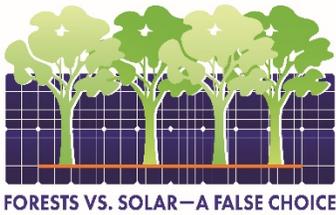




## FORESTS VS. SOLAR – A FALSE CHOICE: Protecting Forests & Making Smart Solar Decisions in Your Community

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On May 27, 2021, the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative (Climate Collaborative) — in partnership with the Cape Cod Commission, Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, and the Faith Communities Environmental Network — presented a virtual meeting entitled ***Forests vs. Solar - A False Choice: Protecting Forests & Making Smart Solar Decisions in Your Community***. Event panelists included national, state, and regional experts from the Woodwell Climate Research Center, Mass Audubon, and the Cape Cod Commission.

***Forests Vs. Solar – A False Choice*** explored the value of forests, tensions associated with large-scale solar installations, and tools for town officials and citizens to make wise planning decisions for their communities. It comprises three parts: 1) Ecology and Value of Forests; 2) Mapping & Policy Tools for Sensitive Lands and Large-Scale Solar Installations; and 3) Q&A to further explore available tools, resources, policies, and programs for wise solar siting. The event was moderated by Eve Zuckoff, radio station CAI climate change reporter, and emceed by Mon Cochran, vice president of the Climate Collaborative’s board of directors.

### Event Resources for Attendees & Stakeholders



#### EVENT VIDEO RECORDING

<https://youtu.be/hPkoLCbitz0>

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The [Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative](#) is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization established in 2016 whose mission is to reach carbon neutrality — or net zero emissions — on Cape Cod and the Islands of Massachusetts by enhancing communication, collaboration and activism among organizations, programs and individuals committed to mitigating the climate crisis. Its membership and leadership teams include leaders from energy, business, built environment, planning, conservation, transportation, government, education, faith community and other sectors across the region.



## PANELISTS, SLIDE PRESENTATIONS & RESOURCES

Below is a list of our panelists with brief bios, copies of their PowerPoint presentations, and suggested resources for additional information and education.

1. **WAYNE WALKER, Ph.D.** - Carbon Program Director and Associate Scientist at Woodwell Climate Research Center, is an ecologist and remote sensing specialist with expertise in the workings of forests and how carbon cycle science translates into climate solutions.

### ***Forests vs. Solar Presentation Slides***

- (PowerPoint)  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vaFLod34AvAdj4PS43xLDUfPgROtIVkC/view?usp=sharing>
- (PDF)  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sXQw8VsN82DKMwaV6KnXvahtlGPxLNLI/view?usp=sharing>

### ***Other Resources***

- [Nature4Climate](#): A nonprofit environmental organization that promotes the critical role nature plays in restoring balance to our climate. Nature4Climate (N4C) was founded in 2017 to raise the profile of these solutions and drive increased action and investment in natural climate solutions. We do that by communicating the immediate benefits of nature-based solutions – societal, environmental and economic – to decision makers in both the public and private sector.
- Moomaw, W.R., S. A. Masino, and E.K. Faison. 2019. [Intact forests in the United States: Proforestation mitigates climate change and serves the greatest good](#). *Frontiers in Forests and Global Change* 2, doi: 10.3389/ffgc.2019.00027. Recent paper by Bill Moomaw *et al* on the concept of “proforestation.”

2. **E. HEIDI RICCI, M.S.** - Director of Policy and Advocacy at Mass Audubon with expertise is in environmental policy and public engagement and assisting communities in building resilience through nature-based solutions and low-impact development.

### ***Forests vs. Solar Presentation Slides*** (PDF format)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1739-I9nKGTsTbWLMylzGyT21fMhpBENV/view?usp=sharing>

### ***Other Resources***

- *Losing Ground: The Value of Nature in a Changing Climate*, Mass Audubon, 2020. Reports recent land use trends and the values of land in the context of climate change, supporting resilience for people and nature. [www.massaudubon.org/losingground](http://www.massaudubon.org/losingground)
- Companion fact sheet series and literature database on the *Value of Nature*: [www.massaudubon.org/valueofnature](http://www.massaudubon.org/valueofnature)
- [Mass Audubon’s solar siting webpage: www.massaudubon.org/our-conservation-work/advocacy/alternative-energy/solar](http://www.massaudubon.org/our-conservation-work/advocacy/alternative-energy/solar)
- Clark University maps of all large-scale solar project in MA and RI (RI map including explanation of the methodology) <https://maxenger.github.io/solar/Storymap.html>

- MA map: <https://taoshiqi.users.earthengine.app/view/solarpanelsbytowns> - The fully functional merged website will be available late summer 2021.
- Department of Energy Resources (DOER), Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) Program--the state's solar financing incentive program--including regulations and guidelines: [www.mass.gov/info-details/solar-massachusetts-renewable-target-smart-program](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/solar-massachusetts-renewable-target-smart-program)
- UMass Clean Energy Extension, Solar Resources for Municipalities: <https://aq.umass.edu/clean-energy/resources/solar-pv/solar-resources-for-municipalities>
- *Long Island Solar Roadmap*. A collaborative approach to finding low-conflict sites for solar energy. Includes an interactive map and a report identifying barriers and recommended solutions. <http://solarroadmap.org/>
- Maine Audubon, *Solar Siting Toolkit - Thoughtfully Sited Solar*. Includes interactive mapping tool, best practices, and model regulations: [www.maineaudubon.org/advocacy/solar/](http://www.maineaudubon.org/advocacy/solar/)
- New Jersey Solar Siting. Includes a report on preferred and non-preferred sites for solar projects, and an interactive mapping tool: [www.nj.gov/dep/aqes/solar-siting.html](http://www.nj.gov/dep/aqes/solar-siting.html)
- *An Act Creating a Next Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy*. Chapter 8 of the Acts of 2021. Comprehensive climate and energy bill, including requiring a baseline assessment of carbon in natural and working lands and a plan for protection and management. Also includes several provisions supporting solar within development areas. <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2021/Chapter8>.
- Massachusetts legislators and other bills of interest: [www.malegislature.gov/](http://www.malegislature.gov/)

**3. JESSICA REMPEL, M.S.** - Natural Resources Analyst for the Cape Cod Commission, specializing in solar siting and open space, wetland, and plant and wildlife habitat planning and protection.

***Forests vs. Solar Presentation Slides*** (PDF):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Wq5WQP7DY47noolYOL7ntkqdLdifu0ey/view?usp=sharing>

***Model Solar Bylaw Resources*** (This is a comprehensive list of many solar bylaw resources.)

○ [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1C73gmjIjg0\\_ZR8EpPF\\_4rpLv8Y0PTrha/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1C73gmjIjg0_ZR8EpPF_4rpLv8Y0PTrha/view?usp=sharing)

***Other Resources***

- <https://www.capecodcommission.org/>
- <https://www.capecodcommission.org/our-work/topic/climate>
- <https://capecodcommission.org/our-work/greenhouse-gas-emissions-inventory/>
- <https://www.capecodcommission.org/our-work/solar-screening-tool/>
- <https://capecodclimate.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/CAPE-COD-COMMISSION-Solar-Bylaw-Resources.pdf>
- <https://www.capecodcommission.org/assets/5738147026/Siting-Large-Scale-Solar-Photovoltaic-Projects-on-Cape-Cod-.pdf.pdf>

**Note:** The Cape Cod Commission's website is a useful resource containing information on the CCC's regional climate initiative, greenhouse gas inventory, and solar screening tool, with each of the above webpages containing links to other resources.

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