June 27, 2025

Revised July 2, 2025

Revised July 16, 2025 (Changes are in red)
See additional questions and links to the presentation slides and meeting recording.

Public Act 18-50, Section 7(a)(1)(C)

STATEWIDE SHARED CLEAN ENERGY FACILITY PROGRAM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND REQUEST FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS

I. Introduction

The Shared Clean Energy Facility (SCEF) program is an annual competitive clean energy procurement administered by the Electric Distribution Companies (EDCs), Eversource Energy (Eversource) and United Illuminating (UI) and overseen by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA). It started in 2020, and it is an eight-year program that procures 50 MW of clean energy annually.[1] Projects range from 100 kW to 5,000 kW[2] and include Class I renewable energy resources like solar and fuel cells. Each year the EDCs issue the SCEF request for proposals (RFP) in January, bids are due in March, and projects are selected in May.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) plays two roles in the SCEF program:

1. Each year on September 1st, DEEP files program recommendations with PURA. This filing includes proposed revisions to the Program Manual, the suggested project price cap for the program, suggested bid preferences for the program, and revisions to Appendix B of the RFP, which is the part of the application that DEEP reviews. DEEP's recommendations are based on observations from previous SCEF procurements, stakeholder input gathered through a public meeting in June or July of each year, written comments submitted to DEEP from the public collected around the same time, and any written comments submitted to PURA in advance of DEEP's September 1st filing deadline.
2. DEEP reviews and evaluates Appendix B responses. This evaluation includes a review of bids claiming bid preferences to ensure they meet all eligibility requirements.

[1] In program years 1-3 SCEF procured 25 MW per year, then Public Act 22-14 increased the annual program cap to 50 MW starting in year 4. If an EDC does not fulfill their allotted annual megawatts during the initial annual procurement, that EDC runs a "round 2" procurement later in the year.
[2] Public Act 22-14 increased the maximum project size from 4,000 kW to 5,000 kW.

II. Background

Price Cap

The statutorily prescribed Program Price Cap is based on the highest selected bid price in the previous procurement year.[3] The historical price caps and highest selected bid price are below:[4]

SCEF Program Year	Price Cap for Non-Solar Canopies ($/MWh)	Price Cap for Solar Canopies ($/MWh)	Highest Selected Bid Price ($/MWh)
1	$159	NA	$159
2	$159	NA	$136
3	$136	$155.43	$135
4	$135	$155.43	$133
5	$133	NA	$133
6	$133	$221.67	$132.99[5]

Bid Preferences

In the SCEF program, bid preferences are used to incentivize project types/characteristics that help achieve state policy goals, even if they make the project more expensive. In crafting bid preferences, DEEP must consider the bid preference percentage amount, establish clear eligibility requirements that can be objectively assessed at the time of bid submission, and determine an appropriate enforcement mechanism. The bid preference does not act as an adder to provide more money to the developer, rather, it reduces the bid price for evaluation purposes to make it more competitive with cheaper projects that do not achieve the particular policy goal. The project, however, is paid whatever price it bid in. In Years 1-6 there was a 20% bid preference for projects sited on landfills and brownfields and in Years 3-5 there was also a 30% bid preference for solar canopy projects. The solar canopy bid preference increased to 40% for Year 6 and solar canopy projects were able to bid up to $221.67, exceeding the program price cap, so long as the evaluated project price remained at or under the price cap. For example, if a previous project sited on a landfill bid into the SCEF procurement at $100/MWh, it was evaluated and ranked as if it cost 20% less or $80/MWh. If the project was selected, it still

[3] Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16-244z(a)(5) ("The maximum selected purchase price of energy and renewable energy certificates on a cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis in any given solicitation shall not exceed such maximum selected purchase price for the same resources in the prior year's solicitation, unless the authority makes a determination that there are changed circumstances in any given year.").

[4] In Years 3 and 4, PURA established a separate price cap for solar canopy projects of $155.43/MWh. None of the bids subject to the higher price cap were selected and PURA removed the higher price cap for Year 5. In Year 6, PURA allowed solar canopies to bid up to $221.67, effectively creating a separate price cap, though PURA did not use this terminology.

[5] This is the highest selected bid price for projects in Year 6 based on the evaluated bid price. As noted by PURA: "when bid prices from Program Year 6 are considered for determining price caps for Program Year 7, it will be the evaluated prices, not the award prices, that will be considered." PURA Dinal Decision, Docket No. 24-08-04, p. 9 (Dec. 11, 2024).

received $100/MWh. Similarly, if a solar canopy project bid into the Year 6 procurement at $221.67/MWh, it would have been evaluated and ranked as if it cost 40% less or $133/MWh, but it would still receive the full $221.67/MWh if selected, even though that was above the price cap. The bid preferences cannot be stacked.

III. Recommendations

Price Cap

Consistent with Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16-244z(a)(5) and DEEP's historical practices, DEEP plans to recommend the highest selected non-solar canopy bid price from Year 6 as the price cap for non-solar canopy projects for Year 7 of the SCEF program. DEEP will continue to evaluate whether there are changed circumstances before making its final recommendation to PURA.

Bid Preferences

DEEP recommends maintaining the 20% bid preference for projects on brownfields and landfills and the 40% bid preference for solar canopies.

DEEP is considering the possibility of a bid preference for projects located on sand and gravel pits. This bid preference would be consistent with the purpose of the landfill and brownfield bid preferences as it would encourage projects to be sited on previously disturbed land. However, DEEP seeks input as to whether developing on a sand and gravel pit is any more expensive than developing on a "greenfield" site.

