



Demand for the Development and Enhancement of the Current Solar Energy Program in CT
Response to HB5427

To whom it may concern,

We at C-TEC Solar, LLC aspire to promote and be a part of the expansion of Community Solar programs adopted by the CT State Legislature. Following is a list of what we and others deem important considerations in the development of a sustainable state program.

1.) Shared Solar is important for 80 percent of CT residents that have restricted access to clean energy resources due to:

- Economic barriers such as poor credit.
- Poor roof orientation or a lack of structural roof integrity.
- SHADE.

2.) The current program is inadequate:

- Virtual Net Metering must be expanded; as of right now, fewer than 10 ground-mount projects over the size of 1 MW are being reviewed by the CT Siting Council.
- It limits overall capacity.
- As a "pilot" program, it is characterized as being inherently limited; it ENDS.

3.) As CT competes against MA in the push for commercial solar installation, it is lagging. Although MA is currently struggling with proposed solar policy, it is a respectable competitor and dwarfs CT capacity.

The following is info compiled using 2014 data from SEIA:

MA:

- The **944 MW of solar energy currently installed in Massachusetts** ranks the state sixth in the country in installed solar capacity. There is enough solar energy installed in the state to power 151,000 homes.



- There are currently more than **403 solar companies** at work throughout the value chain in Massachusetts, **employing 15,100 people**.

CT:

- Currently, there are more than **154 solar companies** at work throughout the value chain in Connecticut, **employing 2,000 people**.

- In 2014, Connecticut installed **45 MW** of solar electric capacity, ranking it 17th nationally.

- The **192 MW** of solar energy currently installed in Connecticut ranks the state 16th in the country in installed solar capacity. There is enough solar energy installed in the state to power 26,000 homes.

By instituting structure that reflects considerations based upon MA policy failures we can develop a program that is sustainable. We must have access to RECs on a reasonable timescale but, in the long run, support a continuously increasing capacity. A suggestion would be to preserve the nature of how RECs are applied for but increase the frequency at which they are available; a semiannual or quarterly auction. Concurrently, the long term requirements for renewable generation capacities could be increased; solar as a higher percentage of overall sourcing.

4.) In terms of general per capita income, and using a conventional understanding of the State funding structure employed in generating L/ZREC funding (i.e.: the fiscal responsibility is ultimately passed to the ratepayers), CT is of the financial capacity to consider the funding of such as, "affordable". Further, the general political attitude towards clean energy supports its expansion: we want it.

Sincerely,

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