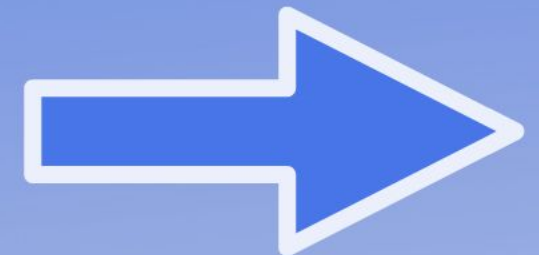


# WELCOME!

We'll be getting started shortly! In the meantime, here are some updates





# Upcoming CEEJAC Meetings

## **CEEJAC Energy & Technology Meeting (Virtual)**

**ISO New England and Grid 101**

**July 16, 2025 | 3:00-4:30 PM**

[Register for Zoom Meeting Link](#)

[Download Meeting Agenda](#)

## **CEEJAC Air & Transportation Meeting (Virtual)**

**CHEAPR: eBike & EV Incentives**

**July 30, 2025 | 5:30-7:00 PM**

[Register for Zoom Meeting Link](#)



Scan the  
code to visit  
the CEEJAC  
webpage



# Upcoming CEEJAC Meetings

## CEEJAC Quarterly Meeting (Virtual)

Monday, September 22, 2025 |

6:00-8:00 PM

[Register for Zoom Meeting Link](#)

## CEEJAC Quarterly Meeting (Hybrid)

December 2025 | Time TBD

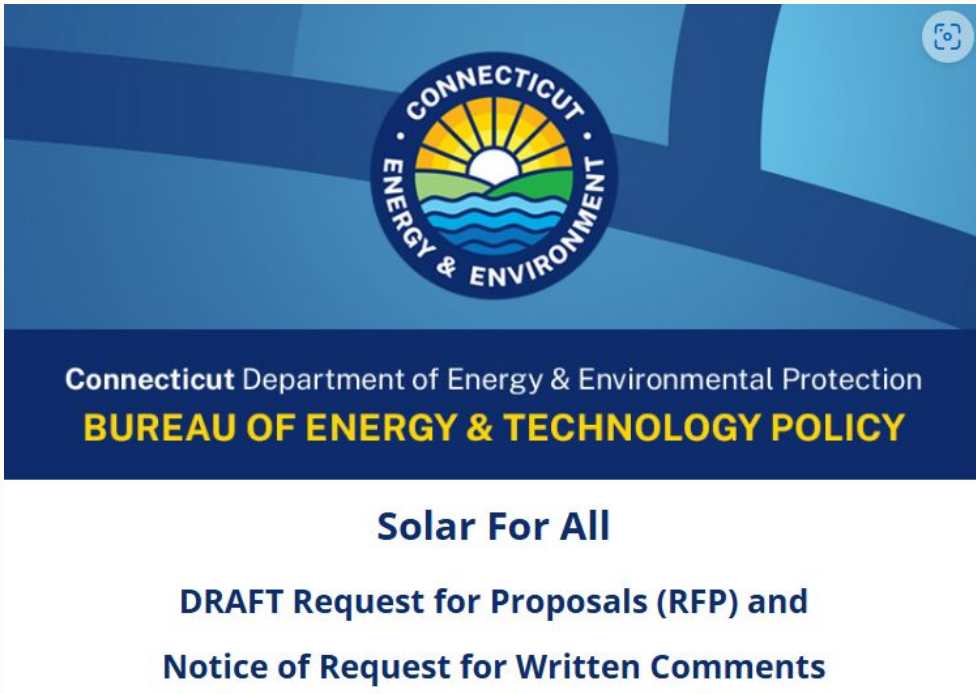
Waterbury, CT



Scan the  
code to visit  
the CEEJAC  
webpage



# Announcements from DEEP



DEEP will share more about this opportunity during this meeting!

