



MEETING OF THE CREST COLLABORATIVE

Kickoff Meeting
October 2, 2024

HOUSEKEEPING

Please mute yourself when not speaking

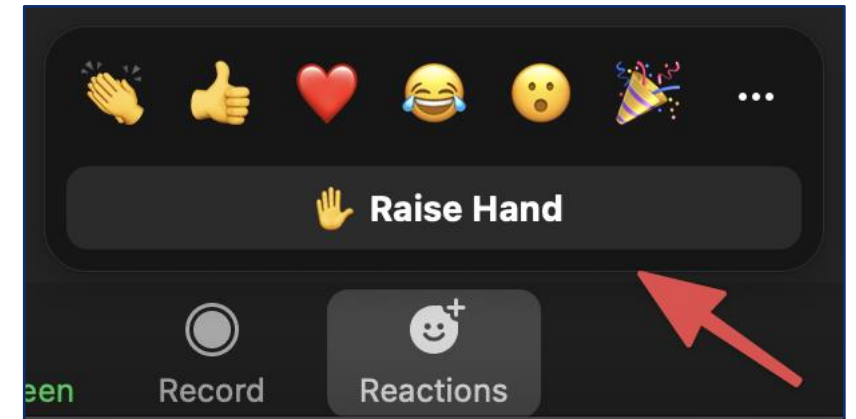
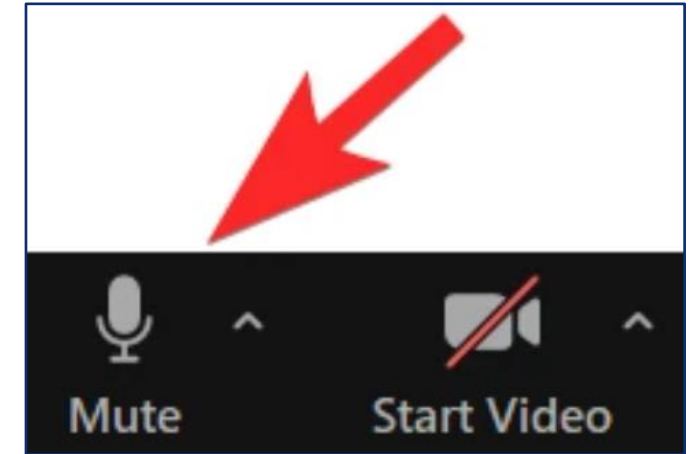
Make sure your name and organization is showing as your screen name

- To rename, click on the top right side of your picture/video

To be added to the speaking queue, please use Raise Hand

- Click Reactions, then Raise Hand

* Please refrain from referencing specific projects in active consideration for being sited, or official decisions of the CT Siting Council.



VISION FOR CREST AND SITING RENEWABLE ENERGY



Further Connecticut's clean energy goals – full decarbonization by 2040.



Enable a more transparent and efficient siting and permitting process.



Conserve Connecticut's environmental resources equitably in all communities.



Provide a tool with publicly available data that leads to the 3 goals above.

WHAT IS THE CREST COLLABORATIVE?

- **CREST** = Community Renewable Energy Siting Tool
- **Collaborative** = stakeholders working together to provide input on CREST
- Stakeholders
 - State, regional, and municipal representatives
 - Open space and farmland conservation groups
 - Solar industry representatives
 - Electrical utility representatives
 - Renewable energy/climate advocates



WHAT IS YOUR INTEREST IN SITING?

Introductions

- Name
- Organization you're representing
- How is renewable energy siting important to the organization you represent?



LOCAL AND STATE SITING ROLES

Municipal	State: CSC	State: DEEP + DOAG	State: PURA
Municipal commissions review generation facilities < 1 MW	CSC reviews generation facilities > 1 MW and transmission lines. Municipalities and elected officials consulted for input.	> 1 MW DEEP provides NDDDB (rare species) analysis, Environmental Review, and opportunity for pre-permit application assistance	Regulates utilities (interconnections, grid modernization, rates, etc.) and distribution lines
	Receives <u>petitions</u> for declaratory rulings (< 6 months), + <u>applications</u> for certificates of environmental compatibility and public need (< 12 months)	Letter of “No Material Affect” to CSC required for petitions > 2 MW affecting core forest (DEEP) or prime farmland (DOAG)	



UPDATES RELATED TO SITING

- STEPS – guidance
- 20BY26 Goal 14: Permitting for Decarbonization
- New Legislation in 2024
 - P.A. 24-31, Section 5 requires DEEP to produce a solar suitability map by mid-2025
 - P.A. 24-144, Section 12 requires DEEP to conduct a study on CT Siting Council by end of 2024



SUSTAINABLE, TRANSPARENT, AND EFFICIENT PRACTICES FOR SOLAR SITING (STEPS)

Guidance for Siting Solar on Brownfields (March 2023)

