

Office of Career and Technical Education

Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools

112 Rues Lane P.O. Box 1070 East Brunswick, NJ 08816-1070 Tel: (732) 257-3300 Fax: (732) 390-4252

In the Matter of the Community Solar Energy Program, Docket No. QO22030153

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Middlesex County Vocational and Technical School District (MCVTS) and Office of CTE, I am writing to support the Community Solar Energy Program and its transition to a permanent Program.

MCVTS has directly benefited from this program via work based learning experiences that the Community Solar program and Solar Landscape provided to our students, including a paid internship. We have progressed in our relationship to include development of a training program for teachers and students and we anticipate piloting regional trainings for additional teachers in the near future. During our Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment meeting on April 27th, we highlighted the valued partnership with the Community Solar program as a benefit to train entry level solar installers and technicians as well as the direct benefits of the Community Solar program to local communities.

We are concerned that the benefits that our organization and a variety of local communities have received through the Community Solar program are at risk if the BPU does not implement the following as part of the Permanent Program:

1. **The BPU should continue to award community solar projects through a competitive scoring process.** Our organization has seen an extraordinary level of support (financial and otherwise) from solar companies as a direct result of the point system within the project application process. As well, our organization's stakeholders can have direct beneficiaries of discounts and other perks from solar companies wanting to provide information and a valuable service to its customers. Changing to a first-come-first-served project-selection process would eliminate substantial benefits of the competitive process.
2. **The BPU should award more community solar projects.** Community solar projects provide real, tangible benefits to our district and stakeholder, many of whom cannot benefit from traditional residential solar. The Community Solar program is the greatly beneficial for community members to benefit from green energy. We advocate for more community solar.
3. **The BPU should reduce barriers to low-income and moderate-income (LMI) subscribers.** Households that have low or moderate income should be able to qualify as LMI customers for community solar without barriers. If a person testifies that they qualify as low or moderate income that should suffice. Requiring more details will most likely deter residents from signing up for a community solar program.

Thank you for considering these comments. We look forward to continuing to promote clean energy equity in our community.

Sincerely,



Sean McDonald

Director of Career and Technical Education