DEEP has released a ***draft* Request for Proposals (draft RFP) for Solar for All Technical Assistance Providers**

Comments due **July 8, 2025**, by **4:00PM ET** by emailing [DEEP.EnergyBureau@ct.gov](mailto:DEEP.EnergyBureau@ct.gov)

**\*\*Potential opportunity for Community-Based Organizations and Capacity Support Organizations**



Scan the code to read draft RFQ



Scan the code to read Notice of Request for Written Comments



# Upcoming DEEP Events

## Dino Day at [Dinosaur State Park](#) Rocky Hill, CT

Saturday August 2, 2025; 10 am - 3 pm

Play games, visit partner tables, participate in science challenge stations and much more.



Scan the code  
for more NCLI  
information





# Upcoming DEEP Events

## Boating Day Event

Lake Waramaug State Park in Kent/New Preston, CT

Saturday July 26, 2025; 12 - 4 pm

Learn about all things boating then take a canoe or kayak out to paddle on the lake



Scan the code for  
more NCLI  
information







# DEEP Funding Opportunity Trees for Communities

**Eligible Entities:** State and local government entities, federally recognized tribes, non-profit organizations, and other eligible entities in Connecticut

**Purpose:** Support urban forestry projects that will increase tree cover

Maximum individual award is **\$200,000 with no match requirement.**

## Potential Project Ideas:

- Tree planting, stewardship, and maintenance
- Planning projects (e.g. tree inventories and forest management plans)
- Workforce development
- Invasive species management
- Urban wood utilization

Contact [DEEP.UCF.Grants@ct.gov](mailto:DEEP.UCF.Grants@ct.gov) with questions or for more information.

**Deadline  
August 31st at  
5:00 PM**



Scan the code for more  
grant program information



# Congrats DEEP Grant Recipients Urban and Community Forestry Grant



**Eastern Connecticut Conservation District, Inc. | Awarded \$15,776 |**  
*Anguilla Brook Northern Headwaters Restoration Project* | [Urban Forested Natural Areas and Riparian Corridor Restoration Grant Program](#)



Scan code to learn more about grant accomplishments

**Riverside Park Conservancy, Inc. | Awarded \$15,113 |**  
*Invasive Plant and Vine Removal in Bates Woods Park* | [Urban Forested Natural Areas and Riparian Corridor Restoration Grant Program](#)



Scan code to view a storymap of grant outcomes

**Town of Killingly | Awarded \$20,000 |**  
*Chase Reservoir Invasive Management* | [Urban Forested Natural Areas and Riparian Corridor Restoration Grant Program](#)





# WELCOME

## CEEJAC Quarterly Meeting

### June 26, 2025

***If you are online, Please introduce yourself in the chat:***

- *Name,*
- *Affiliation,*
- *Where you're calling from*

## What is CEEJAC?

Connecticut Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council is an appointed body of environmental justice residents and advocates, business and state agency representatives.

The council advises the Commissioner of DEEP on incorporation of environmental justice across DEEP's programs, policies, and activities.

# Acknowledgements

Thank you to Keith Hedrick, Mayor of the City of Groton and staff for hosting us here today!

***Special thanks to Cierra Patrick, CEEJAC Member!***

Also want to acknowledge local/state/federal elected officials in the room tonight:

Rep. Susan Johnson

Rep. Dan Gaiweski

Staff from Senator Chris Murphy's Office



# Connecticut Equity & Environmental Justice Advisory Council (CEEJAC)



*An advisory council to the Commissioner of DEEP on environmental justice issues. Contact [DEEP.CEEJAC@ct.gov](mailto:DEEP.CEEJAC@ct.gov)*

## What does the Council do?

The Council provides DEEP with up to date and on the ground learnings from CT residents and communities so that the agency can adapt and develop programs and policies that are accessible and inclusive and that address local needs.

