

Connecticut Siting Council

Digest of Administrative Reports

Fiscal Year 2025-2026



At-a-Glance

- **Nine per diem appointed members¹**
- **Melanie A. Bachman, *Executive Director***
- **Established – 1971**
- **Statutory Authority – Conn. Gen. Stat. §4-166, *et seq.*, §16-50g, *et seq.*, §22a-114, *et seq.***
- **Central office - 10 Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051**
- **Number of Employees – 10**
- **Recurring Operating Expenses - \$2,646,491.94**
- **Organizational Structure – Connecticut Siting Council is an autonomous agency assigned to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection *for administrative purposes only.*²**

Mission

The Connecticut Siting Council (CSC) objectively balances the public need for adequate and reliable public utility and telecommunications services at the lowest reasonable cost to consumers with the need to protect the environment, public health and safety of the state through an independent, quasi-judicial public process governed by the state Uniform Administrative Procedure Act and Public Utility Environmental Standards Act.

¹ 5 members appointed by the Governor, 1 member appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, 1 member appointed by the Speaker of the House, the Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Chair of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority.

² Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 4-38f, “**Administrative purposes only**” defined. (a) An agency assigned to a department for administrative purposes only shall: (1) Exercise any quasi-judicial, rule-making or regulatory authority, licensing and policy-making functions which it may have independent of such department and without approval or control of the department; (2) prepare its budget, if any, and submit its budgetary requests through the department; and (3) hire its own personnel or enter into contracts, if authorized by law, or if the general assembly provides or authorizes the expenditure of funds therefor.

(b) The department to which an agency is assigned for administrative purposes only shall: (1) Provide record keeping, reporting, and related administrative and clerical functions for the agency to the extent deemed necessary by the department head; (2) disseminate for the agency any required notices, rules or orders adopted, amended or repealed by the agency; (3) provide staff for the agency subject to the provisions of subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section; and (4) include in the departmental budget the agency's budgetary request, if any, as a separate part of said budget and exactly as prepared and submitted to the department by the agency.

Statutory Responsibility

CSC has exclusive regulatory jurisdiction over the construction, maintenance and operation of electric transmission lines, fuel transmission lines, electric generating and storage facilities, electric substations and switchyards, community antenna television towers and telecommunications towers throughout the state.³ Its statutory responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Minimize damage to scenic, historic, and recreational values;
- Provide environmental quality standards and criteria for the location, design, construction and operation of facilities at least as stringent as the federal environmental quality standards and criteria, and technically sufficient to assure the welfare and protection of the people of the state;
- Encourage research to develop new and improved methods of generating, storing and transmitting electricity and fuel and of transmitting and receiving television and telecommunications with minimal damage to the environment;
- Promote energy security;
- Promote the sharing of towers for fair consideration wherever technically, legally, environmentally and economically feasible to avoid the unnecessary proliferation of towers in the state; and
- Develop annual forecasts of the demand for electric power, together with identification and advance planning of the facilities needed to supply that demand and to facilitate local, regional, state-wide and interstate planning.

Public Service

CSC balances competing interests and ensures the public, applicants, petitioners, parties, intervenors, federal, regional, state and municipal agencies and officials, and other interested persons have notice and an opportunity to be heard in CSC proceedings held on proposed regulations, applications for Certificates of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need and Petitions for Declaratory Rulings relative to proposed jurisdictional facilities and modifications to existing jurisdictional facilities.

Applicants and petitioners consult with the host municipality of a facility site and publish notice of intent to file an application or a petition for a proposed facility with CSC. After CSC deems the application or petition complete, it develops a schedule in accordance with statutory deadlines and publishes notice in 10-point, bold-faced font no less than 30 days before a public hearing. When the public hearing notice is issued,

³ Telecommunications matters are also regulated by the Federal Communications Commission. Energy matters are also regulated by the electric reliability criteria, standards and procedures developed by the North American Electric Reliability Council, Northeast Power Coordinating Council and the Independent System Operator of New England.

CSC invites the public, municipalities, state agencies, and other stakeholders to participate in its public hearing process.⁴

Interested persons may participate in CSC public hearings in three ways: party/intervenor status; oral limited appearance statements during the evening public comment session; and written limited appearance statements at any time.⁵ CSC responds to each written limited appearance statement. It also publishes and posts on its website public participation guides.⁶ CSC staff is available to answer any questions by phone, email, or in-person at the CSC office Monday through Friday between 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM.

CSC public hearings consist of two parts: **evidentiary sessions** held during regular business hours and **public comment sessions** held after 6:30 PM for the convenience of the public. During the evidentiary sessions, parties/intervenors present exhibits and testimony and are cross examined by CSC and other parties/intervenors. During the public comment sessions, interested persons are welcome to openly express comments and concerns about a proposed facility.

