

# Deep Dive for Non-Profit and Public Facility Solar Project Disclosure Form

## **Purchase Project**

**Ameren Customer With Utility Distributed Generation Rebate** 

Your Disclosure Form has a unique identification number. This helps Illinois Solar For All ("ILSFA") track each form. If you contact the Program Administrator with questions, they may ask you for your Disclosure Form ID number.

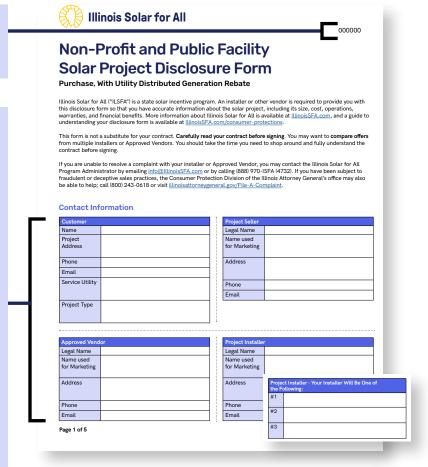
#### **Contact Information**

The customer information provides the address where the solar project will be installed.

The Approved Vendor is the entity that will submit an application for the solar project to participate in ILSFA. The Approved Vendor might also be the Project Seller and/or Installer, or the Approved Vendor may work with other companies, called Designees, to do marketing, sales, installation, and other work.

The Project Seller is the entity that you sign a contract with to purchase the solar project. You may also need to sign a contract with the Approved Vendor agreeing to sell the Renewable Energy Credits ("RECs") generated by the solar project to the Approved Vendor. The Approved Vendor then sells the RECs to a utility in exchange for an incentive payment.

If the Project Seller has selected an installer at the time that they generate your Disclosure Form, the Disclosure Form will include the Project Installer's contact information. If the Project Seller has not yet selected an installer, they will list 3 different companies that might do the installation work.



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## **Project Purchase Information and Costs**

This section is very important, as it lays out the costs that you will pay for your solar project. This includes loan payments to finance the purchase of the solar project and any fees that will necessarily apply, such as maintenance fees.

These costs and fees are listed out separately and then totaled up.

There are 2 sections for fees in the Disclosure Form. One section lists "Payment or Fee."

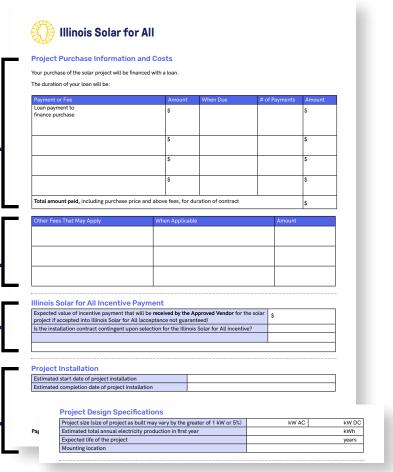
The second section lists "Other fees that may apply" - this section is for fees that *might* apply, but are dependent on things that haven't happened yet. This includes things like late payment fees or returned check fees—in this example, if you do not make a late payment or bounce a check, you will not have to pay these fees.

#### Illinois Solar for All Incentive Payment

Your Approved Vendor will sell the Renewable Energy Credits ("RECs") generated by the solar project to a utility in exchange for an ILSFA incentive payment. The amount of the incentive payment is disclosed here. This incentive payment helps the Approved Vendor pass savings on to you.

# Project Installation and Project Design Specifications

These sections give information about the solar project design and installation. Pay attention to the size of the project. If the project generates significantly more than your annual electric usage, make sure you understand why the project will be that large. For example, a larger project may make sense if you plan to switch from natural gas to electric heating and/or appliances, or if you plan to get an electric vehicle. In other situations, an oversized project may not make sense.

