

Long Island Solar Roadmap

July 2019



Photo: Dave Lauridsen

New York Leads on Renewable Energy

Last week New York State became a national leader in climate change action and renewable energy. Governor Cuomo signed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, setting the ambitious targets of carbon-free electricity by 2040 and a net-zero carbon economy by 2050. The bill calls for 9,000 MW of offshore wind energy by 2035, 6,000 MW of solar energy by 2025, and a 23 percent increase in energy efficiency. The state started implementing this plan right away—on the same day, the governor also signed agreements for two offshore wind projects that will bring 1,700 MW of clean energy online by 2024. To achieve these targets, the legislation created the Climate Action Council, a 22-member group composed of representatives from agencies members appointed by the Governor, the Senate, and the Assembly, that will be responsible for creating a plan to achieve all the advances called for in the bill.



Photo: Jessica Price

Social Science Research

The report on the social science survey results is complete, after being reviewed by both the Social Science Working Group and Steering Committee. Watch your in-boxes for a copy in advance of the meeting in September and come prepared to discuss and provide feedback!

Solar and Agriculture

The Solar and Agriculture Working Group met for a third time in late June to discuss options to include solar on farms in the economic and social science components of the project. The group recommended farms be included as one of the settings to be discussed in the economic research report (among municipal, non-profit, commercial, and areas available

for independent power producers). The group also suggested the Leadership Team consider issues around solar in agricultural areas when weighing potential options for future social science research. The Steering Committee accepted these two recommendations.

Economic Research

Work on the economic research report continues. Thank you to Rob Carpenter and August Ruckdeschel for joining the Economic Research Working Group to help integrate farms and farmland into this work. In August, the draft will be reviewed by the Steering Committee and a revised, complete draft will be ready in time for the Consortium meeting in September.

Spatial Analysis

Parking lot digitization for Islip is now complete, leaving just one town left to do in Suffolk County. Graduate student intern August Schultz has also been making significant progress in developing and refining an analysis process to identify suitable land cover for ground-mount solar installations. His findings will soon be summarized for the Town of Riverhead as a pilot project for the spatial analysis, which will give us the first look at what kinds of parcels can support 250 kW of solar capacity.

Reminders

Climate Week NYC 2019, run by the United Nations and the City of New York, will be **September 23-27**. Find more about how to get involved at: <https://www.climateweeknyc.org>.

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

Did you know New York adopted the Pollinator Friendly Solar Act in 2018, making it easier for solar projects to have pollinator-friendly flowering plants and native grasses?

Contact us at The Nature Conservancy:
Jessica Price (jessica.price@tnc.org)
250 Lawrence Hill Road
Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724
(631) 367-3225

