

**MONTAGUE ENERGY & SOLAR PLANNING COMMITTEES JOINT MEETING AGENDA  
SOLAR FORUM WITH SOLAR-RELATED BOARDS, COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS**

**Wednesday May 15, 2024, 2 PM to 4:00 PM**

**Due to COVID-19 Public Participation will be by Zoom**

**Meeting:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86060872442?pwd=TUhzV3EyYmNma0VrNVRoR1lldUtaUT09>

Meeting ID: 860 6087 2442, Passcode: 463842, Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656 US (NY)

**1. Introduce Purpose of Meeting and UMass Clean Energy Extension speaker(s)** (Sally Pick,

Montague Energy Committee-5 minutes)

- Q & A's and discussion encouraged throughout
- UMass Clean Energy Extension faculty speaker(s): (River Strong and/or Dwayne Breger)

2. Why discuss pro-active solar planning with solar-related department heads, reasons town will face increasing solar development? (UMass - 5 minutes)

- Montague has already installed lots of solar
- Why it's important to continue to plan ahead for future solar development?

3. Summary of draft Montague's Community Solar Action Plan (UMass - 60 minutes)

- How draft plan was developed
- Plan includes:
  - o Resource for options for solar planning for municipal, commercial (including agricultural) & residential properties/renters
  - o Examples of planning options and action items provided in draft plan for each target audience
  - o Tables with lists of municipal & commercial properties with potential for solar
  - o Summary of Community Solar Survey process and results
    - Where responding residents prefer and are opposed to solar development
  - o Summary of grid capacity based on the UMass-developed 2023 Montague Solar Resource & Infrastructure Assessment (component of planning process)

Example of grid capacity in Action Plan, Figure 3 map of Montague

Explain how grid capacity has changed since 2023 assessment

([Eversource hosting capacity map](#))

Discuss ways grid capacity could expand

- Eversource upgrades
  - Solar developers upgrade grid
  - MA bills related to grid:
    - o H.4222/S.2531 Act advancing grid enhancement technologies
    - o H.3992 Act to expand access to a modern grid
  - Feedback, corrections to draft plan?
4. Sample costs, incentives for municipal/non-profit, commercial & residential solar (10 minutes)
- **Elective (Direct) pay** incentive for Town/non-profits: 30% payment in lieu of tax credit
    - o Process to access direct pay
  - 30% tax credit for commercial & residential solar
    - o Assumes have sufficient taxes due (can roll the tax credit over for as many years as necessary, provided the credit program is still in effect)
5. Discussion & Questions: (Sally & UMass - 25 minutes)
- Approaches to zoning for solar, restrictions, possible changes to state law
  - Other questions
6. Possible next steps: (Sally - 15 minutes)
- Follow-up meeting to further explore planning options, actions
  - Integrating pro-active solar planning into Comprehensive Plan
  - Re-energizing Solar Planning Committee
  - Other ideas

Thank you for your time!