

JOINT MEETING OF THE MONTAGUE ENERGY COMMITTEE AND MONTAGUE SOLAR PLANNING COMMITTEE

MONTAGUE SOLAR FORUM

MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, May 22, 2024 6:30 PM

To join meeting via Zoom:

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

Dial: (646)-558-8656 Meeting ID: 860 6087 2442 Passcode: 463842

See [link](#) to access the draft Community Solar Action Plan.

1. Roll call:

2. Introduction (Sally Pick, Montague Energy Committee-5 minutes)

- Welcome, meeting purpose and goals, guidelines
- How to ask a question: Using Q & A tool on Zoom, Q & A time after presentation
- Montague Solar Planning Committee provided local input to UMass Clean Energy Extension students who developed draft Community Solar Action Plan, with committee and faculty reviews
- Montague Energy Committee now working with Extension faculty & Town staff to use draft Action Plan as starting point for proactively planning for the future of solar according to preferences expressed in residential solar survey
- UMass Clean Energy Extension faculty speakers: (River Strong & Dwayne Breger)

3. Why discuss pro-active solar planning, 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

4. Summary of draft of Montague's Community Solar Action Plan (UMass - 40 minutes)

- How draft plan was developed
- Plan includes:
 - Resource for options for solar planning for municipal, commercial (including agricultural) & residential properties/renters
 - Examples of planning options and action items provided for each target audience
 - Tables with lists of municipal & commercial properties with potential for solar
 - Summary of Community Solar Survey process and results
 - Where responding residents prefer and are opposed to solar development
 - Summary of grid capacity, based on 2022 UMass 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 2022 assessment
 - ([Eversource hosting capacity map](#))
 - Discuss ways grid capacity could expand, sample timeframes:
 - Eversource upgrades
 - Solar developers upgrade grid
 - MA bills related to grid:
 - H.4222/S.2531 Act advancing grid enhancement technologies
 - H.3992 Act to expand access to a modern grid
- Feedback, corrections to draft plan? (Can email to SJPMEC@crocker.com)**

5. Sample costs, incentives for municipal/non-profit, commercial & residential solar options (UMass - 10 minutes)

- Elective (Direct) pay** incentive for Town/non-profits: 30% payment in lieu of tax credit incentive for Town/non-profits: 30% payment in lieu of tax credit
 - Process to access direct pay
- 30% tax credit for commercial & residential solar owned by property owner

- 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)

- Other residential solar options:

- Community-shared solar: good for renters, low-income households, those that lack land or rooftop space, those with shaded properties, etc.

- Solar owned & installed by a third party

- Power Purchase agreements, leases, important questions to ask about terms of [contract](#)

- Community-shared solar: good for renters, low-income households, those that lack land or rooftop space, those with shaded properties, etc.

6. Questions: (Sally & UMass - 15 minutes)

- Approaches to zoning for solar, restrictions, possible changes to state law

- Other questions

7. Possible next steps: (Sally - 15 minutes)

- Integrating pro-active solar planning into Comprehensive Plan

- Increasing capacity of Montague Energy Committee with new members to take on solar action items such as:

- Educating owners with large rooftops, parking lots, areas of disturbed land about solar incentives

- Other solar-related committees/boards explore future solar sites on developed properties

- More ideas

Thank you for your time!