

Welcome to the Central Vermont Solar Forum

The solar gold rush is on in Vermont. Solar power capacity has been increasing by an average of 90% yearly since 2007. The state has proposed increasing solar power capacity by 20 fold in the next 35 years. Towns in our area need to understand the solar development landscape. Next year will likely see the largest solar PV growth in Vermont ever because of the expected sunset of the 30% federal tax credit. And now the community solar model is growing rapidly in Vermont. Many projects large and small will be coming to towns in central Vermont. Solar developers and groups will be looking and expecting a fast track to construction.

The regulations that govern solar development are changing. Select Boards now have standing in some Act 248 solar project permitting processes. The legislature has created a Solar Siting Task Force to examine the process and impact of solar development. Even towns that have promoted solar development are challenged by proposals for 100 acre solar projects.

Solar power is a vital solution to our energy challenges, but not every solar project is right for every site. Today we gather to examine these issues, and discuss how communities can influence how solar development proceeds in Vermont.

1. **Welcome.** Randolph's solar story: Pete Thoenen, Randolph Energy Committee (10 Minutes)
2. Vermont Dept. of Public Service **Solar Permitting Process:** Jeanne Elias, DPS. (15 minutes)
3. **Vermont Solar Siting Task Force:** Jon Copans, DPS(10 minutes)
4. **Solar Developer Presentations** (40 Minutes)
 - i. Suncommon
 - ii. Catamount Solar
 - iii. Wolfe Energy
 - iv. Aegis Renewables
 - v. Soveren
 - vi. GroSolar
 - vii. SolaFlect
5. **Solar Developer Panel Discussion, Q&A** (35 Minutes)

BREAK (20 Minutes) Snacks and Drinks

6. **Solar Influencers** (45 Minutes)
 - i. Roland Marx: Boardman Hill Solar Farm Community Solar Project
 - ii. Sarah Simonds: Vital Communities Solarize campaign
 - iii. VLS Energy Clinic on community solar and RECs
 - iv. Pete Antos-Ketcham: Energize Vermont
 - v. John Kidder: Vermont Technical College)
 - vi. Peter Rothschild: former New Haven Planning Commissioner
7. **Solar Influencers Panel Discussion, Q&A** (35 Minutes)