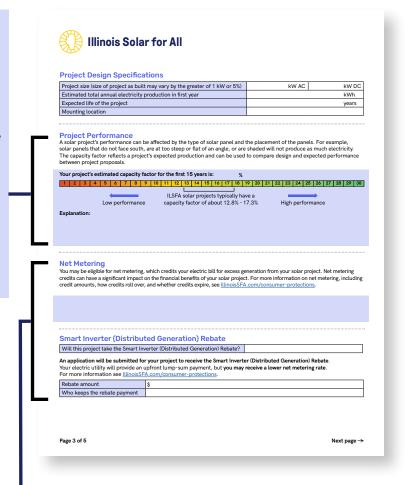


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## **Project Performance**

This section helps you understand how well the solar project will perform and whether it is sited properly for maximum performance. The range for "typical" ILSFA solar projects is calculated by using the "bell curve." The range for "typical" projects shown on your Disclosure Form reflects the middle 68% of projects (one standard deviation above and below the median). In other words, a "typical" project falls in between the 16th and the 84th percentile.

If the project has lower performance, make sure you understand why this is and whether you will still see the benefits you are expecting from the solar project. It may be that your property or building is not well-suited for solar. Note that projects in northern Illinois generally have lower performance than projects in southern Illinois because the sun's rays are less direct the further north a project is.



## Net Metering and Smart Inverter (Distributed Generation) Rebate

The below information applies to customers whose net metering applications are <u>submitted and whose projects have permission to operate (PTO) granted PRIOR to January 1, 2025. Net metering policies and rates change after January 1, 2025.</u>

Net metering credits you for electricity that your solar project sends to the utility electric grid. If your solar project makes more electricity than you use, the excess electricity flows to the grid. On the other hand, if you use more electricity than your project is generating at any point in time, you will pull electricity from the grid.

Ameren will "net out" the extra (excess) electricity that your project sends to the grid against the electricity that you pull from the grid. For example, if your solar project sends 400 kWh of extra electricity to the grid, and you use 500 kWh of electricity from the grid, your net usage would be 100 kWh.

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## Net Metering and Smart Inverter (Distributed Generation) Rebate, Continued

If you are in Ameren's service territory, you are eligible for a smart inverter rebate on your solar project and/or energy storage device.

When you receive the rebate, your net metering will be just on your energy supply and transmission charges. Ameren would charge you supply and transmission fees only on the netted amount of usage, but would charge you delivery fees and other volumetric fees (fees that are based on the kWh usage) on the total (or gross) amount of electricity that you draw from the electric grid.

The solar project can apply for a rebate from the utility. Solar projects for residential and small commercial customers receive \$300/kW for installed solar project capacity and \$300/kWh for nameplate capacity for associated energy storage (commonly referred to as "batteries"). If the solar project takes the rebate for generation (regardless of whether you also take the energy storage rebate), you will only receive net metering for your electricity supply and transmission fees (rather than full retail rate net metering). If you take the generation rebate, your net meter credits will no longer expire annually.

Make sure you understand who keeps the rebate - you or someone else.

If you're a residential or small non-residential customer, and you take a rebate for the storage device, be aware that you and the successor customers at your location will be required to permanently take either supply service under an hourly rate schedule, or participate in Ameren's demand response program.

