



**Illinois Solar for All**

# **ILSFA Advisory Committee PY7 Meeting**

Tuesday, November 12, 2024 from 2 to 3:30 PM

# Welcome

# Introductions

- Welcome
- Roundtable Introductions (popcorn style)
  - *Name, Company, Industry focus*
- Icebreaker
- Review Agenda



# Agenda Overview

- Welcome/Icebreaker/Introductions
- Housekeeping/Ground Rules
- Committee Purpose & Goals
- Update from Last Meeting
- Committee Structure
- ILSFA Program Updates
- Topic: Environmental Justice Communities: Prioritization in Project Selection
- Close



# Housekeeping/Ground Rules



# Housekeeping/Ground Rules

- **Be kind and use mute**
  - Put yourself on mute while presentations are taking place
- **Raise your hand or parking lot your question**
  - Use the raise your hand icon or put your question in the comments and it will be addressed.
- **Topics**
  - Topics discussed at the meetings are meant to spur discussion to explore ideas to advise the Agency on updates to the ILSFA program, with a goal of increasing program participation across Illinois.



# Purpose/Goal of the Advisory Committee



# Objective of the committee:

The ILSFA Advisory Committee will meet to discuss and explore ideas to advise the IPA on updates to the ILSFA program, with the goal of increasing program participation by providing relevant expertise to inform ongoing program development and improvements.

The goal of the meetings:

- 1) Foster meaningful and informed conversation between all program stakeholders and agencies
- 2) Provide education or information regarding participation in the program
- 3) Encourage stakeholder and public feedback
- 4) Develop and propose incremental improvements to the ILSFA program.

*Ultimate decisions on implementing changes remain with the IPA.*

**Let's get back to the purpose!**



# Update from Last Meeting





# Update from Last Meeting

- **Subcommittee Work**

- There was consensus that the group may not be large enough to justify separate subcommittee meetings and that breakout sessions during the primary large group meetings might be more effective.

- **Meeting Cadence**

- Discussed whether to maintain the quarterly meeting schedule or move to a monthly or bi-monthly schedule.
- The preference of the group was to maintain quarterly meetings with an extension from 60-minutes to 90-minutes.



# Committee Structure



# Committee Structure

- **Committee Recommendations Flow**
  - Development of committee-level recommendations and feedback process
  - Alignment of recommendations with program planning cycles
  - Feedback Area: How can we encourage committees to begin providing formal recommendations? What successful strategies have you participated in?
- **Committee Engagement**
  - Scheduling 1:1 meetings to offer space for committee structure feedback
  - Efforts to increase committee participation and input
- **In-Person Meeting**
  - Would be expected to be the 4th committee meeting – anticipated May 2025



# ILSFA Program Updates



# ILSFA Program Updates: PY7 Updates

- **ILSFA Pilots**

- Home Repairs:

- The Home Repairs Pilot has had 5 projects submitted for Part 1 approval from one AV.

- Bright Neighborhoods Residential Pilot:

- The Bright Neighborhoods has chosen the AV for the West Chicago area and the RFP for Waukegan and the Carbondale/Marion Metropolitan Area closed on Monday, Nov 4<sup>th</sup>. We will make a public announcement in early December.

- **Grassroots Education:**

- GE's are deployed to spread the word about solar in the communities.
  - We have 10 GE in this program year throughout the state.



# ILSFA Program Updates: PY7 Updates (cont.)

## Subprograms

	Residential Solar (Small and Large)	Community Solar	Non-Profit and Public Facilities
Total Budget	<b>\$60,293,212.89</b>	<b>\$37,092,554.98</b>	<b>\$17,617,773.47</b>
# Projects Submitted	<b>75</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19</b>
Incentive Value (in millions of dollars)	<b>\$2.59 MM</b>	<b>\$39.22 MM</b>	<b>\$7.92 MM</b>



# Topic: Environmental Justice Communities: Prioritization in Project Selection

## Background:

- **ILSFA Statutory Goal:** At least 25% of funds for each of the ILSFA sub-programs “be allocated to projects located in environmental justice communities.”
- **Definition and Mapping of EJ Communities:** Developed by IPA and stakeholders in 2019, based on simplified structure from CalEnviroScreen and using data from U.S. EPA’s EJSCREEN tool.



