

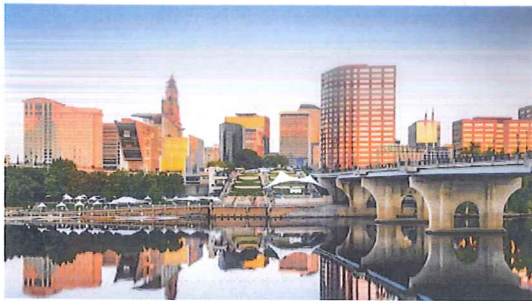
Municipal Solar Scorecards for Connecticut

Background

Solar PV is the fastest growing clean energy sector in the United States and Connecticut residents have been keen to capitalize on the benefits. Over the past three fiscal years, residential solar PV project volume in Connecticut has more than doubled, annually.

With new policies that expand the state's goal for residential solar PV deployment to 300 megawatts, both municipalities and installers will be busy meeting residential solar demand in coming years.

Scorecard goals



Why are scorecards needed?

As with any index, the scorecards cannot capture all nuances. But they will be an effective way to identify potential issue areas in a way that is useful to elected officials, municipal staff, residents, and installers. The Solar Scorecards will identify where each municipality is doing well and where and how it can optimize its processes. But in the end peers will provide the best advice. The scorecards identify high-performing peer municipalities that can serve as models to be replicated.

Demand for data-driven and comprehensive analysis is driven by...

- Piecemeal analyses of solar barriers in Connecticut municipalities;
- Limited resources within municipalities to assess solar performance and identify best practices;
- Recognition that residential solar permitting is increasing and that municipalities affect overall solar installation costs and diffusion rates;
- High demand for solar by Connecticut residents;
- Understanding that one solution may not work for all municipalities.



In Connecticut...

Over 8,000 households have installed solar on their roofs or in their yards.

5,500 more are in the process of going solar.

For municipal governments, growth in residential solar PV adoption essentially means staff will be devoting more time to solar permits and inspections.

To assist municipalities in developing policies and procedures that support residential solar deployment and facilitate straightforward solar installation, the Yale Environmental Performance Index is creating a Municipal Solar Scorecard System for Connecticut. These scorecards will provide data-driven and comprehensive insights into the state of solar power in all of Connecticut's cities and towns.

The scorecards will assess how effectively municipalities manage the solar permitting processes. They will also illuminate the extent to which municipal programs and regulations are supportive of residential solar installations.

Indicators

The Scorecards will assess how well municipalities perform in six broad action-oriented categories. Within these areas, we will transparently score municipal performance on over a dozen indicators.



Time



Process



Performance



Availability of information



Cost



Policy

We want your input into how the scorecards can be designed to help your community. Please contact daniel.macri@yale.edu to provide feedback or ask questions.