# Project Operations, Maintenance, Warranties, and Guarantees

All ILSFA contracts must include a full system warranty, as well as operations and maintenance guarantees for 15 years (20 years for public schools), at no additional cost to participants. Some sellers may offer longer warranties or guarantees. Some types of damage may not be covered; make sure you understand whether you are responsible for obtaining additional insurance coverage.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | e, Warranties, and Guarantees                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Project maintenance (operational upkeep)                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Project repairs (fixing malfunctioning project)                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Warranties related to improper installation                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Manufacturer's warranty for solar panels                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Manufacturer's warranty for project inverter                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Details of system performance warranty                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Insurance for loss or damage to the project                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| varranties listed above during the term of your<br>fou will be responsible for removal of the proje                                                                                                                                                            | e coverage for any loss or damage to the project that is not covered by the loan – consult your contract for information on insurance requirements. ct after the end of project life (typically 25 years). Unforeseen roof repairs |
| varranties listed above during the term of your<br>fou will be responsible for removal of the proje<br>nay require that the project be partially or fully<br>FYOU MOVE<br>f you move, the Seller/Lender must allow you                                         | loan - consult your contract for information on insurance requirements.<br>Let after the end of project life (typically 25 years). Unforeseen roof repairs                                                                         |
| varranties listed above during the term of your<br>fou will be responsible for removal of the proje<br>any require that the project be partially or fully<br>fyou Move                                                                                         | Ioan - Consult your contract for information on insurance requirements,<br>tet after the end of project life (lycially 25 years). Unforeseen roof repairs<br>removed and reinstalled at your expense.                              |
| varranties listed above during the term of your<br>fou will be responsible for removal of the proje<br>nay require that the project be partially or full.  FYOU MOVE<br>f you move, the Seller/Lender must allow you<br>ayment penalties.  Conditions for loan | Ioan - Consult your contract for information on insurance requirements,<br>tet after the end of project life (lycially 25 years). Unforeseen roof repairs<br>removed and reinstalled at your expense.                              |

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# Value of Electricity and Savings Estimates

This section estimates the value of the electricity that the solar project will generate and your savings over the first year, and over 25 years.

To estimate the value of electricity that the solar project will generate:

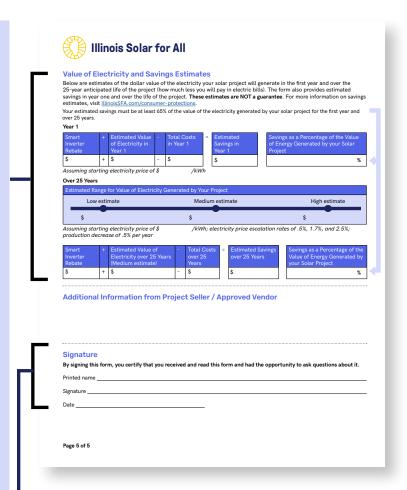
- For Non-Profit and Public Facilities customers, this
  estimate takes the customer net metering electricity
  price in dollars per kWh and multiplies that by the
  estimated amount of electricity that the solar project is
  expected to generate.
- To estimate the value over 25 years, the calculation assumes that the value of electricity will increase by 0.5%, 1.7%, or 2.5% per year, and that the amount of electricity that the solar project generates will decrease by 0.5% per year. These estimates do not account for the time value of money. This means that value generated several years in the future is not discounted.

The Disclosure Form also shows your savings as a percentage of the value of energy generated by the solar project. This is calculated by dividing your estimated savings by the estimated value of electricity generated.

For Non-Profits and Public Facilities, ILSFA requires that your estimates of savings must be at least 50% of the value of the electricity generated in the first year and over the 25-year life of the project, unless you are also able to utilize the federal Investment Tax Credit, in which case your estimates of savings must be at least 65% of the value of electricity generated in the first year and over the 25-year life of the project.

## **Signature**

Make sure that you fully understand your Disclosure Form and take the time to ask questions before signing.



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# Glossary for NP/PF Solar Purchase

Alternative Retail Electric Supplier (ARES): Companies other than the default electric utility that sell electric supply. Customers may choose to purchase electricity supply from an ARES rather than the default utility. The utility will still deliver the electricity and generally will still bill for both supply and delivery.

**Approved Vendor (AV):** Solar contractor or developer that enrolls your solar project in the ILSFA program, and also sells the Renewable Energy Credits ("RECs") generated from solar projects to the utility in exchange for an ILSFA incentive payment.

Capacity Factor (CF): The ratio of actual energy generated by a power plant over a time period (usually a year) and the total energy that power plant could have generated over the same time period, if it was optimally sited and ran at full capacity 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The capacity factor for solar projects may seem relatively low, because solar projects only generate electricity when the sun is shining.

**Designee:** Entities that have direct interaction with end use customers on behalf of an Approved Vendor. Designees may work as installers, marketing firms, lead generators, and/or sales organizations on behalf of an Approved Vendor. Designees must be registered with the Program.