# Topic: Environmental Justice Communities: Prioritization in Project Selection

## Background:

- **EJ Community Map:** Updated every five years (last updated Spring 2023).
- **Project Selection Protocol:** <https://www.illinoissfa.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/ILSFA-Project-Selection-Protocol.pdf>
  - Used to select solar projects if the total incentives of project applications exceed the available funding for each sub-program
  - Historically only required for Community Solar and Non-Profit & Public Facilities Sub-Programs





# Topic: Environmental Justice Communities: Prioritization in Project Selection

## Background:

### ■ Project Selection Protocol:

- Used to select solar projects if the total incentives of project applications exceed the available funding for each sub-program
- Historically only required for the Community Solar and Non-Profit & Public Facilities Sub-Programs

### ■ For Reference

- 2024-2025 Non-Profit and Public Facilities Sub-Program Budget: \$17.62 million
  - Project Selection not required in PY7
- 2024-2025 Community Solar Sub-Program Budget: \$37.09 million
  - Program Administrator reviewing applications to determine if Project Selection is needed in PY7



# Topic: Environmental Justice Communities: Prioritization in Project Selection

## Background:

### Spring 2023 Map Update

- **Changes:** Several communities in Central and Southern Illinois no longer designated as EJ communities.
- **Impact:** Some projects in these areas may face challenges in securing funding.
- **Examples of Data Changes:**
  - Champaign and Vermillion Counties: Decrease in particulate matter and cancer rates.
  - Madison, Marion, Peoria, St. Clair Counties: Decrease in population with linguistic isolation.



# Topic: Environmental Justice Communities

## EJ Update

- **New Tools and Methodologies:** IPA and Elevate exploring alternatives for identifying EJ communities.
- **Goal:** To incorporate updated data sets and methodologies to improve EJ designations.
- **Stakeholder Feedback:** Planned for Q1 2025
- Analysis is in-process



# Topic: Environmental Justice Communities: Prioritization in Project Selection

## Proposed Changes: Geographic Diversity in Project Selection

- **Current State:** Regional EJ Score favors projects in Cook County and Northeast Illinois due to high EJ community prevalence.
- **Goal:** Promote balanced solar project distribution across Illinois.
- **Recommended Change:**
  - Replace Regional EJ Score with a Geographic Diversity score.
  - Higher preference for regions with fewer projects installed in the previous year.
  - Only affects Prioritization Stage 1 and Stage 2 for Community Solar and Non-Profits/Public Facilities, not Residential projects.



# Topic: Environmental Justice Communities: Prioritization in Project Selection

## What is a Geographic Diversity Score?

Regions will be ranked based on the dollar amount of all prior years' REC incentives with the highest score being awarded to the regions with the lowest REC incentives and the lowest score being awarded to the region with the highest REC incentives.



# Topic: Environmental Justice Communities and Prioritization in Project Selection

## Discussion Questions:

Are there other methodologies of considerations that could be used in the Project Selection Protocol to better prioritize projects in geographical areas that have been underserved by ILSFA in the past?



# Topic: Environmental Justice Communities and Prioritization in Project Selection

## Discussion Questions:

What are your thoughts on the proposed shift from the Regional EJ Score to a Geographic Diversity score to ensure a more proportional distribution of solar projects across Illinois?



# Closing: Next Steps

1. What's next?
2. Your feedback matters.
  1. We will follow up with one-on-one appointments with each of you.
3. Agenda, Recording, & Transcripts will be available on ILSFA website.
4. Post Meeting Feedback: A feedback form will be sent in the follow up email.
  1. You can provide your feedback to this meeting whether you were in attendance or absent.
5. **Next meeting date: February 18, 2025**

