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CFE/Save the Sound optimistic about shared solar program final rules

New Haven, Conn. – On Wednesday, Connecticut’s Public Utilities Regulatory Commission released its [final decision](#) for the Statewide Shared Clean Energy Facility Program (aka Shared Solar).

“With eight out of ten households currently not able to benefit from clean, renewable solar energy because they rent, have shady roofs, or can’t afford the cost of solar panel installations, a robust shared solar program is critical for Connecticut’s consumers, climate, and economy,” **said Charles Rothenberger, climate and energy attorney for Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound.** “We are hopeful the new program structure will ensure a smooth process that will grow a healthy local solar market that’s profitable for solar developers, affordable and convenient for residents at all income levels, workable for electric utilities, and better for the climate.”

CFE supports PURA’s decision to streamline the subscription process and reduce the administrative burden on shared solar project developers by transferring responsibility for identifying and enrolling subscribers to the electric utilities. We also strongly support the revised program structure which expressly authorizes previously allocated, but unbuilt, megawatt capacity to be added to the cap for future solicitation years.

One area of the program that we will be watching is how successful the utilities are in subscribing the 20-percent voluntary enrollment portion of a project’s capacity. We are concerned that under the Modified Program Requirements, there is no incentive for the EDCs to subscribe this reserved 20-percent capacity, although they are required to advertise the availability of subscription capacity. As the program details are further developed, we will continue to advocate for strong outreach and partnerships between the utilities and third-parties to ensure full subscription.

“Along with the recent offshore wind procurement and making electric vehicles more available through improved infrastructure and strong rebates, a robust shared solar program is part of the mix that will enable Connecticut to reach its greenhouse gas reduction commitments and make sure everyone who lives in our state has a place in the clean energy revolution,” **said Rothenberger.**

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