

### Volume 362 November 12, 2013

In 2011, Illinois lawmakers envisioned hundreds of homes and businesses with solar panels on their roofs dotting the state by 2013 and generating their own electricity.

But that hasn't happened, despite a law that was meant to spur such development. The law was designed to allow everyday consumers to recoup the costs of purchasing solar panels by selling energy credits to the state.

But Illinois isn't purchasing any of the solar credits associated with those panels. If it were, the time it would take for those solar panels to pay for themselves would be drastically reduced, and more homeowners and businesses theoretically would be encouraged to invest in solar power.

As a result, not enough rooftop solar is being built here, and Illinois is falling behind in meeting its goals.

According to data from the Interstate Renewable Energy Council, about 9 megawatts of small rooftop solar generation is installed in the state.

By June 2014, the Illinois Power Agency must purchase about 18.4 megawatts of distributed generation from Illinois utility customers, mostly solar.

To put that in perspective, the roofs of the state's two IKEA stores are covered with solar panels that generate a total of about 2 megawatts of power.

For Illinois to reach its 2015 goal, it would need to purchase credits for power generated by the equivalent of 64 IKEA roofs, or about 269,000 panels. And that's just for the rooftop portion of the state's solar energy requirements -- about 10 percent of the total solar energy Illinois has been mandated to purchase by 2015.

Last month, the city of Chicago announced a new, streamlined process for solar installations that it hopes will lead to more roof panels.

City officials say the changes, developed with a \$750,000 grant from the Department of Energy, will slash wait times for solar permits for small projects to one day from 30, and cut fees by 25 percent, to \$275.

Legislation being hashed out in Springfield includes a provision that would require a bulk of the solar power the state purchases to come from solar projects housed on former industrial or commercial sites, a potential boon for Chicago. Mayor Rahm Emanuel's office said it supports finding a legislative solution that can free up more money for solar power.

"The city supports any legislative provision that drives development of new solar installations to municipal brownfields, because it would bring additional investment and jobs to Chicago and more fairly distribute renewable assets to metropolitan areas," said Tom Alexander, a spokesman for the mayor.

### Electricity Pricing – Nov 12, 2013 Com Ed Average LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
Nov, 2012	\$.03327
Dec, 2012	\$.03081
Jan, 2013	\$.03111
Feb, 2013	\$.03219
Mar, 2013	\$.03665
Apr, 2013	\$.03821
May, 2013	\$.03501
Jun, 2013	\$.03215
Jul, 2013	\$.04067
Aug, 2013	\$.03112
Sep, 2013	\$.03274
Oct, 2013	\$.03183
<b>Nov 1 – Nov 11</b>	<b>\$.02981</b>

### Extended Temperature Forecast:

#### Chicago Area

	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
High	35	39	46	46	52
Low	31	33	37	37	46

