

## **CANDLEWOOD SOLAR - BENEFITS**

Benefits accruing to the Town of New Milford from the Candlewood Solar project:

### **Environmental Benefits**

- 31 million kilowatt hours/year of clean, emission-free energy generated
- Enough energy to power more than 2,400 homes in one year. Offsets CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from 2,644 homes' energy use in one year.
- Offsets CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for over 24 million pounds of coal burned for electricity
- Reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by the equivalent of more than 2.4 million gallons of gasoline
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of 4,688 passenger vehicles driven for one year
- The array is equivalent to sequestering carbon from 25,987 acres of U.S. forests in one year.
- Over the 20 years, will displace over 440,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>
- Re-zones the 163 acres of the solar site on Candlewood Mountain from the current high-density Major Planned Residential Development District ("MPRDD") to the low density R-80 zone (1.8 acres per residence), so the site cannot be redeveloped into a high density use after the project is decommissioned in 20 years.
- Permanently sets aside up to 100 acres of land on Candlewood Mountain into a conservation trust as soon construction begins.
- Facility will be emissions free and silent, with no radioactive materials or electromagnetic interference generated
- Facility will be nearly invisible year round to roadways and people enjoying Candlewood Lake
- No direct effect on water supplies or water quality at the site with thorough review and approval by the Connecticut Siting Council and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.
- Per the Agreement with the Town of New Milford, the solar project will post bonds to assure protection of town roads during construction, sediment and erosion control during construction, and decommissioning of the project at the end of its contracted life (20 years).

### **Economic Benefits**

- \$2.75 million in taxes to the Town of New Milford over 20 years – an estimated 700% increase over taxes currently collected on this property
- No added cost to the town for schools, fire, and police services since the site will be unoccupied.
- Agreement with the Town of New Milford to give preference to local firms and/or labor for civil site work and solar array installation.

### **Electric Grid Benefits**

- With connection to the Rocky River Substation, electricity generated by the project will supply power to the local grid, reducing the need for Connecticut utilities to buy expensive, fossil-fuel power on high power demand days.
- Project helps Connecticut meet its goal of 20% clean power generation by 2020