Deep Dive for Solar Project Disclosure Form

Lease Project

The below images are of a sample solar Disclosure Form for **residential** lease projects in the **ComEd or Ameren** service territories. If your project is in **another utility service territory** or is for a **non-profit or public facility**, your Disclosure Form may look slightly different. Significant differences between the various forms are noted below. See the glossary for helpful terms and definitions.

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.

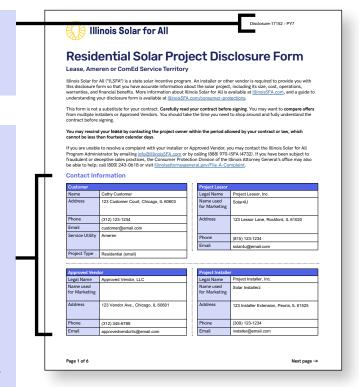
Contact Information

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 Lessor and/or Installer, or the Approved Vendor may work with other companies, called Designees, to do marketing, sales, installation, and other work.

The Project Lessor is the entity that you sign a contract with to lease 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 Lessor 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 Lessor has not yet selected an installer, they will list 3 different companies that might do the installation work.



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Project Lease Information and Costs

This section is very important, as it lays out the costs that you will pay for the solar project. This includes lease payments (which may increase over time) and any fees that will necessarily apply, such as maintenance fees.

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

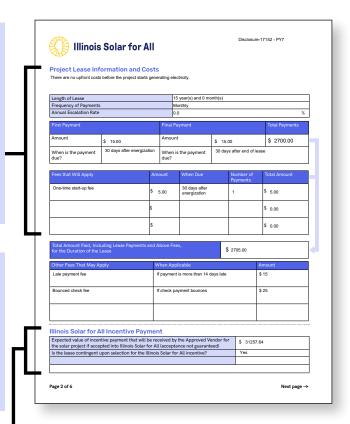
For solar projects serving single-family and small multi-family buildings (2-4 units), there must not be any upfront costs before the solar project starts generating electricity.

There are 2 sections for fees in the Disclosure Form. One section lists "Fees that will apply." These are charges that you will be required to pay and are included in the "Total Amount Paid."

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.



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Project Design Specifications

This section gives information about the design of your solar project.

The estimated customer electricity usage is based on your expected usage going forward. If it differs from your historical usage, your solar company will explain the difference at the end of the Disclosure Form in the "Additional Information" section. For example, if you plan to purchase an electric vehicle or install a heat pump, your expected electricity usage may increase. You can compare your expected electricity usage to the estimated generation from the solar project to determine if it is sized correctly for you. You can also check your utility bills to confirm historical usage.

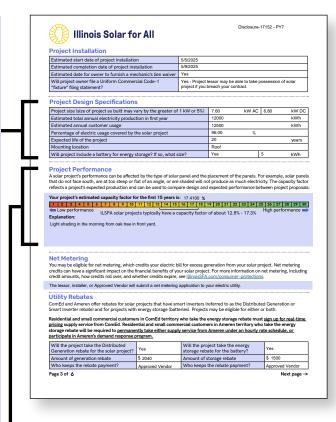
The percentage listed for "% offset by solar project" compares the overall annual generation from your solar project to your overall expected annual usage. (This is different from the percentage of electricity that is used directly onsite, which is used for calculating the value of the electricity.) The percentage of energy offset by your solar project does not necessarily translate to the percentage you will save on your electricity bill. Note that even if your annual electricity generation from the solar project matches your annual usage with an offset percentage of 100%, at times you will likely be drawing electricity from the grid (for example, at night) and at times you will be sending electricity to the grid (when your solar project produces more power than you are using at that exact time).

Some solar projects include a battery. Adding a battery increases the capital costs, but can maximize the amount of electricity generated from the solar project that is used directly onsite (rather than sent back to the grid). Using more electricity directly onsite generally creates more economic value than sending electricity back to the grid. Solar projects with batteries can also be set up to allow you to use your system during a grid outage. Solar projects without batteries cannot be used for back-up power during a grid outage.

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.



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Net Metering

The following description of net metering policies only applies if your project was approved for net metering on or after January 1, 2025, and if your electric utility is ComEd, Ameren, or MidAmerican. If your utility is a municipality, a rural co-operative, or Mt. Carmel, your Disclosure Form will contain information in this section that explains how your utility or electric co-operative will credit you for electricity that your project sends back to the grid.