- Drafting team: DEEP (Office of Planning and Program Development and Bureau of Energy & Technology Policy) and DECD (Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development)
- Incorporation of Equity and Environmental Justice practices

DRAFT Guidance for Siting Solar on Agricultural Land (July 2023)

- Drafting team: DEEP (Office of Planning and Program Development and Bureau of Energy & Technology Policy) and Department of Agriculture
- Describes co-location of solar and agriculture in the same footprint

Permitting Info:

- [Solar Environmental Permitting Factsheet](#)
- [Offshore Wind \(staging\) Environmental Permitting Factsheet](#)

Posted on [STEPS Website](#) for stakeholder feedback
(DEEP.STEPS@ct.gov)



PERMITTING FOR DECARBONIZATION



WHY

Achieving a net-zero grid by 2040 requires deployment of new resources – making better information available and providing better predictability helps suitable projects succeed



STRATEGY

Develop a broader programmatic approach for siting projects - building on progress already made by STEPs and Commission on Environmental Standards – while protecting or natural resources and environment



ACTIONS

- Following through on best permitting practices for renewable energy – solar, wind, battery storage
- Creating a clean energy suitability siting map and tool

Learn More:

- [20BY26 webpage](#)
- [20BY26 winter/spring 2024 report](#)
- [Sign up](#) to receive email updates on DEEP's 20BY26 Initiative

PUBLIC ACT 24-31, SECTION 5

By **May 2025**, requires DEEP, in consultation with DOAG and DECD, to submit:

- “information regarding the potential siting of solar projects in the state. [DEEP] shall submit such information in a format that can be overlaid onto existing grid interconnection maps maintained by the electric distribution companies, as defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes.”



PUBLIC ACT 24-144, SECTION 12

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL STUDY

(P.A. 24-144, SEC 12)

INITIATIVES	JUNE				JULY				AUGUST				SEPTEMBER				OCTOBER				NOVEMBER				DECEMBER									
	3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30			
INITIAL INTERNAL MEETINGS	█	█	█	█																														
CONTRACTING CONSULTANT/S	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█																				
LEGAL AND LITERATURE REVIEW (details in research questions doc)							█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█																				
MEETINGS WITH STATE AGENCIES															█	█	█	█	█															
OTHERS TO INTERVIEW FOR INPUT															█	█	█	█	█															
FIRST DRAFT (details in TOC doc)															█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█										
DEEP INTERNAL APPROVALS																				█	█	█	█	█										
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD + REVISING FINAL REPORT																									█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Submission of report to to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly																																		

CURRENT WEEK

DRAFT STUDY

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

DEEP Auditorium November 21ST @ 6:00 pm

FINAL STUDY TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NOTE: DEEP IS REQUIRED TO CONSULT WITH THE FOLLOWING STATE AGENCIES
 ▶ Office of the Governor ▶ Office of Policy and Management ▶ Connecticut Siting Council ▶
 Department of Agriculture ▶ Department of Economic and Community Development ▶
 Department of Housing ▶ Department of Public Health ▶ Department of Transportation ▶ Council
 on Environmental Quality ▶ Public Utilities Regulatory Authority ▶ Office of Consumer Counsel



CSC STUDY

(REQUIRED IN P.A. 24-144, SEC. 12)

- **CT Siting Council History, Jurisdiction & Responsibilities**
- **CSC Structure**
- **CSC Internal Processes & Procedures**
- **CSC External/Outreach Processes & Procedures**
- **CT Siting Council Project Evaluation and Approval**
- **CT Siting Council Project Oversight post-approval**





Questions?
or
Additional Updates from CREST
Collaborative Members?

RENEWABLE ENERGY SITING TOOL DATA

For Discussion / Next Steps:

- What information (e.g., GIS / spatial data) would be helpful for you to see in a tool to address your goals related to renewable siting?

Additional comments may be submitted
to: DEEP.STEPS@ct.gov



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVICE



Discussion on information for consideration in CREST (e.g., GIS layers / spatial data)



Public comment meeting on CSC Study November 21, 2024



Initial advisory feedback on DRAFT solar suitability map due by May 2025

ORGANIZATIONS AND RESOURCES

- [Connecticut Land Conservation Council](#)
- [National Audubon Society](#)
- [People's Action for Clean Energy \(PACE\)](#)
- [Acadia Center](#)
- [AFT CT Smart Solar Report](#)
- [DOAG Solar and Farming Overview – CT Siting Council Petitions](#)
- [DEEP's Forestland Habitat Impact Map](#)
- [PACE's Study of the Potential of Solar Canopies in CT](#)
- [Scenic Hudson's Guide to Siting Renewables in the Lower Hudson Valley](#)
- [PACE's 2020 Webinar on Responsible Siting of Renewables](#)
- [Machine-learning Modules from ESRI for Feature Detection](#)
- [Roadway Siting Organization, The Ray](#)
- [Eversource's DG Hosting Capacity Map](#)

