



STEPS for Solar Development

July 19, 2021

6:30 pm



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Zoom Translator

- If you prefer to hear the presentation in Spanish, you can click on the **Interpretation** button in the Zoom controls and select the Spanish channel.
- A Spanish translator will deliver the presentation in Spanish, and will be available during the comment session.
- To view the slides in Spanish, go to <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Planning/Steps-for-Solar-Development>



Interpretation 

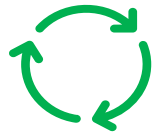


Meeting Agenda

- **6:30-6:45:** DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes opening remarks, introductions, and overview of STEPS for Solar Development
- **6:45-8:15:** Opportunity for public comments on questions identified in Scoping Notice
- **8:15-8:30:** Next steps & opportunity for Q&A



What is STEPs?



Sustainable,



Transparent, and



Efficient



Policies for Solar Development



Why is DEEP running this process?

1. Guide the design of CT's clean energy programs to ensure continued development of solar energy in the state without harming communities or the environment.
2. Achieve the goals of the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) and DEEP's energy plans.



Who should participate?

- **Anyone interested in solar development!**
- Solar energy developers
- Town zoning & permitting officials
- Environmental advocates
- Research organizations
- Equity and environmental justice advocates
- Other states
- Community leaders
- Elected officials
- Connecticut citizens



What is DEEP's plan for this process?

1. Receive input from stakeholders on the proposed scope, covered topics, and goals of STEPs
2. Hold a series of listening sessions over the summer of 2021 to learn more from stakeholders on the covered topics
 - Receive written comments on these topics too
3. Prepare a draft set of recommended policies based on what is learned through this process
4. Use lessons learned to inform Connecticut's renewable energy programs



Proposed Topics for Listening Sessions

Location

- What is the preferred location(s) for solar projects?

Environmental & Societal Impacts

- How could the location of a solar project affect forests, farmland, and environmental justice?

Design & Construction

- What are the best practices for the design and construction of solar projects?

Regulatory

- How to improve the regulatory and permitting processes for solar projects.

Brownfields & Landfills

- What are the challenges of building solar on brownfields & landfills?

State Contracts

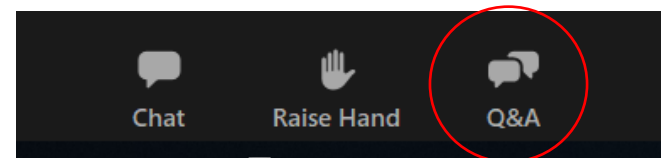
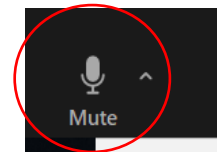
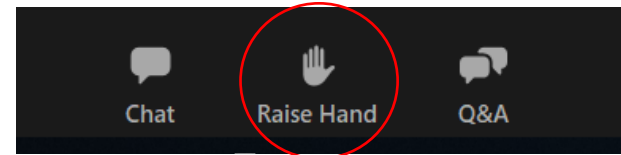
- What are ways to improve state-led renewable energy purchases?



How to Comment Today

To let us know you would like to speak:

1. Raise your hand by pressing the raise hand button at the bottom of your screen
2. DEEP will call your name as it is displayed on Zoom and you will get a notice to unmute yourself
3. Unmute yourself in Zoom, and on your phone if you have called in for audio.
4. Please state and spell your name and affiliation
5. Please try to keep your comments to 3:00min
6. If you would like to submit your question in writing, please enter it into the Q&A box, the chat box is not available during today's meeting.
7. If you are using the Spanish channel, please return to the English channel and the Translator will translate your question and our answer.



Stakeholder Questions for Discussion

1. Do you agree with the proposed topics to be covered by the STEPS process? Should they be changed in any way?
2. Which proposed topic is the most important to you? Why?
3. What benefits would you want if a solar project was built in your community?
4. What concerns would you have if a developer wanted to build a solar project in your community?
5. What kind of lands or locations do you think are best for solar projects?
6. What organizations or people should be included or consulted in the STEPS process?



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Please conclude



Next Steps in the STEPS Process

- You can send written comments on to DEEP.STEPS@ct.gov
 - Please use the subject line “RE: STEPS”
 - There will be additional opportunities to comment throughout the summer
- The recording of today’s meeting will be made available at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Planning/Steps-for-Solar-Development>
- DEEP will issue a proposed schedule and, as necessary, revised objectives, types of facilities, topics and process
- Other information on the process is also available at the above link
- **Questions?**