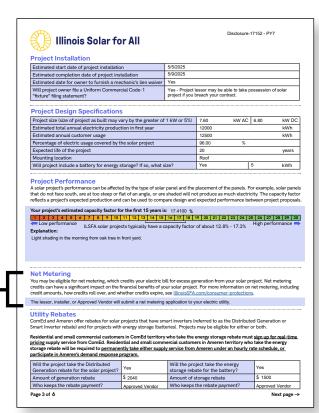
If your solar project makes more electricity than you are using at that time, the excess electricity flows to the grid. Net metering credits you for this excess electricity that your solar project sends to the utility electric grid. On the other hand, if you use more electricity than your project is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

Your utility will "net out" the extra electricity supply 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. Supply and transmission charges are then calculated based on that net usage. If you send more power to the grid than you pull from the grid, you will receive a credit on your bill for that electricity. Unless you are on hourly pricing (where your electricity rate changes each hour), you can choose whether you want to be credited in kWh (which will then reduce the kWh for which you are charged supply charges in future months), or with monetary credits applied to your bill (calculated based on your electric supply rate). If you have extra credits in a billing period, those credits will rollover to the next month, and will not expire as long as you maintain your net metering account with the same utility.

For hourly or real-time pricing customers, the net amount of electricity sent to or pulled from the grid will be calculated for each hourly period and a monetary charge or credit calculated for each hour. Then the charges and credits will be totaled for the billing period, and a final charge or credit will be applied.

Your electric delivery charges are not included in net metering. This means that you will pay delivery charges and other applicable taxes/ other charges for the entire amount of electricity that you pull from the grid, regardless of how much electricity you send back to the grid. You will also have non-volumetric (not based on kWh used) customer charges and fees on your bill.

If you receive energy supply from an Alternative Retail Electric Supplier (ARES) but your electricity is delivered by ComEd, either ComEd or the ARES will be responsible for net metering calculations and billing. If your electricity is delivered by Ameren, your ARES will determine whether they or Ameren will be responsible for net metering calculations and billing. If your electricity is delivered by MidAmerican, the ARES will be responsible for net metering calculations and billing. If you switch to a new electricity supplier, make sure to ask the new supplier if any accumulated net metering credits will be carried over and applied by the new supplier.



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Utility Rebates

The "Utility Rebate" section is included on Disclosure Forms for customers in ComEd and Ameren service territories. Both ComEd and Ameren offer utility rebates for having a distributed generation system (such as a solar project). ComEd refers to this rebate as the Distributed Generation (DG) rebate and Ameren refers to this rebate as the Smart Inverter rebate. Both utilities also offer a separate utility rebate for having energy storage (such as a battery) that is associated with a distributed generation project. If their systems qualify, residential customers are eligible for a distributed generation rebate of \$300/kW based on the solar project's DC size, and a battery rebate of \$300/kWh based on the battery size. These rebates are separate from the Illinois Solar For All program. The value of the rebate may change when future rebate values are established through a proceeding before the Illinois Commerce Commission. Make sure you understand your utility's terms and conditions for taking the rebate, and make sure you understand who will keep the rebate (you or someone else).

For ComEd customers, if you're a residential or small commercial customer and you take the storage rebate, be aware that you and any successor customers at that location must sign up for real-time pricing supply service from ComEd. Larger commercial and industrial customers who take the storage rebate will be required to participate in one or more programs offered through ComEd's Multi-Year Integrated Grid Plan.

For Ameren customers, if 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 from Ameren under an hourly rate schedule or participate in Ameren's demand response program. There may be additional optional programs offered in the future for customers receiving a rebate for a storage device.

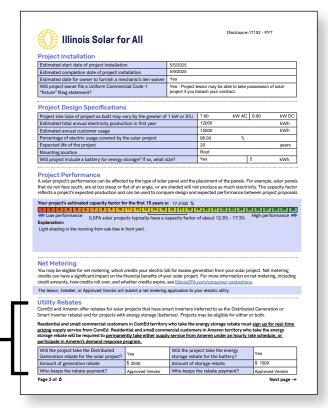
Project Operations, Maintenance, Warranties, and Guarantees

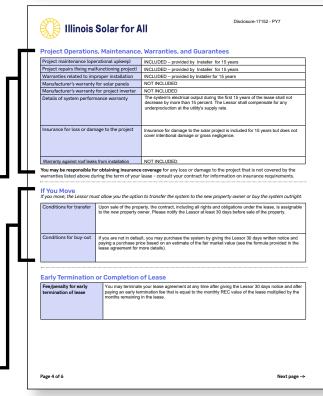
All ILSFA contracts must include a full system warranty, as well as operations and maintenance guarantees for 15 years, at no additional cost to participants. Some sellers may offer longer warranties or guarantees. Some types of damage may not be covered; make sure you understand whether you are responsible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

If You Move

If you move out of your home during the term of your lease, your solar agreement must provide you with the options of transferring your lease to the new homeowner or buying out your lease. This section provides information about the specific terms that your lease contains with respect to each option.

