Illinois Solar for All Annual Summary

Program Year 3
June 2020-May 2021

Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA) has provided equitable access to the clean energy economy since 2018 by offering incentives that make solar affordable for income eligible communities. In the third program year, from June 2020 to May 2021, ILSFA continued to grow, reaching more income eligible households and the non-profit organizations and public facilities that serve them.

Details about projects from all program years are available on ILSFA's website.

Program Impact

This Chicago single-family home was one of 62 residential buildings to receive a solar installation through Illinois Solar for All during the program year.

From June 2020 to May 2021, ILSFA funded 84 projects, capable of generating 7,934 kilowatts AC of solar energy annually in Illinois. Each year, these projects will reduce greenhouse gas emissions approximately equal to an average passenger vehicle driving over 30.7 million miles based on national average data.

Projects

ILSFA funding supported solar arrays at Dearborn Homes that are helping The Chicago Housing Authority save money on its electric bills.

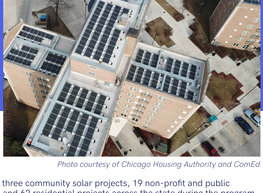


Photo courtesy of Chicago Housing Authority and ComEd

ILSFA approved three community solar projects, 19 non-profit and public facility projects, and 62 residential projects across the state during the program year. Of the funding for those projects:

- 80% went to projects located in designated Environmental Justice Communities;
- 95% went to projects located in Low-Income Census Tracts;
- 9% went to projects located in Ameren territory,
- 87% went to projects located in ComEd territory, and;
- 4% went to projects located in MidAmerican territory.

Individual ILSFA projects help meet the program goals by providing clean energy that benefits communities. For example:

- A Community Solar project will support approximately 300 households in Cahokia and reduce greenhouse gases (CO2e) by 1,904 metric tons per year. That's equivalent to more than 4.7 million miles driven by a passenger vehicle.
- A Non-Profit/Public Facilities project in Effingham supports income eligible communities and reduces greenhouse gases (CO2e) by 80 metric tons per year. That's equivalent to 197,370 miles driven by a passenger vehicle.

Read the Project Summaries to learn more about projects from all of the program years.

Funds Allocated

ILSFA allocated $18.9 million worth of incentives:

- $1.3 million funded residential projects,
- $12.2 million went to community solar projects, and
- $5.4 million funded onsite solar projects for non-profits and public facilities.

Of the total funding, $9 million came from the Renewable Energy Resources Fund administered by the Illinois Power Agency, and $9.9 million came from funding supplied by utilities from ratepayer collections.

Approved Vendors

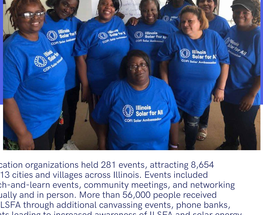
Approved Vendors guide consumers through determining income eligibility, site assessment, project development, and installation.

The Program Administrator approved 13 new Approved Vendors in the 2020-2021 program year, bringing the total number of registered ILSFA Approved Vendors to 58. Of these new vendors, 10 are minority or women-owned business enterprises (MWBE). ILSFA works to encourage the participation of MWBE Approved Vendors and sub-contractors to support the development of solar projects.

Twelve Approved Vendors had at least one project approved.

Grassroots Education

Grassroots Education organizers, like Community Organizing & Family Issues (COFI), reached more than 56,000 people in low-income and environmental justice communities with information about ILSFA.

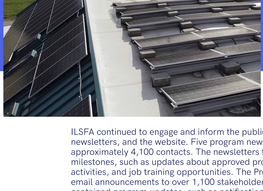


Grassroots Education organizations held 281 events, attracting 8,654 attendees from 13 cities and villages across Illinois. Events included workshops, lunch-and-learn events, community meetings, and networking events held virtually and in person. More than 56,000 people received information on ILSFA through additional canvassing events, phone banks, and tabling events leading to increased awareness of ILSFA and solar energy across the state.

Job Training

ILSFA supports a clean energy workforce and equitable access to solar jobs by requiring Approved Vendors to hire trainees from qualifying job training programs to work on their portfolio of projects. During the 2020-2021 program year, 23 individual trainees from seven qualified job training programs worked on 26 projects that were completed and energized.

Public Engagement



The Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club in Champaign was one of the first non-profits to benefit from Illinois Solar for All. Prairie Rivers Network, an ILSFA grassroots educator, created a video about how the project helped the non-profit better serve their community.

ILSFA continued to engage and inform the public with announcements, newsletters, and the website. Five program newsletters were shared with approximately 4,100 contacts. The newsletters featured essential program milestones, such as updates about approved projects, Grassroots Education activities, and job training opportunities. The Program Administrator sent 35 email announcements to over 1,100 stakeholders. The email announcements contained program updates, such as notifications of requests for written comments for proposed changes to the Project Selection Protocol.

Illinois Solar for All is a program developed by the Illinois Power Agency and administered by Elevate Energy (Elevate). Elevate is a non-profit organization working with key partners to administer Illinois Solar for All, including AECOM and Shelton Solutions.

Phone
1.888.970.ISFA
English or Spanish

Email
info@IllinoisSFA.com

© Illinois Power Agency 2022