

# Long Island Solar Roadmap

## May 2019



## Solar and Agriculture

The first Solar and Agriculture Working Group meeting is scheduled for June 4. A big thanks to the everyone in the Consortium who has stepped up to contribute to this working group—Robert Carpenter, Benjamin Cuozzo, Michael Deering, Peter Gollon, Marj Issapour, Timothy Lederer, Samantha Levy, Kyle Rabin, August Ruckdeschel (on behalf of Lisa Broughton), and Tara Schneider-Moran. Their task will be to provide 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.

## Spatial Analysis

Spatial analysts Karen Leu, Matthias Thong, and August Schultz continue to make headway on digitizing parking lots in Suffolk County, with 5 towns completed, 3 in progress, and 2 remaining. The stirrings of a new phase in the spatial analysis—development of the land cover analysis for ground-mount solar—are beginning and will kick off in parallel to the ongoing digitization work.

## Economic Research

The ten-member Economic Research Working Group is engaged in research and writing, with the goal of completing first drafts of each section in the beginning of June. Thanks to everyone on this team for digging into the data and supporting this work—Robert Boerner, Tara Bono, Robert Carpenter, Benjamin Cuozzo, Aimee Delach, Steven Englemann, William Feldman, Jossi Fritz-Mauer, Ryan Madden, Sarah Oral, Elizabeth C. Smith, and Rupak Thapaliya.

Dr. Latika Gupta's team of graduate student researchers at Michigan Tech University has completed their semester-long research project on the costs of developing solar installations on Long Island and the opportunities and barriers for solar in different settings—property owned by government entities, non-profit organizations, and commercial spaces. We thank them for their tremendous hard work! The students' research will inform the final report from the Economic Research Working Group.

## Social Science Research

The online survey results are in! The online survey received a total of 405 responses, 6 of which were responses to the Spanish language survey. The results reveal overwhelmingly strong support for mid-to-large scale solar energy development on Long Island. In response to this question - Generally speaking, do you support solar energy development in your community? - almost 93% said yes! Over 73% of respondents said they would support solar energy installations of any kind whether they were visible or not. Environmental and economic benefits were most commonly, and almost equally, identified as reasons to support solar energy development, and the biggest identified concern about solar technology development was that economic benefits are unfairly distributed. Chelsea will be working on producing a report based on the survey results in time for our next Consortium meeting in September.

## Reminders

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

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.

### Contact us at The Nature Conservancy:

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