

August 2022

Shared Clean Energy Facility Program (SCEF)

Benefits for Environmental Justice Communities

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Reminders

- This meeting is being recorded and will be posted on DEEP's SCEF webpage
- Please remain muted when you are not speaking
- The chat will be monitored for questions and technical difficulties
- DEEP will give a brief overview of the SCEF program and reserve the rest of the meeting for public comment
- DEEP will also accept written comments sent to DEEP.EnergyBureau@ct.gov by August 24, 2022 at 4pm



SCEF Basics

- 6-year program, started in 2020, overseen by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) and run by the utilities
- Supports annual development of 50 MW of new renewable energy projects
 - Projects range from 100 kW to 5 MW and includes solar and fuel cell technologies
- Developers submit “bids” in response to the utilities’ request for project proposals
- Bill credits for energy produced by SCEF projects are applied to participating customer bills



SCEF Technologies

Solar Photovoltaic (solar panels)

- Convert sunlight into electrical energy
- No air emissions from generating energy
- Can require a lot of land depending on the size of the facility (SCEF projects are relatively small)
- Only produce energy when the sun is shining

Fuel Cells

- Produce energy as long as hydrogen-containing fuel is supplied
- Right now, fuel cells are mostly fueled by natural gas
- Natural gas powered fuel cells produce over 900 lb/MWh of carbon dioxide (less than oil and coal power plants but equivalent to some smaller natural gas plants)
- “Green hydrogen” fuel cells with no associated emissions are an emerging technology
- Do not require a lot of land area



DEEP's Role

1

DEEP evaluates information in proposals on Project Sites and bid preference eligibility

2

Every year DEEP makes recommendations to PURA by September 1st regarding Price Caps and Bid Preferences



Price Cap

- A price cap is the maximum cost per proposed project
 - Highest selected project price from previous year
- In Year 3, PURA granted a different, higher price cap for solar carport/canopy projects because of higher project costs



Bid Preferences

- Bid preferences aim to promote state policy goals related to land use, decarbonization, equity, etc.
- Projects with specific characteristics are evaluated at a lower bid price for ranking purposes
- Bid preference in previous program years for projects sited on landfills and brownfields
 - 20% lower evaluated bid price
- Bid preference last year for solar carport/canopy projects
 - 30% lower evaluated price



Bid Evaluation

Bids are reviewed to ensure they meet technical program requirements
DEEP evaluates projects' bid preference eligibility

Bids are ranked in order of *evaluated* bid price

Projects are chosen by lowest evaluated bid price and enter 20-year agreements with utility

