



# Solar Canopies

## THE PROBLEM

For Connecticut to meet its 100% zero-carbon energy targets by 2040, we must site a significant amount of solar power. However, solar projects continue to create land conflicts as they encroach upon prime farmlands and forests. Solar canopies provide alternatives to these land-intensive developments and have the potential to provide a significant share of the state's energy needs.

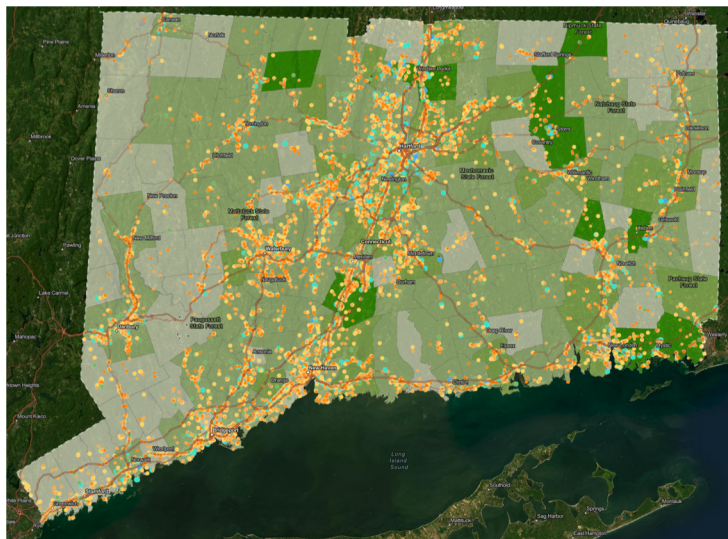
In addition to producing power, solar canopies provide many other benefits, including:

- Reduced need for Transmission & Distribution, since they are typically located next to where the electricity is used
- They can be approved quickly, since the land has already been developed
- Local benefits to environmental justice (EJ) communities
- Reduced urban heat island effect
- Added value to the electric grid when paired with storage and EV charging

## FAST FACTS

- PACE has identified over 9,000 potential canopy sites across the state on parking lots >100 spaces.
- These sites represent over 7,500 megawatts (MW) of solar power.
- They could produce 36% of the state's current electricity needs.
- Canopies are typically constructed over impervious surfaces, & avoid use of prime farmlands and forests.
- Only a handful of canopies have been built to date.

## Solar Canopies have Vast Potential in Connecticut



*These potential canopy sites are located on parking lots, close to where electricity is used.*

## POLICY SOLUTIONS

1. Create a state solar canopy strategy
2. Create a separate category in the small NRES program for solar canopies paired with battery storage
  - Higher tariff rate to reflect value to grid
3. Prioritize siting of canopies in EJ communities, with a goal of 20 projects by 2026
4. Exempt canopies from local property taxation beyond current levels
5. Identify sites on state-owned land for canopies, including "mega-projects" (e.g., airports, train stations)

*For more information on the potential of solar canopies in CT, read the new PACE report*



PACE Solar Canopy Study

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**For more information, contact [PACE4CT@gmail.com](mailto:PACE4CT@gmail.com)**