



Coalition for Sensible Solar Regulation

Background

To meet its clean energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goals, Connecticut must deploy large amounts of solar and storage. Building these resources represents a significant economic opportunity for businesses in the state, creating local jobs and stimulating economic development.

However, current regulations unnecessarily restrict the potential of these programs. These regulations include:

- Program caps on renewable programs, including:
 - 50 MW for commercial (up to 2 MW)
 - 25 MW for Shared Clean Energy Facilities (SCEF) and
 - 10 MW for low-emission projects
- A \$30 million cap for Virtual Net Metering (VNM)
- A limit of the size of an array to local electric load

As a result of these constraints, a large number of commercial and community solar projects are stranded, and projects are undersized relative to their potential. With these constraints in place, Connecticut will not achieve its own clean energy targets without excessive reliance on grid-scale and out-of-state resources and by extending Millstone.

These programs are powerful tools to advance energy equity; expanding them will disproportionately benefit underserved populations.

Raising these program caps can be done at negligible ratepayer impact and is an essential step toward building a more equitable, resilient and lower cost electric grid.

Legislative Recommendations

1. Revise CGS § 16-244z by doubling the current program caps
 - a. Allocate the increase to projects in distressed communities
 - b. Enable Electric Distribution Companies (EDCs) to recover direct program costs less system benefits in nonbypassable charges
2. Remove the restriction in Section (4) of CGS. § 16-244z which states that eligible projects “shall be sized so as not to exceed the load at the customer's individual electric meter....”
 - a. On this excess load, reduce compensation to generators by 2.5 cents per kWh and use these funds to support low and moderate income (LMI) customers
 - b. Ensure tax standardization on projects exceeding local load (up to 5 MW)
3. Rescind Virtual Net Metering Cap in CGS § 16-244u
4. Adopt a program adder of 6 cents per kWh for solar canopies, unleashing the benefits of this valuable resource