**Distributed Generation (DG):** A system that generates electricity and is located on-site, behind a customer's meter, and used primarily to offset a single customer's load; it cannot exceed 2,000 kW AC in size. Distributed generation (also called on-site generation or decentralized generation) is a term describing the generation of electricity for use on-site, rather than transmitting energy over the electric grid from a large, centralized facility (such as a coal-fired power plant).

**Distributed Generation Rebate:** Under the Illinois Public Utilities Act (220 ILCS 5/16-107.6), ComEd and Ameren must both offer a rebate to customers who install distributed generation projects, including solar, that meet certain eligibility requirements, including being equipped with a smart inverter. ComEd refers to this as the Distributed Generation Rebate. More information from ComEd is available at <a href="https://www.comed.com/SmartEnergy/MyGreenPowerConnection/Pages/SolarRebates.aspx">https://www.comed.com/SmartEnergy/MyGreenPowerConnection/Pages/SolarRebates.aspx</a>.

Federal Tax Credit: The federal government has a tax credit program for solar projects. Owners of residential solar projects may be eligible to deduct up to 30% of the cost of their solar project from their federal income taxes. The Department of Energy's Homeowner's Guide to the Federal Tax Credit for Solar Photovoltaics is available at <a href="https://www.energy.gov/eere/solar/homeowners-guide-federal-tax-credit-solar-photovoltaics">https://www.energy.gov/eere/solar/homeowners-guide-federal-tax-credit-solar-photovoltaics</a>. Note that some homeowners may not pay enough in federal income tax to be able to use the full value of the tax credit, but tax credits can be rolled over to use in a subsequent year. Consult a tax professional to discuss your circumstances.

Illinois Power Agency: State Agency that administers the procurement of renewable energy resources to meet Illinois' renewable energy goals, including renewable energy incentive programs like ILSFA.

Illinois Shines: A state program administered by the Illinois Power Agency that supports the development of new photovoltaic distributed generation systems and new photovoltaic community renewable generation projects in Illinois through the purchase of Renewable Energy Credits ("RECs").

Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA): A state program administered by the Illinois Power Agency that supports the development of new photovoltaic distributed generation and new community renewable generation projects that serve low- and middle-income households, and non-profits and public facilities that serve and are located in environmental justice communities or income-eligible communities.

**Interconnection:** The process of connecting a solar project to the electric grid, which requires approval from the utility that operates the electric grid. All ILSFA projects must be interconnected to the electric grid.

Kilowatt (kW): 1,000 watts of electrical power.

**Kilowatt-hour (kWh):** 1,000 watts of power used for one hour. Electrical energy consumption and production is measured in kWh. For example, if a 100-watt lightbulb is used for 10 hours, it will use 100 watts of electricity per hour, or 1000 watts over 10 hours. Over the 10-hour period, the lightbulb used 1 kWh.

**Mechanic's lien waiver:** A document, often provided to a customer upon completion of payment, that indicates that a contractor is waiving its right to file a mechanic's lien. A mechanic's lien is used by contractors to ensure that they are paid; the lien gives the contractor a security interest in the customer's property.

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# Glossary for NP/PF Solar Purchase, Continued

**Net Metering:** Metering and billing arrangement to compensate distributed energy generation (DG) system owners for generation that is exported to the utility grid.

Program Administrator: The entity responsible for running day-to-day operations of Illinois Solar for All, which is the non-profit Elevate.

Project Installer: The company that will complete the installation work for the solar project.

Project Seller: The company that enters into the installation / sales contract with the customer.

Renewable Energy Credits (RECs): The environmental attributes of 1 MWh of electricity generated by a renewable generator, such as a solar project. Note that 1 MWh = 1000 kW.

**Smart Inverter Rebate:** Under the Illinois Public Utilities Act (220 ILCS 5/16-107.6), ComEd and Ameren must both offer a rebate to customers who install distributed generation projects, including solar, that meet certain eligibility requirements, including being equipped with a smart inverter. Ameren sometimes refers to this as the Smart Inverter Rebate.