

# STEPS for Solar Development in Connecticut

*Sustainable, Transparent, and Efficient Practices*



**What is the STEPS Process?** STEPS stands for “Sustainable, Transparent, and Efficient Practices.” The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is running a process to identify the best STEPS for siting, permitting, and construction of ground-mounted solar energy projects in Connecticut. This process will also help guide the design of existing State-run clean energy programs.

**Who should participate?** DEEP wants to hear from **ANYONE** who is interested in solar energy development.

**How to participate:** DEEP is hosting a virtual public meeting to receive comments on which solar development topics and issues the STEPS process should cover. Participants can choose to attend the session and share their thoughts by registering at the link below, or they can send in written comments to [DEEP.STEPS@ct.gov](mailto:DEEP.STEPS@ct.gov) with the subject line “RE: STEPS.”

**July 19, 2021, 6:30p.m. Public Meeting**

**Register Here:** [https://ctdeep.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_7QMODh5pSJiqK445Wa9wsQ](https://ctdeep.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7QMODh5pSJiqK445Wa9wsQ)

## Proposed Goals of STEPS

1. Help guide the design of solar development in CT to ensure it will not harm communities or the environment.
2. Achieve the goals of the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) and DEEP's energy plans.

## Proposed Topics Covered by STEPS

1. Preferred location for solar projects;
2. How the location of a solar project can affect forests, farmland, wetlands, and environmental justice communities;
3. Best practices for the design and construction of solar projects;
4. How to improve the regulatory and permitting processes for solar projects;
5. Challenges of building solar on brownfields & landfills; and
6. Ways to improve state-led renewable energy purchases.

## DEEP's Questions for Participants

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?

Find more information on STEPS at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Planning/Steps-For-Solar-Development>