



# Solar for All

CEEJAC Energy Subcommittee

January 15, 2025



**Connecticut**  
Department of Energy &  
Environmental Protection

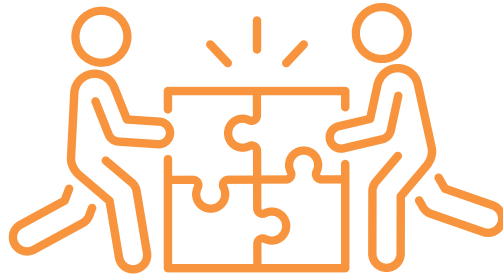
**ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

# Agenda



## Overview of Solar for All

Program Overview  
Program Updates

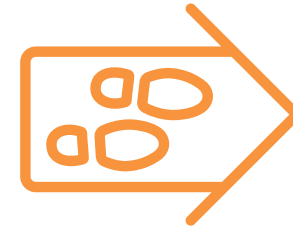


## Engagement

Engagement to Date  
Future Engagement



## Timeline



## Next Steps

Questions for the  
Subcommittee

# Connecticut Award

DEEP was awarded \$62.45 million through Solar for All for "Project SunBridge"

- DEEP worked with the Green Bank, CT Housing Finance Authority (CHFA), Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, and Department of Housing on our application and continues to meet with this working group as the "Project SunBridge Coalition"
- DEEP has until August 31, 2029, to spend the money
- Funds must be used to increase access to residential solar and energy storage systems for "low-income and disadvantaged communities" (LIDACs)
  - Households in a census tract identified as disadvantaged by the White House's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)
  - EPA's EJScreen tool census tracts with significant environmental burden
  - Low-income households making less than 80% of the area median income
  - Affordable housing (federal subsidized and naturally occurring)



# Project SunBridge Components

Overview 



## Financial Assistance

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- Upfront incentives for energy storage paired with solar systems financed through Solar for All (Green Bank)
- Single-family loan and/or lease product (Green Bank)
- Multi-family affordable housing revolving loan fund (Green Bank and CHFA)
- Multi-family affordable housing leases through existing Solar MAP program (Green Bank)
- Flexibility to support and/or expand financing offerings through the Green Bank's Capital Solutions request for proposals

*\*lease and loan products include limited funding for "enabling upgrades" to deploy solar and storage, such as roof repairs and electric panel upgrades*

# Project SunBridge Components

Overview



## Technical Assistance

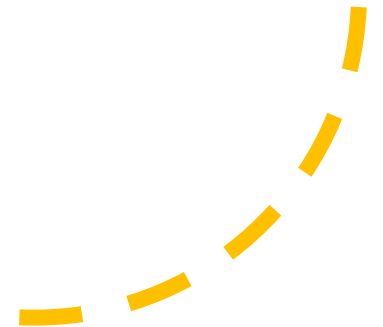
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- Workforce development trainings and programs
- Technical support for communities deploying distributed solar and storage
- Support for customer outreach, engagement, and community-based organizations
- Building assessments and audits (Green Bank and CHFA)

# Updates

DEEP and the Connecticut Coalition have been working to secure funding.

- Working to remove EPA's administrative barriers so we can move forward without additional approvals
  - Still going to do community and stakeholder engagement before finalizing technical assistance offerings, but minimizing the number of approvals needed from EPA to keep moving forward
- Financial assistance options approved by EPA; there is limited flexibility depending on market conditions and community needs
- Technical assistance categories approved by EPA; design and implementation is open-ended for most
  - Office of Workforce Strategy to conduct a workforce needs assessment to inform workforce development
  - Technical support for communities and support for community engagement need input
  - Building audits for Green Bank and CHFA financed multifamily projects
- DEEP is working on quality assurance plans that EPA requires- one of the last EPA requirements before funds can be deployed
- DEEP is working on contracts with the Connecticut Green Bank and Connecticut Housing Finance Authority to deploy financial assistance



# Community Engagement



## 2024

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- Presented to CEEJAC Energy Subcommittee in May and full CEEJAC in June
- Held a public meeting in August and accepted public comments into September
  - Received feedback about the importance of enabling upgrades
  - Heard about permitting challenges
  - Heard about the need for a seamless customer experience
  - Received feedback about the need for community education about solar and energy storage technologies

## 2025

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- Survey for municipal leaders is [live](#)
- Request for Written Comment regarding implementation of new financial assistance and technical assistance offerings
- RFP(s) for subgrantee(s) for community engagement and education
- Selected subgrantee(s) will come up with a specific engagement plan

# Project SunBridge Timeline - 2025

Timeline 

Subject to change

## Jan-Mar

- Finish quality assurance planning
- Finalize contracts with Green Bank and CHFA
- Issue request for written comment
- Collect responses to municipal survey

## Apr-Jun

- Multifamily financial assistance products start to become available
- Issue request(s) for proposals for subgrantee(s) for community engagement and education

## Jul-Sep

- Single-family financial assistance products start to become available
- Select subgrantee(s) for community engagement and education

## Sep-Dec

- Finalize plans for remaining technical assistance items



# Questions for the CEEJAC Energy Subcommittee



What networks or platforms should DEEP use to spread the word about requests for comment and RFPs to ensure a broad audience is reached?