## We need to hear from you and the communities that you serve about:

- ✓ new or expanded facilities, like waste incinerators
- ✓ trash and recycling
- ✓ affordable energy and energy efficiency programs
- ✓ accessing the outdoors – beaches, state parks, green spaces
- ✓ state's air quality and your health



### Become involved with CEEJAC by:

- Sharing your story and expertise
- Attending a meeting to learn more

# Learn more about CEEJAC's Subcommittees



## Energy & Technology Subcommittee

**Chair:** Jayson Velazquez, CT Green Bank

**Topics:** Energy affordability, energy efficiency



## Land Subcommittee

**Chair:** Yaw Darko, CT Land Conservation Council

**Topics:** Brownfields, remediation, conservation management, urban green space



## Air & Transportation Subcommittee

**Chair:** Alex Rodriguez, Save the Sound

**Topics:** Air quality, air monitoring, permitting and enforcement, clean transportation access



## Water Subcommittee

**Chair:** Cierra Patrick, City of Groton

**Topics:** Water quality, watershed planning, coastal access, coastal resilience, flooding



## Waste Subcommittee

**Co-Chairs:** Diane Lauricella, Norwalk Zero Waste Coalition  
Adrienne Farrar Houel, Greater Bridgeport Community Enterprises

**Topics:** Waste management strategies, new and expanding facilities, permitting, enforcement, and public hearings

**Scan here to visit our webpage to learn more about members, work, and upcoming meetings**





# Agenda

Connecticut Equity and  
Environmental Justice  
Advisory Council (CEEJAC)



- Welcome
- **Community Dialogues (*formerly known as Public Comment*)**
- Subcommittee Presentations
- **Discussion: Environmental Perspectives from Indigenous Communities**
- DEEP Updates and Announcements
  - **Update from Project SunBridge**

## Community Dialogue Responses from March 2025

Residents in Hamden's Newhallville are still experiencing health and housing concerns related to historical landfill and remediation projects

City of Stamford received an EPA grant to monitor air pollution - what is the status?

DOT needs to address issues of local trees and invasive species near highways in Bridgeport

Concerns about air quality around New Haven airport and what is being monitored

Concern about Capitol Area Systems and proposed use of a gas-fired power plant in Hartford

Invitation for CEEJAC to learn more from tribes

How are state agencies safeguarding data and privacy of undocumented residents at state-sanctioned events?



## Community Dialogues

Addressed during  
March 16, 2025  
Meeting



Community Dialogue Responses from March 2025	How is it being addressed?
Residents in Hamden's Newhallville are still experiencing health and housing concerns related to historical landfill and remediation projects	DEEP is working on a historical timeline of the history of remediation work, actors involved, funding engaged, and contact information.
City of Stamford received an EPA grant to monitor air pollution - what is the status?	Air monitors have been set up and are working
DOT needs to address issues of local trees and invasive species near highways in Bridgeport	Dept of Agriculture has been engaged to discuss removal of invasive species and continue monitoring (Reggy S)
Concerns about air quality around New Haven airport and what is being monitored	DEEP's Air Bureau will be hosting a meeting in October at their air monitoring lab
Concern about Capitol Area Systems and proposed use of a gas-fired power plant in Hartford	Council members submitted concerns to Commissioner Dykes and received feedback
Invitation for CEEJAC to learn more from tribes	Focus of today's meeting
How are state agencies safeguarding data and privacy of undocumented residents at state-sanctioned events?	Resources on next slide



**Community Dialogues**

# How are state agencies safeguarding data and privacy of undocumented residents at state-sanctioned events?

**CT TRUST Act protects immigrant communities by limiting when state and local law enforcement agencies can communicate with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)**

- Updates to the law include:
  - **Creates an enforcement and accountability mechanism** to the TRUST Act - meaning that if your rights are violated, you will be able to seek accountability.
  - Expands the law enforcement definition to **include juvenile probation officers, prosecutors** (including each state's attorney, assistant, and supervising state's attorney, and special deputy state's attorney), as well as **anyone paid by or working on behalf of the Division of Criminal Justice and the Board of Pardons and Paroles.**
- What was not included?
  - Provisions to Expand the TRUST Act beyond law enforcement agencies
  - Provisions to Protect our immigrant communities' personal data from being shared



## Community Dialogues

Facilitated by Alex Rodriguez

\*Please limit response to 3 minutes

Please share a topic or environmental justice issues you would like CEEJAC to consider

**OR**

Elaborate on topics raised during our retreat:

- EJ Regulations
- Energy efficiency & affordability
- Solar for All
- Access to green space
- CT Green Plan
- Eliminating barriers to ownership with EVs & E-Bikes
- Access to clean waterways
- Urban riparian zones
- Adjudication process
- Concerns related to facilities



## Subcommittee Presentations

Subcommittee chairs will present about ongoing work.

