

Mullica Township would like to add the following comments to the record for stakeholder input on the Community Solar Energy Pilot Program. With regards to project siting Mullica Township strongly advocates for the use of landfills and brownfields to host community solar projects. Landfills and brownfield sites should be high priority for potential projects for many reasons.

Up until the 1990's most, if not all communities in New Jersey had local landfills, many on very large parcels of land. We have a 134 acre site although a small percentage of that is actually the "cores" where household trash was land filled. What we have is a completely unusable 134 acre site that is considered contaminated. Being able to site solar on our landfill is the only use for this property and what a beneficial use this would be. In conversations over the years with consultants and professionals another drawback is we have no "on-site" energy demand making it unsuitable for a traditional net-meter solar project that would take advantage of all our available 134 acres. New Jersey has a way to go to meet its renewable generation goals and the available land that comprises all of the closed landfills and brownfield's in our state will go a long way in meeting these goals while maximizing generation capacity when not limiting properties such as ours to on-site demand.

Mullica Township strongly urges the Board to shape this program to take full advantage of landfills and brownfield's as hosts sites for community solar projects. In working with communities, counties and authorities that own many of these sites we can create badly needed opportunities to site community solar and revitalize what was once considered useless properties.