

LONG ISLAND SOLAR ROADMAP CONSORTIUM CHARTER

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

Long Island is contributing significantly to build a clean energy future as part of the New York State's Reforming the Energy Vision ("REV"). Long Island is host to the State's first offshore wind project, three utility-scale solar arrays, a vibrant behind-the-meter rooftop solar market, the largest commitment to clean fuel cell technology, aggressive energy efficiency programs, the first utility-scale battery project, and plans for a behind-the-meter battery program.

Long Island is contributing to the State's Renewable Energy Goal with 328 MW AC of installed behind-the-meter-rooftop PV solar, 110 MW AC of PV solar generated directly to the electric grid, a commitment to purchase 90 MW from a planned offshore wind project, and continuing investment in clean energy technologies. To meet the state's goal of 50 percent renewable energy by 2030, Long Island, joined by the rest of the state, will need to do more.

The Long Island Solar Roadmap project, spearheaded by The Nature Conservancy in partnership with Defenders of Wildlife and funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, is aimed at advancing the pace of solar installations on Long Island (LI) by reducing siting conflicts and lowering the barriers to installations in low-impact sites like parking lots, large rooftops, and previously disturbed areas. To do so, we hope to build a shared understanding among a consortium of LI stakeholders and decision-makers (county and town governments, communities, property owners, solar industry professionals, and utilities) by:

Identifying where different kinds of generation can be sited (large rooftop installations, ground mounted on disturbed sites, etc.) based on current policies, solar insolation, and other information. This map will show the location of low-impact, suitable sites and provide an estimate of the maximum capacity that could potentially be installed there and general costs and benefits of these solar installations.

Overlaying these low-impact sites with current grid capacity to identify where new projects could go online now and where grid modifications or storage would be needed to utilize additional solar resources.

Conducting social science research and outreach to better understand how solar energy generation can be site, designed, and constructed in ways that meet the needs and preferences of LI communities and to inform project recommendations.

GOALS OF PROJECT

Increase the pace of solar energy installations on Long Island by 1) proactively engaging stakeholders to collaboratively identify low-impact, low-conflict sites, 2) evaluating the sites' technical, economic, and social feasibility, and 3) developing a set of recommendations, including strategies and actions that will

lower barriers to solar energy development on these sites and reduce siting conflicts.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Leadership Team, composed of Defenders of Wildlife, Nature Conservancy and Michigan Technical University staff, will be responsible for project design, execution, and administration. The Leadership Team, after consultation with the Consortium and Steering Committee, will also be responsible for the final recommendations and reports of the project.

Steering Committee members will be selected by the Leadership Team to provide guidance on the engagement with the Consortium, provide expertise to the project design, implementation, and final recommendations, and advise the leadership team on other related matters as needed. The Steering Committee members are also active members of the Consortium. The Steering Committee members commit to serving the full 2-year term of the project and are expected to meet at least once in-person and two or three times by conference call each year in addition to Consortium and working group meetings.

Consortium members (not to exceed 45 individuals including the Steering Committee members) are an advisory body and will be selected to represent a range of stakeholders, including local government, community leaders and landowners, local environmental advocates, land conservation organizations, solar industry professionals, and utilities. The Consortium serves as an advisory body to the project Leadership Team and will provide input on

1. Project goals, process, and deliverables
2. Design and results of spatial and social science analyses
3. Policies and strategies to lower barriers to solar development based on project results

In addition, Consortium members will keep their peers and networks informed about the project and its results and will partner with the leadership team to support the adoption and implementation of strategies and policies.

Consortium members will collectively represent a balanced and diverse group of affected stakeholders and stakeholders who can affect the outcomes of solar energy development decisions on Long Island. Ideally, members will serve for the full 2-year duration of the project and attend four in-person meetings in the first year. Each member may designate one alternate to serve when members are unable to attend Consortium meetings. Members agree to brief alternates to ensure they are both up to speed and that they will consistently represent the perspectives of that member.

Advisors are individuals who may be consulted to provide subject matter expertise and review project methods and deliverables. Advisors do not serve in a decision-making capacity in the project.

Working Groups composed of members of the Consortium, at least one member of the Steering Committee or Leadership Team, and possibly individuals outside the Consortium based on their expertise may be formed at the discretion of the Steering Committee and Leadership team to provide input to the larger Consortium on aspects of the project work. For instance, working groups may be

formed to support the work on spatial analysis, social science, economics, or policy. The working groups will be short-term and meet periodically in-person or by conference call or webinar as needed.

A **professional facilitator** will work with the Leadership Team and Steering Committee on objectives, agendas, and desired outcomes for Consortium meetings and will facilitate meetings to ensure that all members have the opportunity to express their points of view, the group strives for agreement where appropriate, and overall objectives are achieved.

DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

The members of the Steering Committee and Consortium will represent their individual points of view, informed by the interests of their constituency, during the deliberations of the group. Members make a commitment to participate in good faith, that is, to learn and adapt their positions based on new information and peer exchange, to be frank and forthcoming about their concerns and expectations, and to respect differences of opinion.

The input of the Consortium is vital to the success of the project, because it brings together the perspectives of diverse decision-makers and potentially affected stakeholders, which will inform the direction of the project and facilitate knowledge exchange across the Consortium. Steering Committee and Consortium members will work collaboratively with the Leadership Team on the design and implementation of the project and will strive to reach agreement on important decisions where appropriate. Final decisions will be made by the Leadership Team in consultation with the Steering Committee, but the consensus position of the Consortium will have considerable weight.

TRANSPARENCY & COMMUNICATION

The Leadership Team will maintain a project website and mailing list so all interested individuals can stay informed about the activities, results, and recommendations of the project. In addition,

1. The Leadership Team is responsible for creating an environment of respect and trust where Steering Committee and Consortium members can share knowledge and perspectives without reservation.
2. The Steering Committee and Consortium members agree to engage in constructive deliberation, share information, and strive toward agreement (not necessarily consensus) when asked for direction and recommendations from the Leadership Team.
3. All project meetings will be conducted under the Chatham House Rule. That is, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.
4. All Consortium meeting agendas, materials, and meeting summaries will be made available on the project website after review and input by the Steering Committee.
5. Attendance at Consortium meetings is by invitation; however, the general public will have opportunities to provide feedback on the process and findings at different points throughout the project.

6. The Leadership Team will approve, in consult and with input from the Steering Committee all formal communications with the public and media regarding the status and results of the project activities.