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.

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%.  

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.  
- 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.

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

2,578 jobs would be created in 2018 by a new community solar program in cities and towns across the state.  

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3 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.²