



Strengthen transparency and accountability to protect consumers while ensuring that clean energy projects reflect Illinois values.

Climate Jobs
Recommendation

Put Illinois workers, consumers, and taxpayers first in the transition to a clean energy economy by strengthening transparency and accountability measures. Illinois should:

1. Create a public disclosure and monitoring division within the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) to track renewable energy credits (RECs), zero emission credits (ZECs), and other clean energy initiatives that utilize taxpayer or ratepayer dollars.
2. Increase transparency and accountability in the ratemaking process by using performance-based rates to deliver the best rates for consumers while ensuring that utilities make necessary investments in clean energy infrastructure and baseload power (Trabish, 2019).
3. Require utilities to disclose revenues and expenses related to ZECs to the ICC.
4. Require buyers and sellers of RECs in Illinois to report transactions to the ICC.
5. Require owners of RECs to report their total annual REC values to the ICC.
6. Require utilities to report data on workforce diversity and diversity goals.
7. Require renewable energy developers, contractors, and subcontractors to disclose detailed employment information, including data on jobs created by classification, local worker share, and disadvantaged worker share.
8. Require renewable energy developers, contractors, and subcontractors to submit certified payroll records, with information on wages, benefits, and training.
9. Require renewable energy developers, contractors, and subcontractors to disclose detailed business information including their business address, their Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) status, and their apprenticeship status.
10. Require contractors and subcontractors to disclose five years of business responsibility records, including OSHA violations, wage and hour violations, legal violations, project defaults, debarments, and suspensions of licenses.

Background
and Details

The working people of Illinois– the state’s consumers and taxpayers– demand that real accountability and transparency measures be included in any new energy legislation.

With public mistrust of utility companies growing in Illinois, now is the time to improve standards and expand oversight to protect workers, consumers, and taxpayers. On taxpayer-funded public works construction projects, contractors and subcontractors are required to produce copies of records to the Illinois Department of Labor. Contractors and subcontractors that fail to maintain the required records are subject to violations, penalties, and debarment (IDOL, 2020). Similar accountability measures should be enacted for utilities, developers, contractors, and subcontractors on ratepayer-funded energy projects.

A Pro-Worker,
Pro-Climate Illinois

These 10 transparency and accountability measures would function as an insurance policy for Illinois ratepayers and a protection plan for Illinois workers. These standards ensure that utility companies, developers, contractors, and subcontractors on clean energy projects in Illinois have proven track records and meet minimum requirements that are based on objective and verifiable criteria. By reflecting local standards of compensation and craftsmanship, the clean energy transition can uphold the values of the people of Illinois.