DEEP is interested in receiving stakeholder feedback regarding a bid preference for projects sited in Distressed Municipalities.[6] DEEP recognizes that Distressed Municipalities have historically been burdened with energy infrastructure in their neighborhoods without receiving any economic benefits and with adverse health consequences for residents. In Docket No. 23-08-04 *Annual Shared Clean Energy Facility Review – Year 5*, PURA contemplated a bid preference for these projects and DEEP recommended against the bid preference but recommended that eligible residents of a Distressed Municipality where a SCEF is located should be prioritized for subscriptions to that project. PURA's adoption of this recommendation leads DEEP to contemplate whether a bid preference for projects located in Distressed Municipalities is appropriate now that the residents of that Distressed Municipality can directly benefit from the project. Some options include a bid preference for all projects located in a Distressed Municipality, an increased bid preference for projects located on a brownfield or landfill that is within a Distressed Municipality, or a bid preference for projects in Distressed Municipalities that meet certain criteria, such as being sited a certain distance from areas zoned as "residential." DEEP notes that residents of Distressed Municipalities may still be selected as SCEF subscribers and benefit from the SCEF program even if projects are not sited in their municipality. DEEP looks forward to robust stakeholder feedback regarding the possibility of a bid preference for projects sited in Distressed Municipalities.

[6] "Distressed Municipality" has the same meaning as in C.G.S. Sec. 32-9p(b).

Other DEEP Recommendations

DEEP recommends clarifying the definition of "Landfill" for the purposes of the SCEF program. DEEP received inquiries from multiple developers about which area(s) at a Landfill are eligible for the Landfill bid preference. DEEP would like to clarify that only the closed, capped portion of the Landfill is eligible for the bid preference. Solar built beyond the capped portion of the Landfill, such as on a plume area, is not eligible for the bid preference. DEEP suggests the following revised definition, with new text in red:

> "Landfill" means any property that is listed on the Closed Landfills list, though this list is not intended to be exhaustive or an acknowledgement of ideal properties for renewable energy development. Only the closed, capped portion of the property is considered a "Landfill" for bid preference purposes.

DEEP would maintain the existing program rule that the Generation Footprint must be wholly located on the Landfill for a Landfill project to be eligible for the bid preference. However, if the size of the Landfill cannot accommodate the entire Generation Footprint, then the project can still be eligible to receive the bid preference, provided at least 75% of the total Generation Footprint is within the Landfill and the Landfill that is legally and technically available for development is utilized.

Finally, DEEP will recommend changes to make the Program Manual and Appendix B consistent with newly passed state legislation.

IV. Public Process

a. Public Meeting

DEEP will hold a public meeting to present recommendations for the next SCEF procurement and hear stakeholder comments. The meeting ~~will be~~ was held virtually via Zoom on **July 15, 2025, at 2:00 PM ET.**

~~Please register for the meeting **HERE**.~~

You can watch the recorded meeting HERE **and view the presentation slides** HERE**.**

b. Opportunity for Written Comments

By way of this Notice, DEEP requests written comments regarding the SCEF Year 7 procurement. Written comments may be filed electronically on DEEP's website or submitted to DEEP.EnergyBureau@ct.gov with "SCEF Comments" in the subject line by **July 29, 2025, at 5:00 PM ET.** All materials submitted by stakeholders in this proceeding will be posted on the DEEP website. Any questions can be directed to DEEP.EnergyBureau@ct.gov.

DEEP welcomes all comments on the SCEF Year 7 bid preferences, price cap, Appendix B, and Program Manual, and is particularly interested to hear from stakeholders about the following questions:

1. What should the price cap be for Year 7 of the SCEF program? Please explain your response.
    a. Are there any current "changed circumstances" that suggest a higher price cap is necessary? Please explain any industry-wide concerns in detail and provide as much evidence as possible.
    b. What future potential "changed circumstances" do you anticipate occurring in advance of the Year 7 procurement in 2026?
    c. How will recently passed federal legislation impact project costs?
2. What bid preference percentage should be given to projects on brownfields and landfills? Please explain your response.
    a. Please provide evidence demonstrating how building on a brownfield or landfill impacts project cost compared to those on "greenfield" sites, if at all.
3. What bid preference percentage should be given to solar canopy projects?
    a. Please provide evidence demonstrating how building a solar canopy impacts project costs compared to a ground mounted system, if at all.
4. What bid preference, if any, should be given to projects sited on sand and gravel pits? Please explain your response.
    a. Please provide evidence demonstrating how building on a sand or gravel pit impacts project cost compared to those on "greenfield" sites, if at all.
    b. How should sand and gravel pits be defined for the purposes of bid preference eligibility?
5. What bid preference, if any, should be given to projects sited in Distressed Municipalities? Please explain your response.
6. What bid preference, if any should be given to rooftop projects? Please explain your response.
    a. Would a bid preference for rooftop projects in the SCEF program create competition with the Non-Residential Renewable Energy Solutions (NRES) program? Please explain how a bid preference for rooftop projects in the SCEF program is not duplicative of the NRES program.
7. What other bid preferences should DEEP consider for Year 7? Provide both the category and the suggested percentage, and please explain how the bid preference furthers the state's policy goals, why a bid preference is necessary, and why the suggested percentage is appropriate.
8. If any of the recommendations in this Notice present a barrier to participation in the SCEF program, please explain why and discuss possible modifications to the recommendation.

DEEP is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact us at (860) 418-5910 or deep.accommodations@ct.gov if you are seeking a communication aid or service, have limited proficiency in English and may need information in another language, require some other accommodation or wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint. Any person needing a hearing accommodation may call the State of Connecticut relay number ─ 711.

Requests for accommodations must be made as soon as possible prior to any agency hearing, program, or event.