	In process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As provided in Public Act 99-0906, 5% of annual funding shall be used on grassroots education. Grassroots education should promote program participation from a diverse cross-section of the state's population. RFP for grassroots educators was released February 26, 2019 with responses due March 26, 2019. Awards expected to be made in May, 2019.
Quality assurance	Begin after first selected projects are energized (spring or summer 2019)	Quality data during installation	Program Evaluator and Program Administrator	In process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program Administrator will review project applications; Program Administrator's subcontractor, AECOM, will

Action Step	Date Start and End	Resources Needed	Resource Provider	Status	Success Indicators
					conduct on-site inspections
Coordinate with job training programs	Ongoing	Funding	ComEd-administered solar job training programs under Public Act 99-0906	In process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence that installers are hiring and deploying graduates of job training programs on solar projects applying to the Program
Define and provide special consideration to Environmental Justice Communities	Winter 2018 – Spring 2019	Data on environmental and socioeconomic indicators	US EPA; IL EPA; Elevate Energy	In process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Justice Communities identification methodology is defined; self-designation procedure is defined 25% of funding in each sub-program is allocated to projects in Environmental Justice Communities
Program changes	Update to be proposed in Fall 2019 and implemented in 2020	Proposed changes to the program	Stakeholders	To be completed later	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes made to the program in Plan update to be finalized in late 2019
Evaluate the program	Selection of evaluator in Spring 2019 – evaluation in Summer 2019	Scope and process for evaluation	Third-party Program Evaluator	To be completed later	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RFP released; Program Evaluator chosen; evaluation report received