

# Community Solar: Clean Energy Jobs, Bill Savings and Economic Benefits for All Connecticut

## Connecticut Legislators Should Jumpstart State's Community Solar Program

**Community solar** is a simple policy that enables flexible solar siting, helps achieve Connecticut's solar energy goals at a lower cost, drives private investment and employment in the state, and expands access to affordable, clean energy for underserved communities, low income individuals, and affordable housing.

**15 states and the District of Columbia** have established community solar programs since 2010. It's time for Connecticut to ensure that all families, especially in low-income and urban communities, have the opportunity to participate in our state's growing clean energy economy through a community solar program.

**75%** of Connecticut residents and businesses cannot participate directly in the clean energy economy via traditional rooftop solar.

### Community solar expands access to underserved communities and low-income individuals.

- Families, individuals and businesses in low-income communities are more likely to be in multi-family or tenant buildings, to lease their space and to have unsuitable roofs.
- Community solar allows renters, low-income individuals and underserved communities to go solar at lower costs with greater program flexibility.
- A robust statewide program can provide cost-saving solar energy solutions for low-income residents with the greatest financial energy burden.

### Community solar creates jobs and drives private investment across the state.

- Last year, Connecticut's solar energy workforce grew by 11%.<sup>1</sup>
- A 200 MW state-wide community solar program would bring over \$374,000,000 in local economic benefits.
- An additional \$81 million will be generated in local property tax revenues.<sup>3</sup>
- Cities and towns stand to reduce their operational budgets, bring in new tax and leasing revenues, and reach their own clean energy goals with community solar.

**2,578 jobs** would be created in 2018 by a new community solar program in cities and towns across the state.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Solar Foundation (2016). Solar Jobs Census 2016. Accessed online, <https://solarstates.org/#state/connecticut/counties/solar-jobs/2016>.

<sup>3</sup> Vote Solar (2017), Connecticut Community Solar Jobs Report. Not yet published.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

## Neighboring State Successes: Economic Benefits in Massachusetts

- 194 MW in 48 projects have been developed or are under development across 30 towns in the Commonwealth already.
- The Commonwealth's community solar program brought in over \$154,000,000 in private investment in just the first couple years.
- Massachusetts recently announced they aim to provide more than \$4.5 million in energy savings for low-income households.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Ola, Daniella (2017). Massachusetts Governor Makes a Push for Solar and Low-Income Access to Renewables. PVTech. Accessed online, <https://www.pv-tech.org/news/massachusetts-governor-makes-a-push-for-solar-and-low-income-access-to-rene>.