



THE PROBLEM

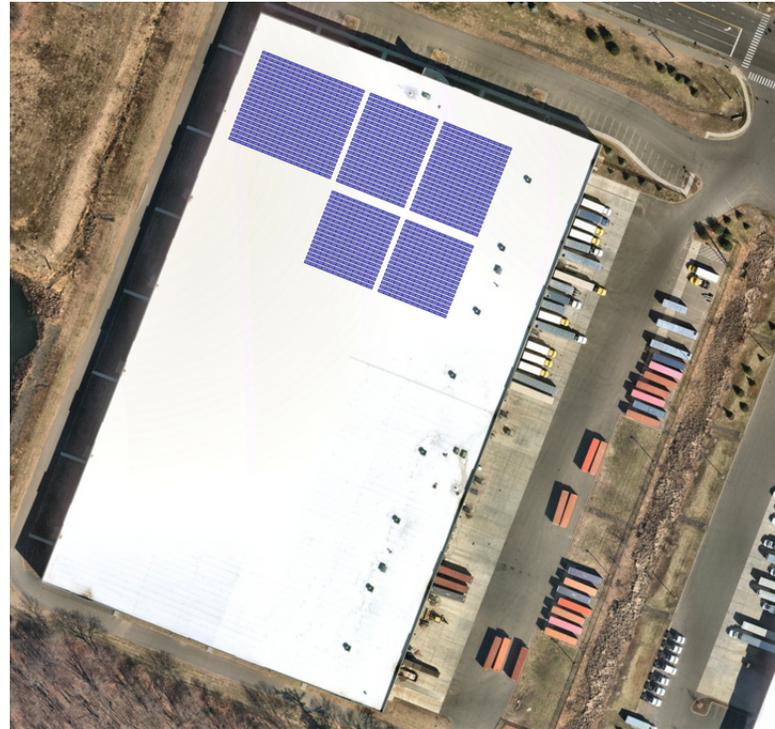
Connecticut has set ambitious goals for addressing climate change, including a 45% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 and a zero-carbon grid by 2040. Unfortunately, commercial solar development in Connecticut has been held back by outdated regulatory restrictions, including:

- a cap of 85 megawatts (MW) on renewable energy programs, comprising 50 MW for commercial solar, 25 MW for shared clean energy facilities (SCEF) and 10 MW for low-emission projects and
- a limit of the size of a solar array to the local electric load.

These constraints will prevent Connecticut from achieving 100% zero-carbon electricity generation in time to address climate change. They represent a missed economic opportunity for businesses in the state, and they lead to increased solar development on farmlands and forests.

THE START OF A SOLUTION

Legislation can remove these constraints and unleash the potential of commercial solar in Connecticut. **We propose a doubling of the commercial program caps and removal of the limitation of a project to local electric load.** Together, these acts will allow greater and more efficient siting of local solar in Connecticut with the added benefit of achieving greater economies of scale; not impacting farm and forest land; and creating local jobs—all without significantly impacting the cost to ratepayers.



Above: A rooftop that could be producing much more clean, renewable energy for Connecticut.

FAST FACTS

- Connecticut cannot reach its interim energy goals with the caps in place
- Viable solar projects are being stranded due to program limits
- The impact on ratepayer bills of doubling solar caps would be less than 17 cents per month
- Commercial solar is an effective tool for advancing energy equity by giving preference to distressed communities and SCEF is instrumental in lowering energy costs to vulnerable populations
- Benefits include greater energy equity, avoided emissions, cleaner air, better health, green jobs and economic development, preservation of forests and farmland, grid resiliency, and energy independence