



City known as the Town of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS



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TO: Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
RE: New Solar Incentive Program Comments

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the DOER regarding the new solar incentive program.

The Town of Greenfield has been at the forefront of solar development in Massachusetts and was among the first in the state to build an array on a landfill. The Town is pursuing several other solar projects that will likely be impacted by this new program. We would like to comment on the definition for a solar canopy as shown in the proposal. The addition of agricultural land, walkways, and canals to the solar canopy definition is a valuable expansion that incentivizes the use of specific types of land when “installed in a manner that maintains the function of the area beneath the canopy”. We feel that this definition could be expanded further by including well fields. The well field area that recharges Greenfield’s drinking water is ideally suited for solar development as it is level and open and cannot be developed for any other purpose. Since well fields are found throughout the Commonwealth, the inclusion of this use as a solar canopy would also be of benefit to municipalities throughout Massachusetts. Thus, solar development on a well field would “maintain the function of the area beneath the canopy” as described in the solar canopy definition. The Town respectfully requests that well fields be included in the solar canopy definition.

Thank you for your consideration.