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## Cook County Comments on Block 1 Lottery Proposal

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**Environment and Sustainability (Environmental Control)** <environment@cookcountyiil.gov> Fri, Sep 28, 2018 at 3:40 PM  
To: "comments@illinoisabp.com" <comments@illinoisabp.com>

Illinois Power Agency

Via: [comments@illinoisabp.com](mailto:comments@illinoisabp.com)

I am writing during the comment period of the Block 1 Lottery IPA Strawman Proposal to stress that an effective community solar program, especially one that allows for smaller, community-based projects, is critical to ensure that everyone in Cook County has the opportunity to realize the benefits of renewable solar energy. Community solar is important to the residents of Cook County because renewable energy should be available to everyone, not just the small percentage of people that own their buildings and have the capital to pay for up-front investment.

Through the County's work on the Cook County Community Solar Project, our team showed that community solar can be economically viable on sites ranging from schools and churches, to large commercial and government buildings, low-income housing, college campuses, landfills and other sites. Our case studies showed that small scale community solar programs are viable with the right incentives in place. There should be room within the community solar adjustable block program to ensure that smaller community solar projects can access incentives as they are ready to move towards development. This program should not be limited to those that are currently eligible to be part of the lottery process on the day it opens.

Community solar allows residents, businesses and institutions to save money on their electric bills – and if enough is built within Cook County, it also could provide construction jobs and investment dollars. I remain committed to reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions in Cook County by 80 percent by the year 2050 and community solar is an important component of making our communities sustainable while providing jobs and savings.

I would like to thank the IPA for their work to make this a transparent and thoughtful process that will result in a program that best serves the residents of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Deborah Stone

Director

Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability

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