

# Illinois EE Stakeholder Advisory Group Large Group SAG Meeting

**Tuesday, March 5, 2024**  
9:30 – 11:30 am

**Webex Link to Join the Meeting:**

<https://celiajohnson.webex.com/celiajohnson/j.php?MTID=m2d57efd6c962306ef8f9c21f733f569a>

Meeting number: 2533 411 7936 // Password: 6JefnXMKV63

To join by phone, dial: 650-479-3208 // access code: 253 341 17936

Time	Agenda Item	Discussion Leader
9:30 – 9:40 am	<p><b><u>Opening and Introductions</u></b></p> <p><b>Purpose of March 5<sup>th</sup> SAG Meeting:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to educate SAG about federal EE funding opportunities for Illinois through the Inflation Reduction Act;</li> <li>2. For National Consumer Law Center to educate SAG on Inflation Reduction Act program design and consumer protection recommendations; and</li> <li>3. For the SAG Facilitator to provide a Planning Process update.</li> </ol> <p><b>SAG Facilitator <a href="#">Planning Process</a> Reminder</b></p>	Celia Johnson, SAG Facilitator
9:40 – 10:25 am	<p><b><u>Leveraging the Inflation Reduction Act in Illinois</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to federal Inflation Reduction Act EE funding opportunities</li> <li>• Process and approach for Illinois to access Inflation Reduction Act funding</li> <li>• Estimated timing for funding availability</li> <li>• How Illinois EPA is working with Illinois utilities</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul> <p><b>Purpose:</b> To educate SAG about federal EE funding opportunities for Illinois through the Inflation Reduction Act.</p>	John DeRosa and Abby Brokaw, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA)
10:25 – 11:10 am	<p><b><u>Inflation Reduction Act Program Design and Consumer Protection Recommendations</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCLC’s perspective on critical design elements and consumer protections needed for the Home Owner Managing Energy Savings (HOMES) and High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Act (HEEHRA) rebate programs</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul>	Olivia Wein and Karen Lusson, National Consumer Law Center (NCLC)

Time	Agenda Item	Discussion Leader
	<p><b>Purpose:</b> To educate SAG about Inflation Reduction Act program design and consumer protection recommendations.</p>	
11:10 – 11:25 am	<p><b><u>SAG Planning Process Update</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upcoming 2024 SAG Planning Process meetings</li> <li>• Final SAG Conflict of Interest Policy and eligibility for final EE Plan negotiations</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul> <p><b>Purpose:</b> For the SAG Facilitator to provide a Planning Process update.</p>	Celia Johnson, SAG Facilitator
11:25 – 11:30 am	<p><b><u>Closing and Next Steps</u></b></p> <p><b>Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> Deadline:</b> Energy Efficiency Idea submittals due</p> <p><b>Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> Deadline:</b> Eligible stakeholders who want to participate in EE Plan negotiations will notify SAG Facilitator</p> <p><a href="#">Visit the SAG website</a> for additional information about the 2024 SAG Portfolio Planning Process</p>	Celia Johnson, SAG Facilitator

**Meeting Materials:**

- Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Presentation
- National Consumer Law Center Presentation
- SAG Facilitator Planning Process Update Presentation

**Initial Questions for IL EPA:**

1. How does IL EPA envision using the federal EE funding?
2. What are IL EPA’s plans for HOMES and HEERHA? What about other IRA funds like climate pollution reduction grants? It would be useful for IL EPA to describe the range of funds that they expect to apply for; at least those that apply to building efficiency or building electrification.
3. Timing for the new programs: When will the funds be available; how much; for how many years?
4. What are the plans for implementation? How will that implementation be integrated with what IL utilities are doing, so it’s easy for customers to participate and maximum benefits (and limiting market confusion)?
5. Are there any rules related to using the federal EE funding that state of IL has discretion on?
6. What is the plan for income verification that doesn’t create barriers to participation?
7. How do people/organizations learn about upcoming funding opportunities (particularly in income qualified space)?
8. Request to review the Q&A document utilities shared with IL EPA

**Questions for IL EPA Submitted via SAG Survey:**

1. Coordination with IL Utility Energy Efficiency Programs:
  - a. Can IEPA provide the responses that the utilities sent to IEPA's questions about the utility programs?
  - b. How will this funding interact with existing utility energy efficiency programs?
  - c. How do you plan to work with the utilities/other agencies/organizations implementing IRA funded programs?
  - d. How does IL EPA plan on braiding and leveraging the IRA HOMES and HEEHRA rebates into the state's weatherization program and the utility-sponsored (ratepayer-funded) energy efficiency programs? What will that look like?
2. Offering Programs to Income Qualified Communities:
  - a. How will IEPA ensure that low-income residents are not left to navigate the HOMES and HEEHRA programs on their own?
  - b. What steps will IEPA take to ensure that low-income customers interested in obtaining weatherization and electric heat pump opportunities through the rebate programs are not stuck financing costs not covered by the rebates?
  - c. What is IL EPA's vision for promoting these programs and targeting LMI communities to benefit from IRA programs?
3. Additional Questions:
  - a. How much IRA funding is IEPA responsible for disbursing for each of the two rebate programs?
  - b. When will the rebate programs be up and running?
  - c. How long after IEPA's application is approved will the programs begin?
  - d. Will the programs continue for a specified amount of time, or until funds are exhausted?
  - e. Besides the utilities and DCEO (state weatherization program), does IEPA anticipate contracting with any other entities, such as government bodies and third-party contractors?
  - f. Do you anticipate specific challenges to implementing the rebate programs?
  - g. What models/examples did you look at to inform the application for the rebate programs?
  - h. Does the IRA set out priorities for the rebates associated with these programs?  
i.e. carbon reduction, fuel switching/electrification, equity.