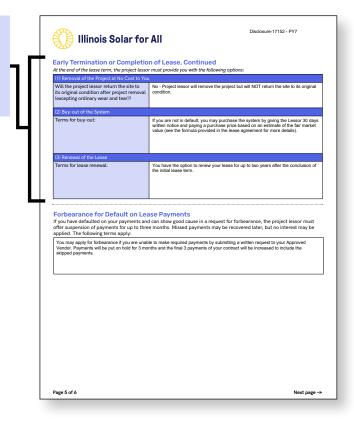
If you already own your solar project when you move (for example, if your project is part of the Energy Sovereignty sub-program), you may have obligations to ensure that the new homeowners grant system access to the Approved Vendor so that the Renewable Energy Credits continue to be transferred. Reach out to your Approved Vendor before you move so they can help you through the process.





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At the end of your lease, the Project Lessor must provide you with three options: (1) have the project removed at no cost to you, (2) buy out (purchase) the system, or (3) renew the lease. This section provides information about the specific terms that your lease contains with respect to each option.



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Value of Electricity and Savings Estimates

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

The value of electricity generated is calculated by multiplying the amount of electricity generated by the solar project (in kWh) by the applicable electricity rate (in cents/kWh). The Disclosure Form uses an estimate of how much electricity from the solar project will be used directly onsite (rather than sent back to the grid). Electricity that is used onsite is multiplied by the current utility retail rate, because this electricity replaces electricity that would otherwise be purchased from the utility at the retail rate. If you are in the service territory of ComEd, Ameren, or MidAmerican, electricity that is sent back to the grid is multiplied by the current utility supply rate, because these utilities provide bill credits for electricity sent back to the grid at their current supply rate. For other utilities, your Approved Vendor or solar company has entered the crediting rate that your utility uses for electricity sent back to the grid.

If a customer intends to sign up for ComEd, Ameren, or MidAmerican hourly pricing or dynamic / "time of use" pricing (where the price for electricity changes throughout the day), the Disclosure Form will estimate the average applicable retail and supply rates (based on current standard retail and supply rates for that utility). For customers who take supply from an Alternative Retail Electric Supplier ("ARES"), your Approved Vendor or solar company has entered the applicable retail and supply rates.

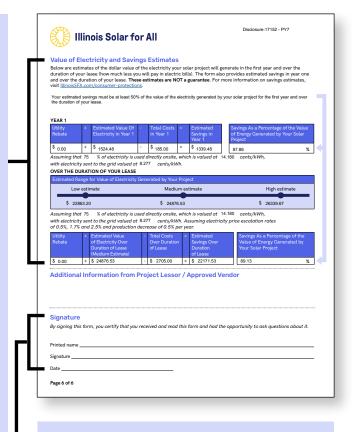
To estimate the value over the duration of your lease, the calculation assumes that the value of electricity will increase by 0.5%, 1.7%, or 2.5% per year, and that the amount of electricity that the solar project generates will decrease by 0.5% per year. These estimates do not account for the time value 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 solar projects serving single-family and small multi-family buildings (2-4 units), ILSFA requires that your estimated savings must be at least 50% of the value of the electricity generated over the first year and over the duration of your lease. In other words, your costs cannot be more than 50% of the value of electricity generated.

For solar projects serving large multi-family buildings (5+ units), upfront costs to the customer are allowed; 50% savings is not required for the first year but is required over the duration of your lease.

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 duration of your lease, unless the owner of the project is applying for 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 duration of your lease.



Signature

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

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Glossary

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 https://www.comed.com/SmartEnergy/MyGreenPowerConnection/Pages/SolarRebates.aspx.

Energy Storage Rebate: Under the Illinois Public Utilities Act (220 ILCS 5/16-107.6), ComEd and Ameren must both offer a rebate to customers who have distributed generation projects, including solar, that incorporate an energy storage system, like a battery. These systems must meet certain eligibility requirements. The utility rebate for energy storage can be taken in addition to the utility rebate for the underlying distributed generation system.

More information from ComEd is available at https://www.comed.com/SmartEnergy/MyGreenPowerConnection/Pages/SolarRebates.aspx.

More information from Ameren is available at https://www.ameren.com/illinois/residential/supply-choice/renewables/rebates.

FFederal 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 https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2023-03/Homeowners_Guide_to_the_Federal_Tax_Credit_for_Solar_PV.pdf. 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.

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Glossary

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.

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 Lessor: The company that owns the solar project and enters into the installation contract / lease agreement 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. More information from Ameren is available at https://www.ameren.com/illinois/residential/supply-choice/renewables/rebates.