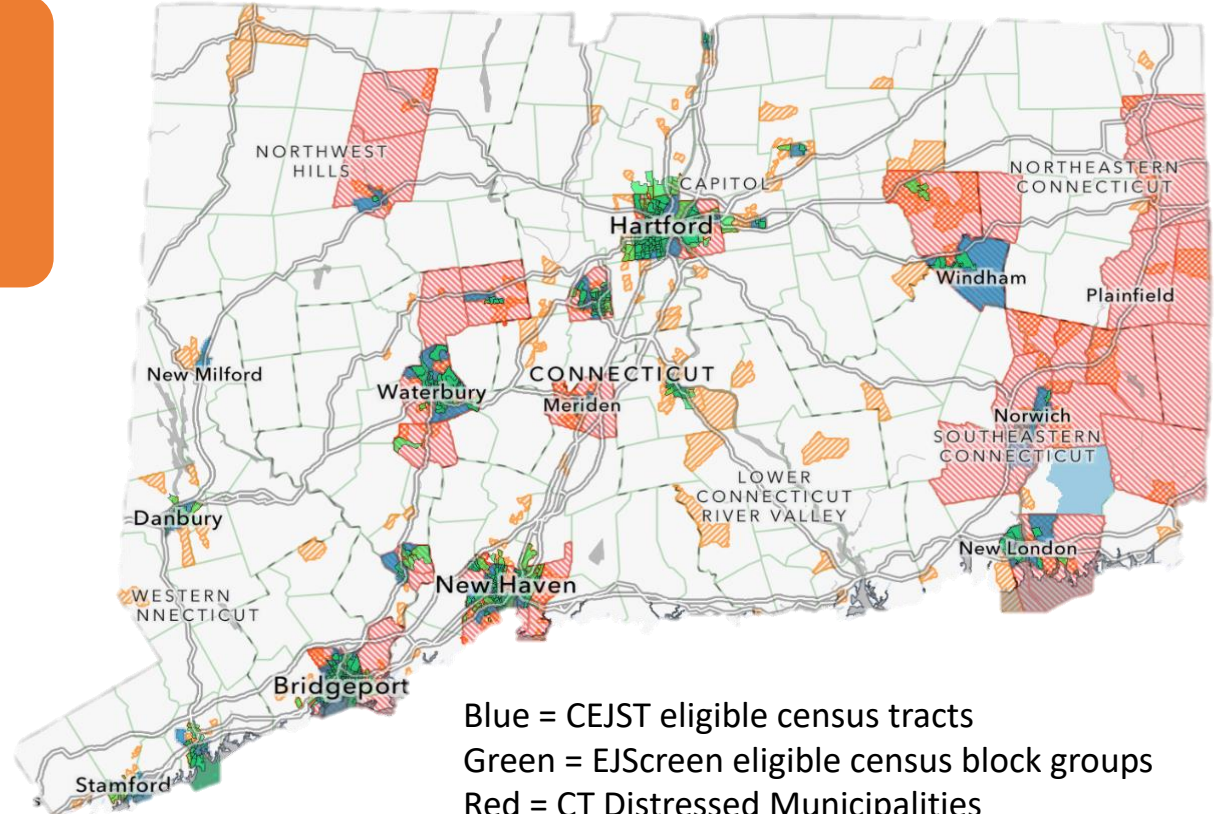
- DEEP has an email distribution list that people can sign up for through our webpage that we always distribute to
- DEEP can make social media posts (Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, X (Twitter))
- It is helpful for others to spread awareness of these opportunities through their networks

# Questions for the CEEJAC Energy Subcommittee



Should DEEP prioritize certain municipalities for engagement and education?

- Customers that meet the eligibility definition for "low-income and disadvantaged communities" will be eligible to receive funding
- Are there any areas that would specifically benefit from the engagement and education on the program and the technologies?



Blue = CEJST eligible census tracts  
Green = EJScreen eligible census block groups  
Red = CT Distressed Municipalities  
Orange = CT EJ census block groups

# Questions for the CEEJAC Energy Subcommittee



How can DEEP ensure the selected subgrantee has the trust of their community? What kind of questions should DEEP ask in the RFP to determine level of trust?

# Questions for the CEEJAC Energy Subcommittee

Next  
Steps 



What consumer protection measures might be necessary to ensure customers aren't taken advantage of?

# Thank you!

For questions, feedback, or to be added to our email distribution list, please contact:

[DEEP.EnergyBureau@ct.gov](mailto:DEEP.EnergyBureau@ct.gov)

