

# Long Island Solar Roadmap

## June 2019

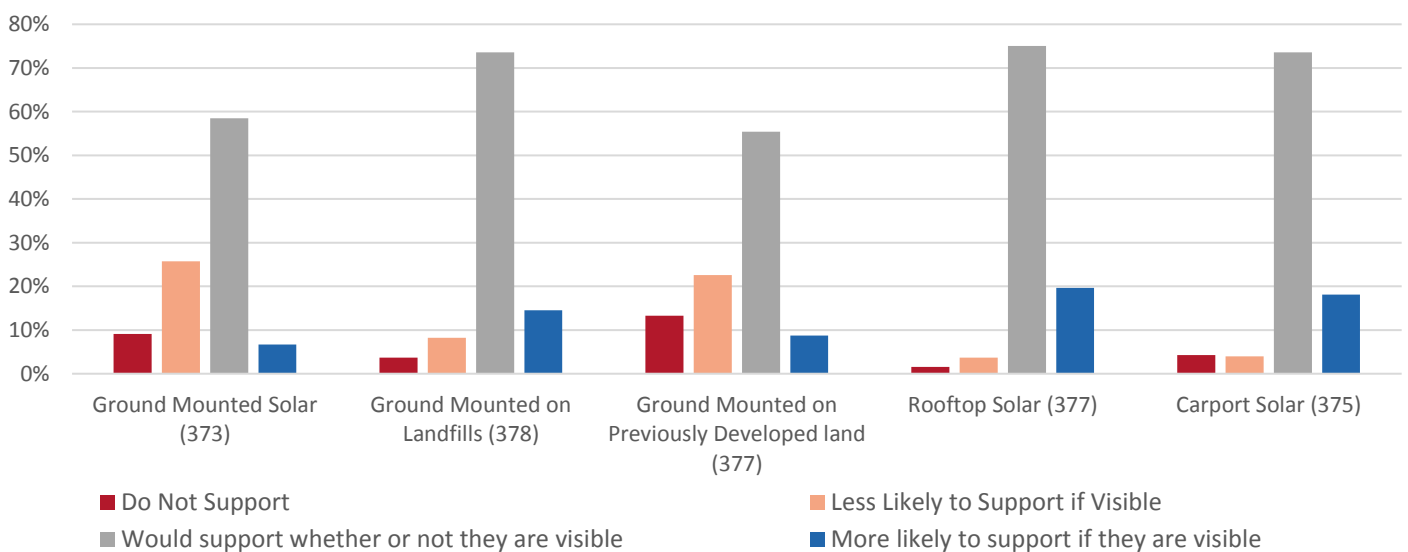


Photo: Douglas Levere

### Social Science Research

The Leadership Team is happy to report that the analysis of the survey results is complete. The results show strong support for solar energy development on Long Island, particularly for rooftop, carport, and ground mounted systems on landfills (see below). The survey respondents also indicated the strongest levels of support for privately funded systems and privately funded community solar projects. The first draft of the social science report is currently under review by the Social Science Working Group. Then, it will be revised and circulated to the Steering Committee by the end of June. We hope to have a reviewed draft report ready in time for our next Consortium meeting in September.

#### What kinds of installation options would you support and how would your support change based on visibility from roads or homes in your community?



## Solar and Agriculture

The Solar and Agriculture Working Group met in early June to weigh options for including agricultural lands in the research, written, and mapping components of the project. Members unanimously agreed that consideration of agricultural lands was an important aspect of the project and that both mapping and other analyses are needed to support recommendations in the final report. The Working Group recommended that we include all farmland in the spatial analysis to identify areas of opportunity for parking lot and rooftop installations. The Working Group also recommended that areas of opportunity for ground-mounted solar installations should be identified on *unprotected farmland only* using the same filters and buffers being applied to non-farm parcels. Next, the Working Group will meet to discuss additional relevant mapping criteria and options to include solar on farms in the economic and social science components of the project.

## Spatial Analysis

We have completed parking lot digitization for Brookhaven (Suffolk County's largest town) and Smithtown, leaving three remaining towns. Parcel selections for suitable sites has gone through a few more reiterations, with the acquisition of updated Suffolk County Land Use data and the inclusion of agricultural parcels as prompted by the recommendation of the Solar and Agriculture Working Group. Finally, graduate student intern August Schultz has taken the reins on developing land cover analysis using image classification techniques for the ground-mount solar analysis.

## Economic Research

Members of Economic Research Working Group submitted a first draft of each section of the economic research report in early June. Thank you to everyone for their hard work to bring together so much valuable information. Jessica is currently working to synthesize the Working Group's research with that of the Michigan Tech students to create a complete first draft of the economic research report by the end of June. Then, the draft will be reviewed by the Working Group and the Steering Committee. Like the Social Science Working Group, our goal is to have a complete draft in time for the Consortium meeting in September.

## Reminders

The next meeting of the **Long Island Clean Energy Leadership Task Force**, hosted by the Sustainability Institute at Molloy College, will be **11a - 1:30p on Friday, June 21**. Email [cleanenergy@molloy.edu](mailto:cleanenergy@molloy.edu) for more information and to RSVP.

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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