

Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

May 20, 2025

9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

MEETING PURPOSE: 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.

9:30 A.M. INTRODUCTION & AGENDA OVERVIEW (5 MINS)

9:35 A.M. ICE BREAKER (10 MINS)

9:45 A.M. UPDATES FROM LAST MEETING (5 MINS)

9:50 A.M. ILSFA PROGRAM UPDATES (5 MINS)

- Grassroots Educator RFP
- Bright Neighborhoods & Home Repair Pilots
- Long Term Plan

9:55 A.M. TOPIC 1: ILLUME EVALUATION REPORT RESULTS (90 MINS)

- Areas Covered:
 - Illinois Solar for All: Residential Solar (Small) Sub Program
 - Illinois Solar for All: Community Solar Sub Program
- Coordination between AV and GE
 - Participant Journey
 - General Coordination in ILSFA
- See below for more context on topic details

11:25 A.M. BREAK (5 MINS)

11:30 AM TOPIC 2: AV POLICY PROPOSAL (30 MINS)

- See below for context on topic details

12:00 P.M. LUNCH (30 MINS)

12:30 P.M. TOPIC 3: AV PORTAL (30 MINS)

- See below for context on topic details

1:00 P.M. TOPIC 4: COMMITTEE RECRUITMENT (30MINS)

- See below for context on topic details

CLOSING (5 MINS)

- What's next?

Topic 1	Illume Report Results
Background	<p>ILLUME will share results from our PY4-PY6 evaluation of the Illinois Solar for All program, covering the period beginning June 1, 2021, to May 30, 2024. Our evaluation aims to understand the impacts of the program on the electric grid, customer bills, emissions, jobs, the Illinois economy, and communities.</p> <p>We seek to understand the experiences of all the people who interact with ILSFA, including participants, grassroots educators, approved vendors, job trainers, and job trainees.</p> <p>During our presentation, we will focus on barriers to participating in the Residential Solar Small subprogram, barriers to participating in the Community Solar subprogram, and opportunities for organizations working with ILSFA to coordinate with each other. We will reserve dedicated time for discussion and brainstorming.</p>
Issue/Topic for Discussion	<p>Brainstorm Storm Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we increase participation in the Residential Solar Small subprogram? • How can the program increase access to Residential Solar (Small) in central and southern Illinois? • What strategies could make energy sovereignty more appealing to Residential Solar (Small) participants and balance the risks and responsibilities of ownership? • Have you observed any barriers to recruiting community solar subscribers in environmental justice communities? What barriers? • What changes in program design or communication could help manage expectations and improve transparency around community solar subscription availability? • How could the program improve communication and collaboration among stakeholders? • How can ILSFA improve coordination with other energy efficiency and bill assistance programs (e.g., LIHEAP, weatherization) to help participants access complementary support and make their homes solar-ready?
Topic 2	New AV Policy Proposal
Background	<p>The IPA is exploring a policy to support AVs in instances should they encounter problematic health, safety, or behavioral circumstances through their contractual services with the participant. Under this policy, the AV and participant would both offer input for an investigation by the Program Administrator, and a determination may result in deferral of contractual service and collateral protections.</p>
Issue/Topic for Discussion	<p>The IPA is hoping to gather input on the process as drafted and understand to what extent problematic behaviors or safety situations are a larger trend.</p>

	<p>Brainstorm Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a trend of AVs encountering problematic behavioral or health/safety conditions? 2. What situations might AVs face that interfere with their contractual service? 3. What barriers, beyond collateral and REC obligations, might prevent an AV from walking away from such a circumstance?
Topic 3	AV Portal Updates
Background	<p>Advisory Committee members have expressed the desire to address the following topic regarding the AV portal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the portal and speeding up the application process. • Establishing concrete changes to the process of submitting project applications via the portal and improving the whole application review process, in general.
Issue/Update	<p>We will share updates on the following items regarding the AV Portal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular maintenance and modernization to increase efficiencies • Reducing administrative burden on AVs • Improving the user experience for both the AVs and AV Mgmt. Team
Topic 4	Advisory Committee Recruitment
Background	<p>The Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA) Advisory Committee was established to support continuous program improvement by bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders to share insights, identify barriers, and recommend strategies to increase program participation. The committee was originally designed to include up to 22 members representing a range of perspectives, including residents, vendors, educators, state agencies, utilities, and community-based organizations. Since the initial recruitment in 2022, however, there has been no additional recruitment period, and not all current seats have been actively filled or consistently engaged. To ensure the committee remains effective and reflective of its intended purpose, there is growing interest in opening a new recruitment period for Program Year 8 (PY8) and in exploring structural changes that could enhance engagement and participation.</p> <p>Linked here are the https://www.illinoissfa.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/ILSFA-Advisory-Committee-Governing-Document.pdf that provide additional detail on the specific roles and responsibilities of Advisory Committee members.</p>
Issue/Topic for Discussion	Brainstorm

	<p>To build a more sustainable and consistently engaged Advisory Committee, we would like to discuss potential structural adjustments and recruitment strategies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would establishing a participation agreement help clarify expectations and improve engagement? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If so, what requirements should it include? If not, why not? ○ Should term limits be introduced for committee members? ○ What types of commitments should committee members make to be considered “active”? • As we begin recruitment, do you think committee members would be interested in presenting their areas of expertise during meetings? • Do you believe that the meetings being recorded have any impact – positive or negative – on participation? • What specific qualifications, lived experience, or knowledge should we consider when evaluating new committee members?
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