

RETHINKING WHAT WE THINK WE KNOW

WITH THE JUNE 30, 2022 PUBLICATION OF THE FINALIZED 2025/2030 CECP REPORT (CLEAN ENERGY & CLIMATE PLAN) THE COMMONWEALTH WITHDREW ITS PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATION THAT 60,000 ACRES BE EMPLOYED FOR SOLAR.
P.41 /2025/30 CECP INTERIM REPORT; CF. P.68 2025/30 CECP FINAL REPORT

THE FINAL CECP REPORT NOW STATES THAT NATURAL & WORKING LANDS' ABILITY TO SEQUESTER EMISSIONS WILL BE A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF ACHIEVING NET-ZERO GHG (GREEN HOUSE GAS) EMISSIONS. NEW POLICIES WILL SUPPORT THE CONSERVATION, CLIMATE SMART MANAGEMENT, AND RESTORATION OF NWL (NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS). P.XV 2025/30 CECP FINAL REPORT

WHAT CHANGED

THE 2025/2030 CECP FINAL REPORT FOR THE FIRST TIME PROVIDES AN ANALYSIS OF THE EMISSIONS FROM, AND THE CARBON SEQUESTRATION BY, MASSACHUSETTS' NWL." (NATURAL & WORKING LAND)

P.XV/2025/30 CECP FINAL REPORT

TO PROTECT THE COMMONWEALTH'S NATURAL RESOURCES FOR CARBON SEQUESTRATION AND OTHER BENEFITS, MASSACHUSETTS WILL INCREASE THE STATE'S EFFORTS TO PERMANENTLY CONSERVE AT LEAST 28% AND 30% OF UNDEVELOPED LAND AND WATER BY 2025 AND 2030, RESPECTIVELY. P.XV/2025/30 CECP FINAL REPORT

WHERE SHOULD SOLAR BE SITED

ECAC (AMHERST'S ENERGY & CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE), RELYING ON THE INTERIM DRAFT OF THE 2025/30 CECP REPORT (DEC 2020) AND THE 2050 ROADMAP (DEC 2020), HAS URGED AMHERST TO USE "HUNDREDS OF ACRES" (335) FOR LARGE SOLAR INSTALLATIONS, CHARACTERIZING THIS AS THE TOWN'S "FAIR SHARE."

(SEE, FOR EXAMPLE, NOV 2021 MEETING PRESENTATION BY STEVE ROOF; ECAC LETTER TO TC, CRC, & PB, 21 DEC. 21, 2021 "LETTER CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW AMHERST SOLAR ZONING BYLAW AND NEED FOR A SOLAR STUDY; JUNE 1, 2022 ECAC MEETING PRESENTATION BY DWAYNE BREGER, "SOLAR IN AMHERST")

THIS ECAC DIRECTIVE TO EMPLOY HUNDREDS OF ACRES FOR SOLAR DOES NOT ALIGN WITH THE NEW GUIDANCE FROM THE COMMONWEALTH.

SOLAR ON “BUILT” LANDSCAPES

THE STATE RECOGNIZES THE CHALLENGE OF IDENTIFYING SUITABLE SOLAR SITING OPTIONS, AND REPORTS THAT DOER (DEPT. OF ENERGY RESOURCES) INITIATED “A TECHNICAL POTENTIAL OF SOLAR STUDY” IN 2022 THAT WILL CREATE A RANKING OF PREFERRED AND LEAST PREFERRED LOCATIONS FOR SOLAR IN MASSACHUSETTS, CONSIDERING ENVIRONMENTAL, LAND USE, AND ECONOMIC FACTORS. P. 68/2025/30 CECP FINAL REPORT

DOER WILL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE SOLAR AND STORAGE PROJECTS ON “BUILT” LANDSCAPES. “THE TECHNICAL STUDY” WILL HELP INDICATE HOW MUCH SOLAR WOULD BE SITED IN THE COMMONWEALTH CONSISTENT WITH THE PROTECTION OF CRITICAL LANDS AND HABITAT.

P. 69/2025/30 CECP FINAL REPORT

HOW WILL NATURAL RESOURCES BE PROTECTED

MASS. DEPT OF ENERGY RESOURCES PLANS TO WORK WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCIES AND STAKEHOLDERS TO ENSURE THAT THE INCENTIVES PROVIDED TO SOLAR AND STORAGE PROJECTS DO NOT UNINTENTIONALLY HARM VALUABLE NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS AND FORESTS.

PP. 68-69/2025/30 CECP FINAL REPORT

THE 19 (INCLUDING MASS AUDUBON) SIGNATORY ORGANIZATIONS TO “A SOLAR SITING JOINT STATEMENT” (1 OCT. 2021) HAVE CALLED ON THE COMMONWEALTH TO PLAN AND IMPLEMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS FOR THE RAPID, RESPONSIBLE SITING OF SOLAR POWER SYSTEMS.

[HTTPS://MASSLAND.ORG/SITES/DEFAULT/FILES/FILES/SOLAR_SITING_JOINT_STATEMENT_FINAL.PDF](https://massland.org/sites/default/files/files/solar_siting_joint_statement_final.pdf)

RESOURCE LINKS

2050 DECARBONIZATION ROADMAP DECEMBER 2020

[HTTPS://WWW.MASS.GOV/DOC/MA-DECARBONIZATION-ROADMAP-LOWER-RESOLUTION/DOWNLOAD](https://www.mass.gov/doc/ma-decarbonization-roadmap-lower-resolution/download)

2035/35 CLEAN ENERGY & CLIMATE PLAN (CECP) 30 JUNE 2022

FINAL: [HTTPS://WWW.MASS.GOV/DOC/CLEAN-ENERGY-AND-CLIMATE-PLAN-FOR-2025-AND-2030/DOWNLOAD](https://www.mass.gov/doc/clean-energy-and-climate-plan-for-2025-and-2030/download)

DRAFT: [HTTPS://WWW.MASS.GOV/DOC/INTERIM-CLEAN-ENERGY-AND-CLIMATE-PLAN-FOR-2030-DECEMBER-30-2020/DOWNLOAD](https://www.mass.gov/doc/interim-clean-energy-and-climate-plan-for-2030-december-30-2020/download)

COMMONWEALTH'S ENVIRONMENT JUSTICE WEBSITE AND MAPS

[HTTPS://WWW.MASS.GOV/INFO-DETAILS/MASSGIS-DATA-2020-ENVIRONMENTAL-JUSTICE-POPULATIONS](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-data-2020-environmental-justice-populations)

CAARP REPORT 21 JUNE 2021

CLEAN ACTION, ADAPTATION, AND RESILIENCY PLAN

[HTTPS://WWW.AMHERSTMA.GOV/DOCUMENTCENTER/VIEW/56637/7A-CAARP_TOWN_COUNCIL_6-21-2021_FINAL_SLIDES-1COMMONWEALTH](https://www.amherstma.gov/documentcenter/view/56637/7A-CAARP_TOWN_COUNCIL_6-21-2021_FINAL_SLIDES-1COMMONWEALTH)