

**Public comment regarding SOLAR Panel installation:**

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To: SMART, DOER (ENE) <doer.smart@mass.gov>

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I am writing to comment on the Department's Emergency Regulations for the Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) program. I thank the Department for listening to the public's concerns, and for responding by adding the prohibition of solar energy development on land where at least 50 percent of the parcel's area is designated as Priority Habitat, Core Habitat, or Critical Natural Landscape, as well as developing a webmapping tool to help identify these areas.

I agree with the request of AMS's request that your Department apply the whole footprint of the Greenfield Subtractor, not just the solar arrays.

I am concerned about the proposal to combine Eversource East and West energy capacity blocks > into one single service territory. Doing so would allow of the solar development capacity for Eversource East in eastern Massachusetts, to be sited in western and central Massachusetts as well, and place tremendous pressure on communities in the western and central parts of the state, to participate in solar development.

Communities surrounded by woodlands for example would be falsely forced to cut carbon sequestering forest. Instead, those communities who steward land that bring Ma closer to its climate remediation goals, should be recognized for doing so. AND cities with roof tops, shopping center with parking lots and other unproductive grounds should be maximized in their productivity through solar panel installations.

Solar panels in urban paved areas create shade where there was none before. Beneath the panels vegetation could be cultivated.

It is imperative that existing creative solutions be implemented and invented. The Appalachian Mountain Club should not have to defend forest, when it is obvious that natural habitat works for humanity free of charge indefinitely. We need solar panels, but NOT on the EXPENSE of NATURE's supply of free cooling energy - namely forests, wetlands, pastures.....

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Department's SMART emergency regulations.

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