

Community Solar on Waste Sites in EJ Communities



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Definitions

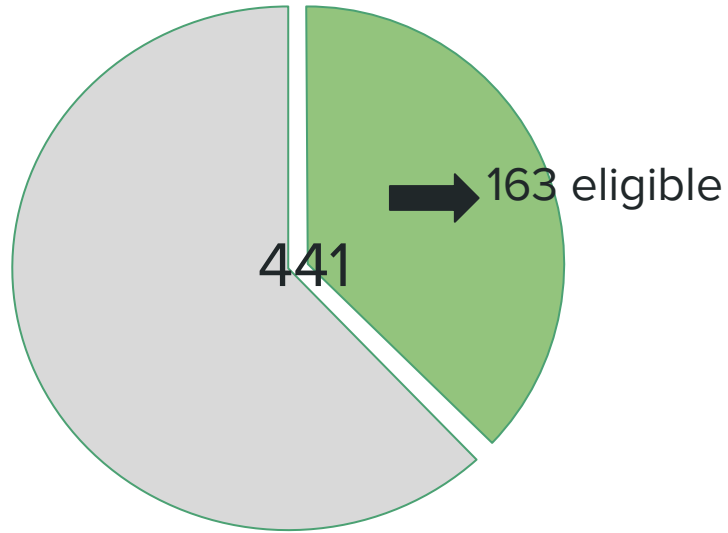
Community Solar (CS): Community members share investments in local solar farms and in return get electricity that costs less than the price they would ordinarily pay to their utility.
*Anyone can participate even if cannot put solar panels on their roof

Environmental Justice (EJ): The equal protection and meaningful involvement of all people with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies, and the equitable distribution of environmental benefits



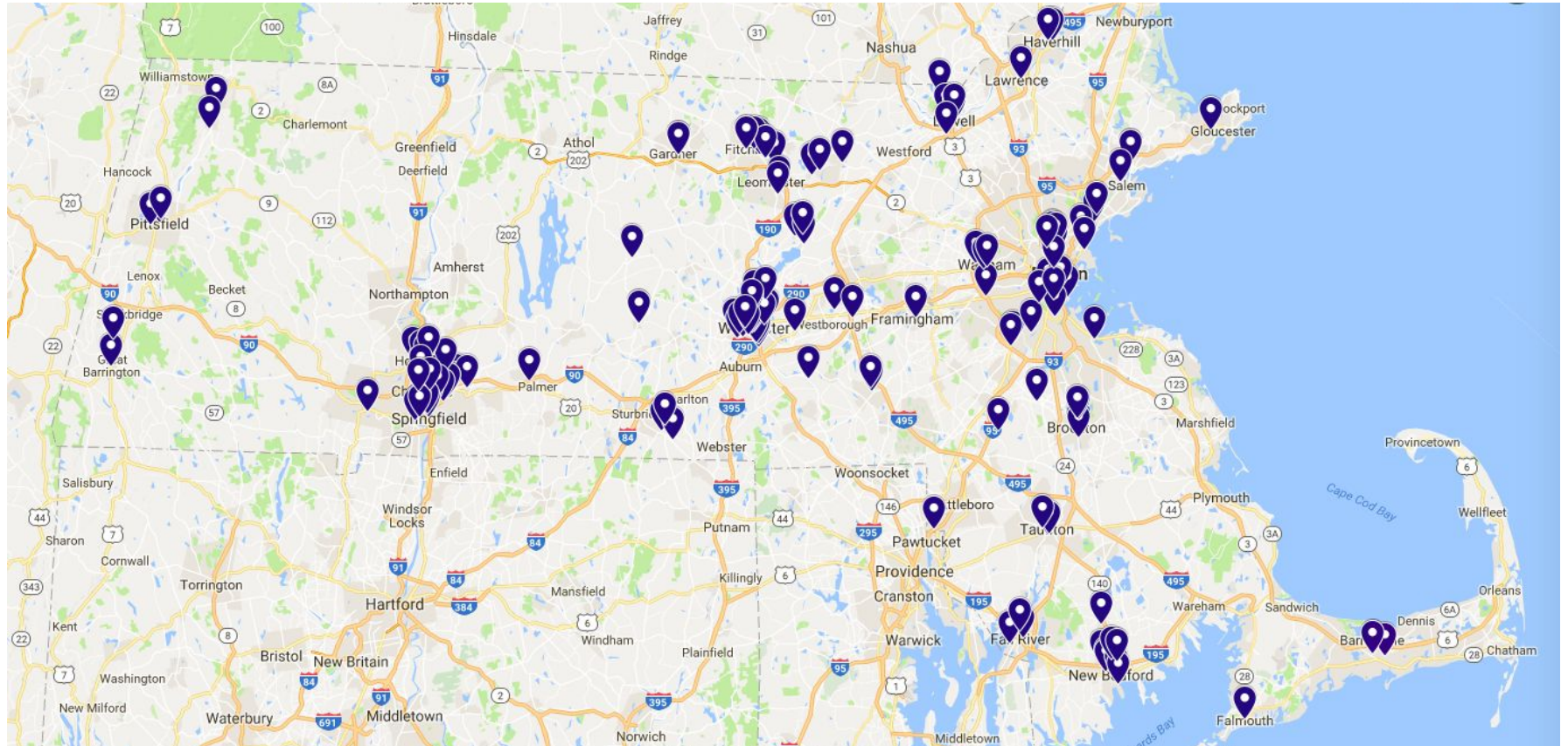
CS in EJ Communities for Waste Site Cleanup

