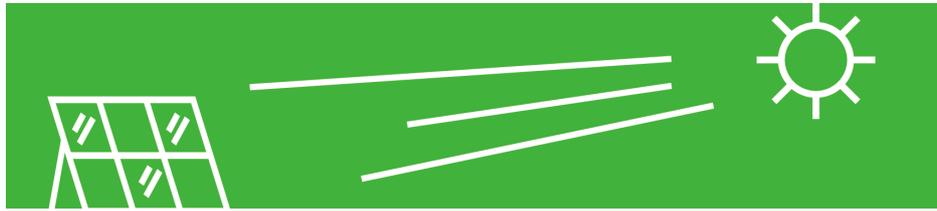


# THE CANDLEWOOD SOLAR PROJECT



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## **THE CT SITING COUNCIL REAFFIRMS ITS APPROVAL OF THE CANDLEWOOD SOLAR PROJECT**

***Along with approval of D&M Plan, the Siting Council decision moves project closer to construction***

**New Milford, CT** – Candlewood Solar, LLC (CS) today announced that the Connecticut Siting Council issued an amended Findings of Fact and Opinion clarifying its original approval of CS' 20 MW solar project on Candlewood Mountain in New Milford. In its 77-page analysis and Findings of Fact, the Siting Council found that the CS project would have no adverse visual impact upon neighboring properties nor upon Town recreational facilities.

Last week's ruling was necessitated by a Superior Court order requiring the Siting Council to clarify its findings that the project would have little visual impact to surrounding properties. The Superior Court is hearing an administrative appeal funded by Rescue Candlewood Mountain, The Town of New Milford, and Carl M. Dunham Jr. against the Connecticut Siting Council's approval of Candlewood Solar's project. The Connecticut Attorney General is representing the Siting Council in the Superior Court case.

The Siting Council had previously concluded that the project, with conditions of an approved Development and Management (D&M) Plan and Stormwater Management Plan, will not have a negative impact on the environment. Specifically, the Siting Council's opinion stated: "Based on the record in this proceeding, the Council finds that there would not be a substantial adverse environmental effect associated with the construction, maintenance and operation" of the Candlewood Solar project.

"We are pleased that the Siting Council, following additional hearings and testimony, thoroughly and forcefully reiterated its approval of the Candlewood Solar project, noting that the solar array will be out of sight for neighboring homeowners and New Milford's recreational facilities," said Jim Walker, Candlewood Solar's Project Manager. "We are one step closer to generating clean, emissions-free energy for use in Connecticut with this approval. The Candlewood Solar Project will be both economically and environmentally beneficial for New Milford. It will not only produce clean, silent energy for Connecticut, but it will generate millions of dollars in revenue to the Town and provide good-paying local jobs."

Last month, the Siting Council also gave conditional approval to the CS Development & Management (D&M) Plan. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) approval of the stormwater management plan is the last remaining regulatory approval needed from the State in order for the project to proceed.

According to Walker, CS plans to refile its stormwater permit application with DEEP this summer and has been working with its environmental consultants to ensure that the refiled application is environmentally responsible and takes into account DEEP's and the Town of New Milford's concerns. The Siting Council's approval of the D&M Plan is conditioned on DEEP's approval of the stormwater permit.

The Candlewood Solar project was developed in response to the TriState Clean Energy RFP (the "RFP") issued by the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island in October 2015. The RFP was a cooperative effort of all three states and the regional investor-owned utilities to procure clean energy for delivery into the ISO-NE grid, thereby decreasing dependence on non-renewable sources of electric power within the region. The project was approved by the CT Siting Council in December 2017.

Once all regulatory approvals are secured, the Candlewood Solar project will be constructed on approximately 163 acres of a remote section of Candlewood Mountain in a combination of open field and wooded areas, less than one mile from the Rocky River substation, which is part of the ISO-NE grid system. Candlewood Solar will provide up to 20 MW of AC power directly to the grid via the Rocky River interconnection.

For more information, please visit: [www.SolarOnCandlewood.com](http://www.SolarOnCandlewood.com)

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