

Long Island Solar Roadmap

APRIL 2019



Solar and Agriculture Update

In early April, the Steering Committee and Leadership Team learned about the challenges and opportunities for solar on farms in a meeting with farmers and farmland owners from the East End hosted by the Long Island Farm Bureau. A big thanks to Rob Carpenter for organizing the meeting and to everyone who shared their experience and perspectives with the group and answered all our questions. Solar energy generation presents unique benefits and challenges on farms, and it is important for the Solar Roadmap project to consider and clearly articulate these issues in its final products. To that end, we are creating an Agriculture and Solar Working Group. The group will be tasked with providing recommendations on how to include farmland in the research, written, and mapping components of the project. The group will also provide recommendations on ways to engage the consortium on the topic of renewable energy and farming. Representatives of the local farming community will serve as advisers to this group. If you are interested in contributing to this working group, please contact Jessica by April 30.

Spatial Analysis

Suitability analysis for parcels in Suffolk and Nassau counties continues. Currently, spatial layers are being overlaid to identify and exclude unsuitable areas within parcel boundaries (e.g. hydrology, flood zones, additional protected areas, etc.).

Thanks to the efforts of graduate student intern August Schultz and contractor Matias Tong, significant headway is being made on parking lots digitization. Preliminary data for parking lots have been created for half of Suffolk county towns.

Economic Research

The Economic Research team met on April 5 to discuss content for a draft report and divide up research and writing assignments. A big thanks to the ten consortium members who volunteered to take on pieces of the report, which include: introduction, state and local context, potential business models, cost comparisons between types and locations, jobs and economic development considerations, monetized environmental benefits, potential impacts to retail electricity costs and energy cost burdens, the availability of financial incentives, and the role of battery storage. See the Partner Spotlight below to learn more about our economic research collaboration with Dr. Latika Gupta and a team of graduate students at Michigan Tech University.

Social Science Research

The online social science research survey that PSEG will administer is ready and will go live shortly. We expect the survey to be open for about a week—most responses to online surveys usually come in during the first few days after they are distributed. Once the survey is closed, all de-identified response data will be passed to Dr. Schelly for analysis.

Partner Spotlight

Dr. Latika Gupta, Assistant Professor of Economics, is challenging the graduate students in her Energy Economics class at Michigan Tech University with real-world economic questions posed by the Long Island Solar Roadmap Project. For their semester-long research assignment, students are exploring the costs of developing solar installations on Long Island and digging into the opportunities and barriers for solar in different settings, such as property owned by government entities, non-profit organizations, and commercial spaces. Students tell us that they are excited and inspired by the opportunity to contribute to this project, and we are grateful for the opportunity to engage with and prepare bright students for careers that further our clean energy future.



Did you know?

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's plan to get 100% carbon-free electricity by 2040 includes a goal to deploy 6,000 megawatts of distributed solar energy by 2025. It is important that these new installations are sited in locations that make sense economically, environmentally, and for the grid.

Reminders

The next full consortium meeting will be **Wednesday, September 11**. Please save the date on your calendars.

If you are interested and available to join the Agriculture and Solar Working Group, please reach out to Jessica by **April 30**.

If you have news, information, or project spotlights that you would like to share with this group, please send them along for inclusion in our next monthly update.

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The Nature Conservancy 