



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

Scoping Meeting STEPS for Solar Development

June 16, 2021

10:00am-12:00pm



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Scoping Meeting Agenda

- **10:00-10:15:** DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes opening remarks, introductions, and overview of STEPS for Solar Development
- **10:15-11:00:** Opportunity for public comments on questions identified in Scoping Notice
- **11:02-11:07:** Break
- **11:05-11:45:** Continued opportunity for public comments on questions identified in Scoping notice
- **11:45-12:00:** Next steps & opportunity for Q&A



STEPS for Solar Development

- Advancing the recommendations of the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and Governor's Climate Change Council (GC3)
- DEEP is seeking stakeholder engagement on STEPS for Solar Development
- Goals of **Sustainable, Transparent and Efficient Practices for (STEPS)** for solar development
 - **identify policies, legislative actions, and best practices, particularly related to the procurement, siting, and permitting of ground-mounted solar systems in Connecticut .**
- All three Branches of DEEP, Environmental Conservation, Environmental Quality and Energy are actively engaged and participating in this proceeding



Tentative Facility Scope

DEEP proposes this process focus on:

- “New solar photovoltaic facilities developed in Connecticut that are grid-scale projects in front of the meter and larger projects under the virtual net metering and/or LREC/ZREC programs.”



Tentative Objectives

- Ensure that new solar generation projects can be sited and built in a sustainable, transparent and efficient and manner;
- Include consideration of local laws concerning zoning, the environment or public health and safety;
- Avoid, or minimize and mitigate, to the maximum extent practicable, adverse impacts on the environment, agricultural, and natural resources;
- Promote equity and environmental justice through community engagement; and
- Ensure that state and/or ratepayer-supported procurements align with the objectives, above.



Proposed Topics for Listening Sessions

- 1.) Preferential solar siting criteria which will take into consideration factors including but not limited to natural resources and habitats, water quality and quantity, topography, equity, and degree of development;
- 2.) Benefits and potential challenges associated with the location of the solar facility, including but not limited to core forest, prime agricultural land, wetlands, and environmental justice communities;
- 3.) Types of design and construction practices available to both maximize the energy efficiency of solar projects and minimize detrimental impact to natural resources, community resources and the environment and implementation challenges such as the timing of the in-service date;



Proposed Topics for Listening Sessions

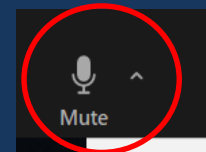
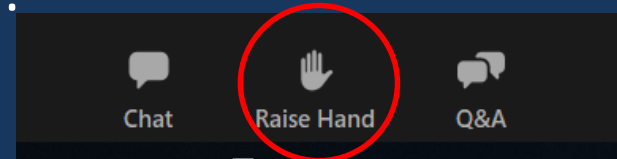
- 4.) Opportunities to optimize regulatory and permitting requirements and processes depending upon the size of the solar project and siting considerations including sequential steps and opportunities to streamline the process;
- 5.) Siting and permitting challenges specific to developing previously disturbed land such as brownfields and landfills;
- 6.) Types of incentives, selection weighting factors, and timing of commitments relating to siting that may increase the effectiveness of a solicitation, including but not limited to DEEP-run procurements, LREC/ZREC, and shared clean energy facilities (SCEF).



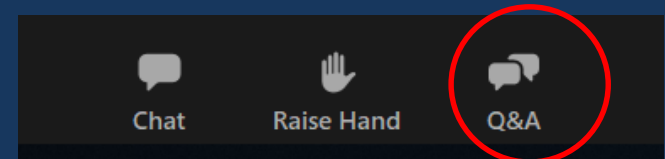
Procedure for Giving Comment

To indicate interest in speaking please:

1. Raise your hand by pressing the raise hand button at the bottom of your screen
2. We 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. If you would like to submit your question in writing, please enter it into the Q&A box, the chat has been disabled for this event.



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Stakeholder Questions for Discussion

- Do you agree with the **Tentative Objectives**? Should they be modified in any way?
- Do you agree with the **Tentative Facility Scope**? Should it be broadened or narrowed? Should other renewable or non-renewable facility types be included, now or in the future?
- Do you agree with the **Proposed Topics**? Should they be modified in any way?
- How should the stakeholder engagement process be organized? What entities or stakeholders should be included or consulted?



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Please conclude



Next Steps in the STEPS Process

- An additional, evening session for this Scoping meeting is in process of being scheduled
- Written comments on Scoping Notice may be submitted to DEEP.OPPD@ct.gov
 - subject line “RE: STEPS”
 - additional opportunities to comment on each topic will be provided
- 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?**