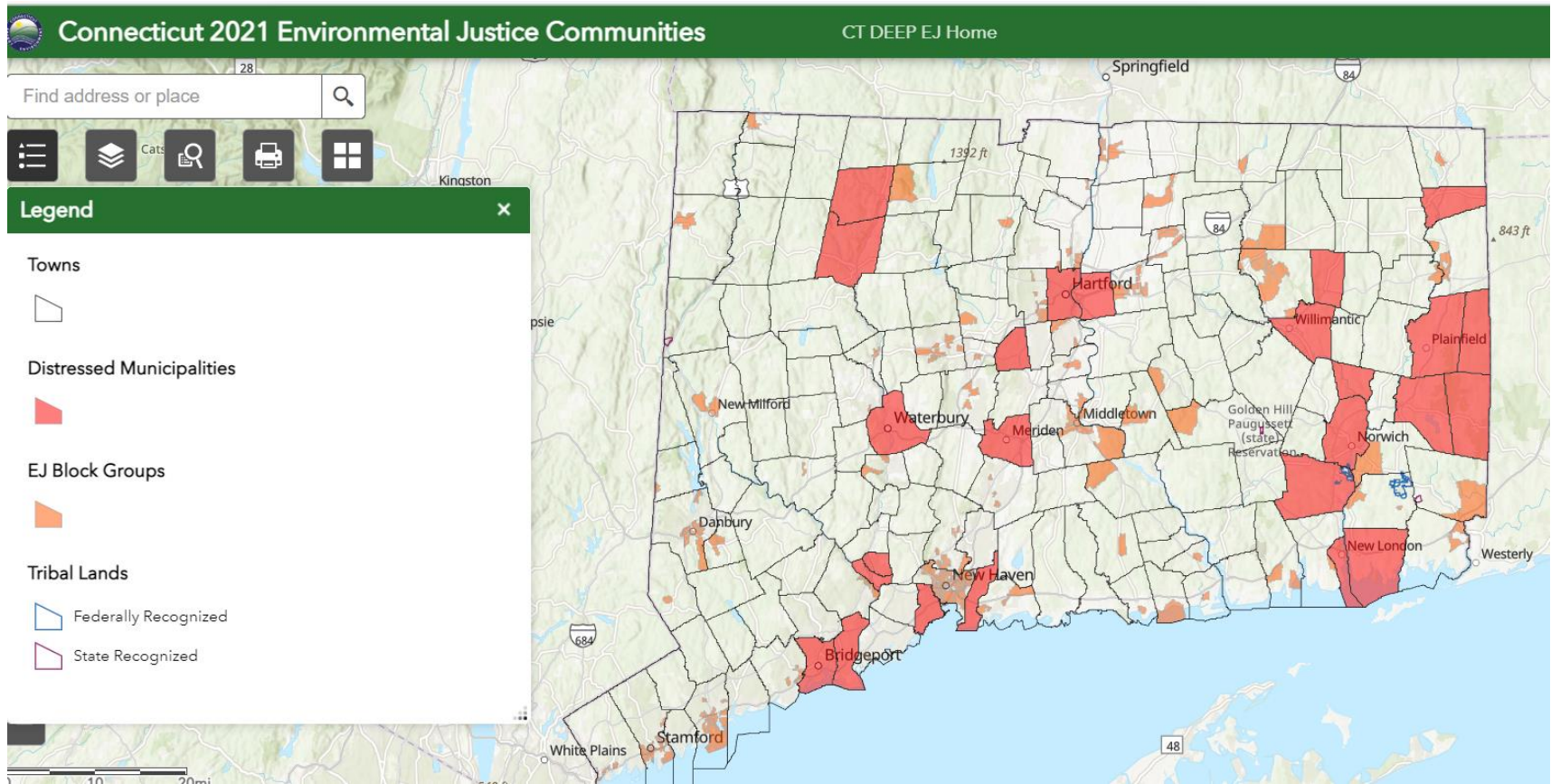


Are there bid preferences or other program requirements that could provide more benefits to Environmental Justice Communities?

- Is there an inherent benefit in these projects being located in Environmental Justice Communities?
- What kind of workforce development or other project-related initiative or programs could benefit Environmental Justice Community members?
- What kind of siting practices for community-centered environmental planning should be considered?



Environmental Justice Communities



Past Process

Sustainable, Transparent, and Efficient Process for solar development (STEPS) scoping meeting, July 2021

- Comments included suggestions of an Environmental Justice Public Participation plan, a bid preference for siting in Environmental Justice Communities, and emphasized the importance of air quality standards in these communities

Senate Bill 176 raised in 2022, one section required 40% of SCEF projects be located in Environmental Justice Communities

- This section of the bill did not pass
- Testimony suggested siting in these communities would decrease air quality because of emissions from resources using natural gas
- Testimony pointed out that as the program exists there is no correlation between the location of a SCEF project and who gets the subscriptions, so siting in these communities is not a benefit



Comments and Feedback

Are there bid preferences or other program requirements that could provide more benefits to Environmental Justice Communities?

- Please use the “Raise Hand” function if you would like to speak
- We will call on you in the order hands were raised
- Please unmute yourself, state your name and affiliation, and keep comments to 3 minutes
- Remember to click the “Mute” button and put your hand down when you are done speaking



Next Steps



Please send written comments to
DEEP.EnergyBureau@ct.gov
by **August 24, 2022 at 4pm**



Further questions about the SCEF program can be
sent to SCEF@Eversource.com or SCEF@uinet.com



Appendix

Existing Policy

Public Act 21-43, applicable to all projects 2 MW or greater constructed on or after 7/1/21

- Requires workforce development program, contractors and subcontractors must be paid the prevailing wage, contractors and subcontractors must pay their workers the prevailing wage, OR the project must be covered by a labor agreement
- Projects 5 MW or greater must enter into a community benefits agreement with the host community



Subscriptions

- Eligible subscribers:
 - Low-income customers (including affordable housing)
 - Moderate-income customers
 - Small business customers
 - Low-income service organizations
 - Residential customers unable to install solar panels on their roof
- Subscribers will receive a credit on their monthly bill equal to \$0.025 multiplied by their average monthly usage for twenty years
- Subscribers must be in the same utility territory as the project they are subscribed to
 - The subscribers do not necessarily need to be in the same municipality as the project