Through this public process and the expertise of its members and staff, CSC develops a record of evidence in accordance with statutory criteria. It deliberates during regular public meetings when proposed decisions are issued and final decisions are rendered. Like judges, CSC members and staff are prohibited from engaging in communications with any person related to matters pending before CSC.

In compliance with Executive Order No. 26-1, CSC submitted its licensing data for calendar year 2024.⁷ Statutory deadlines are habitually met. Conditions of approved facilities are tracked, monitored and enforced. During Fiscal Year 2025/2026, CSC initiated and resolved two enforcement actions.

CSC posts the evidentiary record of every jurisdictional matter on its website: portal.ct.gov/csc and constantly expands the content to provide easily accessible information to the public and stakeholders, including, but not limited to, databases and records of facilities throughout the state, electric and magnetic fields, life cycle costs of transmission lines, forecasts of electric supply and demand, and statewide telecommunications coverage.

CSC keeps abreast of the latest technological advancements in the energy and telecommunications industries through webinars, conferences and trade subscriptions to anticipate, address and balance the need for energy and telecommunications infrastructure with the need to protect the environment and support public policies of the state at the lowest reasonable cost to consumers.

CSC also participates in national, regional, state and local coalitions to compare processes and procedures employed by other energy and telecommunications facility siting agencies and share facility siting jurisdiction, planning and experiences to meet national, regional and state goals.

⁴ In addition to publication of the hearing notice, CSC provides for telecommunications carrier notification of a new tower application to advance the state tower sharing policy; installation of notice sign(s) at the access road(s) to a proposed site; and convention of a pre-hearing conference to discuss procedural matters for the public hearing.

⁵ There is a municipal participation account established under Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 16-50bb to reimburse municipalities for expenses associated with participation as a party in a CSC proceeding.

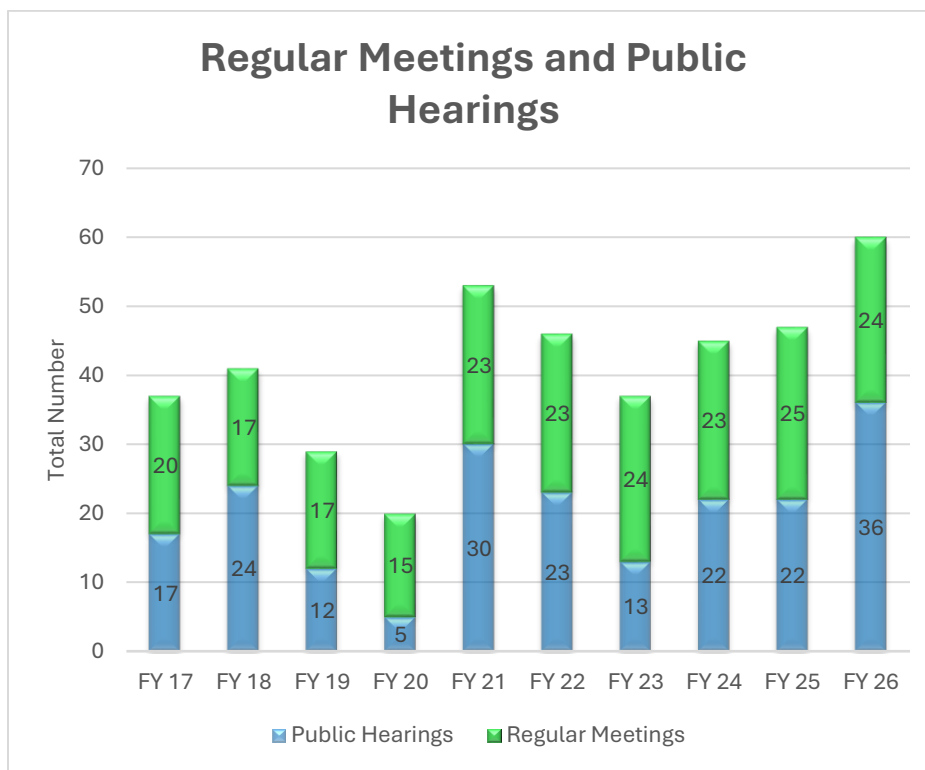
⁶ [Public Participation](#)

⁷ [csclicensingdatacy24_exorderno26-1_a.pdf](#)

Public service is continuously improved based on recommendations from the State Auditors of Public Accounts; legislators; CSC members and staff; other state agencies; municipal officials; national, regional and local organizations; environmental groups; and members of the public. Information is shared among other state agencies and new technologies are explored to improve public service, such as options for electronic payments and e-alerts.

