

REV Suggested List of Priority Solar Siting Issues and Solutions

1. **Give 2015 Legislative Changes Time to Work**

Give time to determine how the 2015 legislated changes regarding siting, screening, setbacks and automatic party status for towns, has or has not improved the siting of solar and local participation in development of solar projects. These changes included:

- Automatic Party Status for Towns before PSB
- Statewide Setbacks:
 - For systems 15 kW – 150 kW that are not on a roof: 40 feet from road and 25 feet from other property boundaries
 - For systems exceeding 150 kW that are not on a roof: 100 feet from road and 50 feet from other property boundaries
- Towns may adopt screening bylaws/ordinances as long as they don't prohibit or interfere with the installation and aren't discriminatory

2. **Gather Data on How/Whether the 2015 Legislative Changes Are Working**

Monitor the effectiveness of the 2015 legislated changes by keeping track of Town and Neighbor involvement since June 11, 2015:

- Are towns choosing to engage now that they have automatic party status? How does this compare to total CPGs filed since June 11, 2015?
- Are towns adopting screening bylaws? How does this compare to overall Vermont number of towns? What is the effect of these bylaws?

3. **Make PSB Process Easier to Understand and Participate In**

- a. Designate PSB staffer who is solely responsible to answer questions from the public and applicants. This staffer is not to provide legal guidance or opinion, but to answer questions such as "Can you please tell me when project X was submitted? What are the next deadline dates for project X?" This would require additional funding and a *new* staff position; it should not be expected that existing PSB resources can fulfill this role.
- b. Speed up the process to convert to on-line application process and ensure all filings and decisions are available on-line on a real-time basis.
- c. Incorporate into the current "Guide to Participate in 248 Process" an easy-to-fill-out form so that land owners and towns can file motions to intervene with simple ease.

4. Develop Incentives for Siting Solar Projects

- Through Standard Offer, Net Metering Adder, etc., direct solar projects towards “previously built” environments.
- Carparks, brownfields, gravel pits, roof tops, etc.
- Co-location of solar projects that otherwise would not be allowed under current system