***We want to hear you on what needs further exploration, or what you want to hear more about***



## Water Subcommittee

### Subcommittee Chair:

Cierra Patrick, City of Groton

**Main Question:** How communities and residents can become engaged in cleaning and protecting local watersheds?

### Watershed Series:

- **March 6th** ~ Watersheds 101 presentation
- **March 31st** ~ Watershed Planning 101
- **April 9th** ~ Watershed debrief with Subcommittee
- **June 4th** ~ Watershed debrief with Subcommittee

### Problem Identification:

There is a gap in connecting models for resource management and coastal resilience with models of community resilience and empowerment.

### Work in Progress:

1. Information Gathering - what are the resources, who are the groups?
2. Identification of Barriers - conducting survey with partner organizations
3. Facilitate community match-making



## Waste Subcommittee

**Co-Chairs:** Diane Lauricella,  
Norwalk Zero Waste Coalition  
and Adrienne Farrar Houel,  
Greater Bridgeport Community  
Enterprises

**Main Focus:** Building awareness  
and skills about waste and  
recycling for new, expanding,  
and existing facilities as well as  
your home, school, business, or  
neighborhood

**March 18th** ~ Adjudications 101

**June 17th** ~ Enforcement 101 w/DEEP's Waste  
Division

**(Upcoming) Sept 2nd** ~ Enforcement 201

## Action Plan:

- Education about the permit adjudications process, why they matter, and the role you can play.
- Education about enforcement of the rules and how permitting works.
- Recycling and Reuse education best practices to save money and your neighborhood. Review of successful waste management programs that fit your neighborhood.
- Explore Green Job opportunities in the waste management business.





## Land Subcommittee

**Chair:** Yaw Darko, CT Land Conservation Council

**Main Focus:** Ways to engage in state planning efforts related to land and conservation

## Actions:

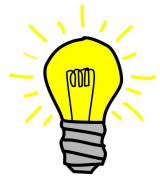
- **April 24th** - [CT Green Plan](#) Presentation w/ DEEP's Land Acquisition & Management Office
  - DEEP presented an overview of how they are hoping to engage stakeholders in the process of developing the Plan

Subcommittee was interested in a future meeting learning about:

- Data gaps of "open space" and new mapping tools
- Models for land stewardship that involves contracting with local community organizations
- Increasing # of applicants for Urban Green and Community Gardens Grant Program



## Energy & Technology Subcommittee



### Integrated Resources

**Plan:** 10-year plan that assesses state electricity needs and pathways to meet needs affordably

**ISO-NE** *operates regional power system, implements wholesale markets, ensures open access to transmission lines*

**Chair:** Jayson Velazquez, CT Green Bank

**Main Focus:** Supporting efforts around energy affordability and efficiency programs

- **March 19th:** Public Benefits Charge with Office of Consumer Counsel
- **April 2nd:** Community Renewable Energy Siting Tool (CREST) with DEEP
- **May 21st:** State Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) with DEEP
- **June 18th:** Energy Efficiency Board
- **July 8th:** Project SunBridge RFP Comments Due
- **July 16th:** ISO New England and Grid 101
- **Later in the year:** CT Green Bank 101



## Air & Transportation Subcommittee

**Chair:** Alex Rodriguez, Save the Sound

**Main Focus:** Organize community feedback on issues related to state and federal plans around **emissions, electric vehicles and bikes, public transportation, and air quality monitoring and standards**

## Action Plan:

- **July 30th** ~ Updates on CHEAPR (EV and eBike Purchase Incentive program)
- **October TBD** ~ Community-based Air Monitoring work at DEEP

What are the barriers to purchasing EV or eBikes in EJ Communities?

What do you want to learn about air monitoring in your community?

