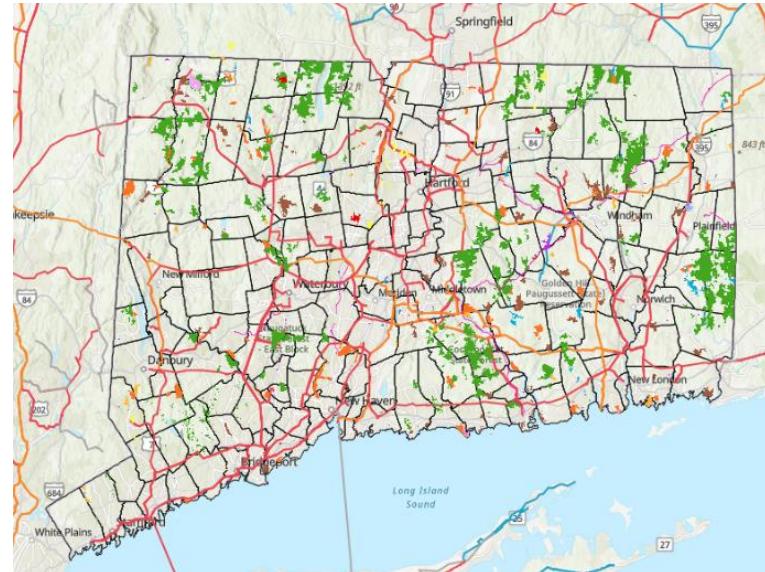




FACT SHEET

What is CREST?

CREST stands for Community Renewable Energy Siting Tool. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is designing CREST, in partnership with the University of Connecticut's Center for Land Use Education and Research (UConn CLEAR), to further Connecticut's clean energy goals by enabling a more transparent and efficient siting and permitting process for large-scale renewable energy projects, while at the same time protecting Connecticut's environmental and natural resources. CREST uses Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping to display data in a compelling, easy-to-access format.



DEEP

- Leads efforts such as the [Sustainable, Transparent, and Efficient Practices for Solar Development](#) (STEPS) to provide guidance for better siting, permitting, and installation of solar projects.
- Conducts energy procurements and has a central role in planning to ensure Connecticut meets statewide goals for zero-carbon energy.
- Must fulfill two public acts passed in 2024 related to renewable energy siting:
 - [P.A. 24-31](#) requires DEEP to produce a map regarding the “potential siting of solar projects in the state” by May 2025
 - [Tangentially, P.A. 24-144](#) requires DEEP to publish a report by the end of 2024 on the processes, practices, and effectiveness of the Connecticut Siting Council

UConn CLEAR

- Offers data, tools, educational workshops, and vast experience assisting municipalities, businesses, and individuals in their efforts to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

CREST Collaborative

- The CREST Collaborative was formally convened by DEEP and UConn CLEAR in October 2024 to advise on the development, testing, and distribution of CREST.
- This advisory group is comprised of representatives from over 20 organizations, spanning municipalities and regional councils of government; community-based organizations advocating for farmland, open space, wildlife, and renewable energy outcomes; electric utilities; solar developers; and other partners.