



**Governor Ned Lamont  
State of Connecticut**



FACT SHEET  
2024 Legislative Session

**HOUSE BILL 5052  
*AN ACT SUPPORTING SOLAR ENERGY IN SCHOOLS***

**The Problem**

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act present historic opportunities for states to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency measures. Local public schools—often the biggest capital assets in their communities—are prime locations to install energy saving measures, but current law poses obstacles.

The state’s non-residential solar program has annual caps on the quantity of solar generation that can be installed each year, which promotes a competitive solar market, but complicates the process for towns or school districts. The uncertainty of the program’s auctions can cause delays in efforts to install solar at the same of time of a school’s renovation or construction. Furthermore, current law counts payments received due to a solar installation against a district who seeks to do the right thing and install solar. While this mechanism is important in general to manage school construction costs, it dulls the incentive to maximize federal grants and ultimately gets in the way of solar deployment.

**Governor Lamont’s Solution**

Installing renewable energy, energy efficiency measures, or even resiliency measures are much simpler when schools are already placing electric wires, fixing the roof, or excavating the parking lot for a renovation or new construction. Renewable energy and energy efficient systems save money on electricity costs, local air quality improves, carbon emissions decrease, and they minimize disruption to students.

This bill aligns school building project funding with existing energy program initiatives so communities can capture state funds for renewable energy and energy efficiency at the same time they are renovating or constructing their school, without those communities being penalized for aggressively seeking outside funding.

Specific programs will not be deducted from project costs in the calculation of the district’s grant allocation:

- PURA EV Charger Programs (16-19f)
- Microgrid and Resilience Grant and Loan Pilot Program (16-243y)

**Contacts:**

Governor’s Office: Matthew Brokman, 860-951-9619 or [matthew.brokman@ct.gov](mailto:matthew.brokman@ct.gov)  
Office of Policy and Management: Susan Sherman, 860-416-2008 or [susan.b.sherman@ct.gov](mailto:susan.b.sherman@ct.gov)  
State Capitol, Room 406

- Conservation Load Management Plan (16-245m)
- Green Bank Programs (16-245n)
- Renewable Energy Tariff Programs (16-244z)

This bill also allows PURA to establish a separate cap program for solar that would be installed on schools, reducing uncertainty for communities interested in using clean energy.