**Discussion:**  
**Environmental Perspectives from Indigenous Communities**  
***Facilitated by Danielle Russell, CT DEEP***

- **Rahiem Eleazer**, Environmental Liaison, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation
- **Brenda Geer**, Wandering Spirit, Vice Chairwoman, Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation
- **Clan mother Shoran Waupatukuay Piper**, Tribal Head Leader, Golden Hill Paugussett Tribal Nation

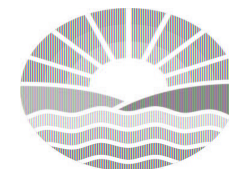
## **DEEP Updates & Announcements**



# Solar for All

CEEJAC Quarterly Meeting

June 26, 2025



**Connecticut**  
Department of E  
Environmental P  

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ENERGY & TECHNOLO



# Draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for Solar for All Technical Assistance Provider

DEEP seeks multiple entities to provide:

**Core Service A:** one or more community groups or cohorts to **provide outreach and education to low-income and disadvantaged communities** about how solar can be used to lower energy costs and the current financial offerings available through Project SunBridge, Connecticut's Solar for All program;

**Core Service B:** one or more entities that can act as a **solar ambassador** – someone that people can call or email with questions about solar and energy storage programs and that will act as a **leader for the cohort of entities** selected for Core Service A to facilitate a network of solar educators within communities, and

**Core Service C:** one or more entities that can **provide solar and energy storage permitting assistance to municipalities** for residential single and multifamily solar that help reduce the soft costs of solar installations for residential single-family and affordable multifamily housing properties and reduce the burden of increased solar permit applications on municipal workers

# Request for Written Comments

DEEP seeks written comments on the **Draft** RFP for Technical Assistance Providers. Please send comments to [DEEP.EnergyBureau@ct.gov](mailto:DEEP.EnergyBureau@ct.gov) by **July 8, 2025 by 4:00 PM ET**.

1. The draft RFP describes the scope of each proposed Core Service. Are there any areas requiring clarification or further detail? Are there any concerns or considerations that DEEP should be aware of in terms of ability to accomplish these Core Services? Are there technical assistance needs not covered by these Core Services that should be considered? Please explain your answer.
2. In addition to the Minimum Qualifications listed in Section I.B.7. of the draft RPF, what qualifications or characteristics should be considered for each of the Core Services? Please explain your answer.
3. How can DEEP measure the success or effectiveness of outreach and technical assistance efforts in each of the Core Services? What metrics or indicators, beyond those listed in Section II.D. of the draft RFP, should be included in reporting requirements to ensure transparency and accountability?
4. Is the current RFP timeline sufficient for community groups and other entities to respond? If not, please propose an alternative, suitable timeline and explain your answer.
5. Please share any additional recommendations, concerns, or insights that you believe would improve the structure, clarity, inclusiveness, or effectiveness of the final RFP.

# Connecticut Award

Overview 

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

---

- Upfront incentives for energy storage paired with solar systems financed through Solar for All (Green Bank)
- Single-family 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 



- 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

Overview 

- DEEP is working to execute contracts with the Green Bank and CHFA so they can start deploying funds
- DEEP is drafting an RFP for technical assistance providers for the categories “Technical support for communities deploying distributed solar and storage” and “Support for customer outreach, engagement, and community-based organizations”
  - DEEP will release a draft RFP and request for written comments on the draft so everyone can provide input on the RFP
  - DEEP expects to release the draft RFP within the next week and looks forward to providing more information during next week’s CEEJAC meeting





# Project SunBridge Timeline - 2025

Subject to change

## June

- Execute contracts with Green Bank and CHFA
- Issue draft request for proposals for subgrantee(s) for community engagement and education and request for written comments
- Multi-family financial assistance products start to become available

## Jul-Sep

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

## Sep-Dec

- Select subgrantee(s) for community engagement and education
- Finalize plans for remaining technical assistance items

# 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)





Contact us at:  
[DEEP.CEEJAC@ct.gov](mailto:DEEP.CEEJAC@ct.gov)

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# THANKS!