Improvements/Achievements for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

In Fiscal Year 2025-2026, the Council held 36 public hearings to develop evidentiary records and examine public concerns regarding proposed facilities. It also held 23 regular and 1 special energy and telecommunications meetings to deliberate and render decisions on proposed facilities.

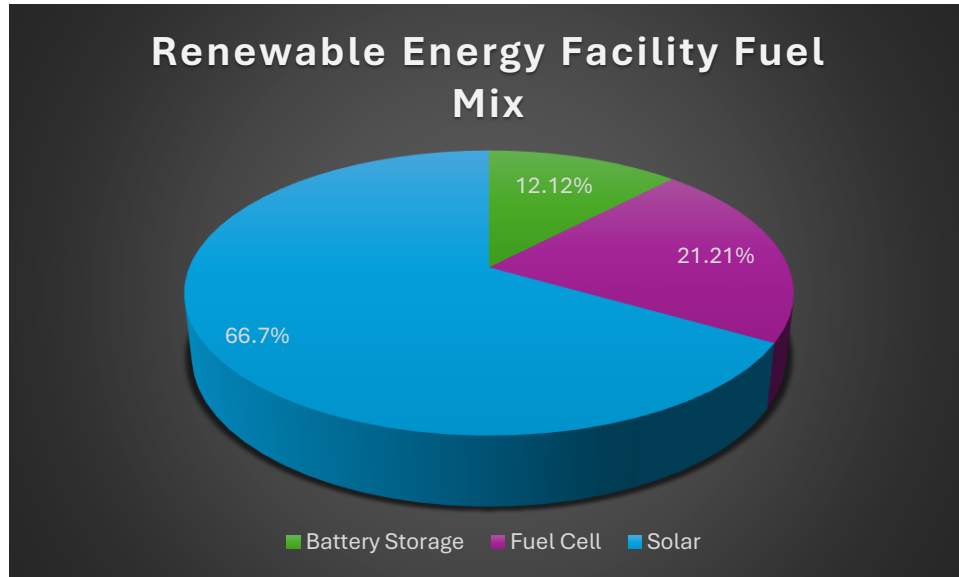


During Fiscal Year 2025-2026, the Council issued the following decisions and approvals:

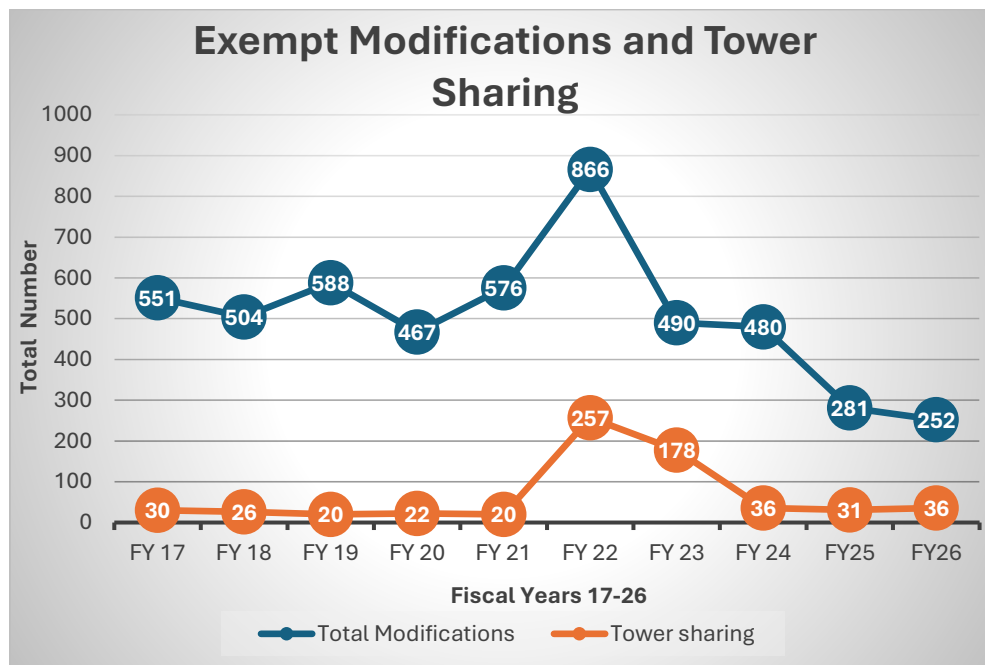
- 17 Certificates for telecommunications facilities
- 1 Certificate for a solar facility
- 21 Declaratory Rulings for solar facilities
- 7 Declaratory Rulings for fuel cell facilities
- 4 Declaratory Rulings for energy storage facilities
- 7 Declaratory Rulings for modifications to existing energy facilities
- 13 Declaratory Rulings for telecommunications facilities
- 16 approvals for Development and Management Plans
- 244 approvals for modifications to existing telecommunications facilities
- 8 approvals for modifications to existing energy facilities
- 36 approvals for requests for tower sharing at existing telecommunications facilities

