



Connecticut Fund  
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## **Hartford calls for Shared Solar program**

*City Council resolution asks state leaders to institute full-scale shared solar to expand clean energy access*

NEW HAVEN, CONN. – Hartford City Council passed a resolution Monday evening calling on state leaders to institute a full-scale shared solar program that would make clean energy more available and affordable, especially to apartment dwellers. The resolution, which passed on consent, was introduced by Councilman James Sanchez and originated in the Council's Public Works and Environment Committee.

"Connecticut Fund for the Environment is thrilled to have the support of the Hartford City Council for a full-scale shared solar program in Connecticut. Shared solar not only promotes equal access to clean energy, but would also add high-wage jobs, provide electric bill savings, and generate state revenue," **said Claire Coleman, climate and energy attorney at Connecticut Fund for the Environment.** "Many other states already benefit from shared solar, including our neighbors in Massachusetts and New York. It is time for Connecticut's leaders to stand up for a clean energy future that will bring economic and health benefits to all our residents."

Solar power is clean, renewable, stable, and is fast becoming cheaper than coal and gas. By mid-2017, about 23,000 Connecticut residents had put solar panels on their roofs. But four out of five Connecticut residents can't benefit because their roofs are too shady or face the wrong direction, or because they rent or live in multi-family buildings. Shared solar is the solution. It allows any electricity customer to contract for a portion of solar power produced by a larger solar array, with the benefits automatically credited to their bill and without having to install solar panels at their home. But in Connecticut, only a small pilot program has been approved. Utility companies have repeatedly blocked legislation to expand shared solar.

"Shared solar is an outstanding concept for people who are not homeowners or otherwise can't install solar panels. It's a way of providing the resource of solar and expanding opportunity and savings to people who can't currently access them," **said Councilwoman Cynthia Jennings, chair of the Public Works and Environment Committee.**

Today, Hartford residents subsidize solar in other towns because a small charge on monthly electricity bills contributes to state grants for installing solar. But few city dwellers can put solar panels on their roofs, so each year \$400,000 from Hartford residents goes to other towns instead. Shared solar could close that solar equity gap by allowing city residents to benefit.

"Shared solar would make clean energy available to all Hartford's residents—even if they rent and can't put solar panels on their roofs—and offers a promising opportunity for families to reduce their energy bills," **said Councilman Sanchez.** The City of Hartford hopes our state

leaders will embrace this resolution and support shared solar legislation this year.”

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