- Solar accessible to EJ communities where options to invest in clean energy sources are especially limited
 - CS makes solar energy accessible to the public, not just the privileged
- Some current waste sites are ideal for CS and have the added benefit of generating extra revenue that can then be used to help complete clean up
- CS will help meet the Commonwealth's goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Organization in the form of legislation is needed
 - Efforts to accelerate the use of CS to improve EJ areas could be accomplished through new legislation or by amendment of existing laws



= 430.72 GWh/yr for Massachusetts

= supply for 38,765 homes



https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1608uCvbzjEDeeY2jv4_PsbjzUrKhcsWc&ll=42.16766647173203%2C-71.81659155&z=7

	Contaminated sites (MA total: 441 sites)		Eligible for CS (>3 acres)		Conclusion
Worcester	99	560.06 acres	24	227.33 acres	highest potential
Springfield	33	381.61 acres	12	85.46 acres	high potential, agglomeration with West Springfield and Chicopee
New Bedford	20	18,113.62 acres	11	92.67 acres	high potential, especially at the harbor
Holyoke	20	164.13 acres	3	20,51 acres	sites too small to be developed
Chicopee	19	153.71 acres	7	90.53 acres	high potential, agglomeration with West Springfield and Chicopee
Fitchburg	19	104,01 acres	7	68,33 acres	action required, but too isolated to be prioritized

Potential Changes for Current State Law

Massachusetts Green Communities Act (SB 2768):

- Motivate utility support for CS in EJ communities by reducing interconnection fees.
- Provide incentives that would increase number of municipalities offering net metering

Neighborhood Net Metering (SB 2395):

- Remove geographic restrictions
- Remove project size restrictions
- Examine the net metering cap (6% of a utilities peak load)
- Grid modernization

Additional incentives and assistance to expand CS for EJ communities could include:

- Incentivizing the use of CS for waste site cleanup, for example, by incorporating provisions in the Brownfields program to encourage such investment
- Potential model to follow: Colorado Community Solar Gardens Act

Utilizing Brownfields Programs

Existing brownfields programs

- Brownfields Redevelopment Access to Capital (BRAC) Program
- Brownfields Redevelopment Fund (BRF)
- Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) program

Suggestions

- Increase utilization of these programs
- Priority for the use of brownfields for EJ CS
- Funding increase for MassBusiness and MassDevelopment
- Special provisions for EJ CS to lower environmental insurance and other administrative costs



Thank you! Questions?

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