- 8 approvals for FCC Eligible Facilities Requests at existing telecommunications facilities

In support of the state's renewable energy goals and fuel diversity initiatives, the 33 new electric generating and storage facilities approved in Fiscal Year 2025-2026 are proportioned as follows:



In support of the state tower sharing policy, the 36 tower share requests and 252 exempt modification requests approved in Fiscal Year 2025-2026 compare to other years as follows:



Agency Opportunity Plan 2025-2026: Year 1 Results

CSC is not part of the General Fund and it does not receive any federal grant funds. CSC is a ratepayer-funded agency. It recovers operating expenses from assessments that are proportioned among the energy and telecommunications industries. CSC is bound by its statutory mission to conduct business at the lowest reasonable cost to consumers. Key priorities for the Agency Opportunity Plan are as follows:

- **Service Provider:** CSC must balance the public need and cost of reliable energy and telecommunications services with the need to protect the environment of the state. Top priorities are to maximize public participation and minimize costs to ratepayers. Since CSC commenced remote public meetings and hearings in 2020, public participation has substantially increased, and hearing costs have substantially decreased. Over the past year, CSC has also improved accessibility to its website.
- **Growth Partner:** CSC statutes require compensation for per diem members, newspaper publications, transcription services and software licenses, as well as office supply and equipment purchases, to conduct agency business. Top priorities are to maintain relationships with partners who are Small Business and Minority Based Enterprise (SBE/MBE) vendors and to develop relationships with new partners through networking and speaking engagements at conferences and state universities. CSC has engaged a part-time, temporary employee from a Women Based Enterprise (WBE) to fulfill agency obligations associated with records retention and digitalization. Since 2024, 3,823 records have been processed.
- **Employer:** CSC business entails highly complex and technical analysis that requires specialized knowledge and skills. A top priority is succession planning. During Fiscal Year 2025/2026, CSC hired a Clerk Typist to fill a vacancy and a trainee to achieve Siting Analyst I, as well as commenced a pre-professional development program for an Office Assistant to transition to Fiscal Administrative Assistant. The Siting Analyst I training period is 1 year and the Pre-Professional Development Program is 1 year.

Information Reported as Required by State Statute

CSC holds a public hearing every year on Connecticut's Forecast of Electric Loads and Resources over a ten-year period (Forecast Report). It assesses the overall status of electric loads and resources in the state, taking into consideration historical trends, the projected outlook of load and demand, and the effectiveness of conservation and load management programs. The 2025/2026 Forecast Report public hearing was held on December 10, 2025. Reports from 2005-2024 are available on the CSC website.⁸

CSC holds a public hearing every five years to investigate and determine the life-cycle costs of overhead and underground electric transmission lines. The 2022 Life-Cycle Cost Analysis Report

⁸ [Publications](#)

public hearing was held on October 19, 2022. Reports from 2007-2022 are available on the CSC website.⁹

CSC adopts, and revises as necessary, Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF) Best Management Practices (BMPs) for construction of Electric Transmission Lines. CSC annually reviews the EMF BMPs at a public meeting. The BMPs were reviewed on October 30, 2025, and are available on the CSC website.¹⁰

CSC develops, maintains and updates quarterly a statewide telecommunications coverage database that includes the location, type and height of all telecommunications towers and antennas in the state. It is organized by municipality and available on the CSC website.¹¹

CSC develops, and revises as necessary, a plan for statewide telecommunications coverage (Telecom Plan). It assesses population growth in the state and analyzes existing and projected demands for telecommunications coverage. The current Telecom Plan is available on the Council's website.¹² An update is in progress.

CSC develops local telecommunications coverage assessments upon the request of any municipality that identifies locations with inconsistent or nonexistent telecommunications coverage and analyzes existing and projected demands for coverage within the municipality. During Fiscal Year 2025/2026, CSC completed 3 local telecommunications coverage assessments for the municipalities of Preston, Madison and Bristol.

CSC annually solicits a report from the telecommunications carriers regarding the ability to provide backup power during an electric service outage for any tower or antenna in the state. Reports were solicited on August 4, 2025.

Respectfully submitted July 23, 2026,

Melanie A. Bachman, Executive Director

⁹ [Publications](#)

¹⁰ [emf-bmp-12-30--2022-update_final_s.pdf](#)

¹¹ [Connecticut Siting Council - Disclaimer](#)

¹² [Publications](#)