



The Climate
Reality Project®



Generation180

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**Amid Federal Climate Rollbacks, New Report Shows How
Public Renewables Can Fill the Gap**

*Connecticut Green Bank's public-led model for solar at K-12 schools offers a
blueprint that can be replicated in all 50 states*

Washington, D.C. – A new analysis from climate non-profits Public Renewables Project, The Climate Reality Project, and Generation180 provides a roadmap for how states can significantly accelerate solar adoption on K-12 schools through existing public finance institutions. The report, ***Public Option Solar for K-12 Schools: A Case Study of Connecticut Green Bank's Solar Marketplace Assistance Program***, provides a detailed look at a proven approach used by the Connecticut Green Bank to help finance and develop solar installations from start to finish at 80 K-12 schools in Connecticut.

The report will be available beginning September 18, 2025, at 6:00a.m. ET at:
generation180.org/resource/public-option-solar-for-k12-schools

At a time when federal clean energy funding is being rolled back, the Connecticut Green Bank offers a proof of concept: public renewable energy development that works for schools and communities. Through its innovative approach to public-public partnerships, Connecticut has helped schools go solar with no upfront costs and start saving money immediately. Because it remains viable at modest financial returns, this approach is less dependent on federal subsidies – providing a blueprint for states and cities to scale renewable energy even amid opposition in Washington.

The Connecticut Green Bank's Solar Marketplace Assistance Program (Solar MAP) publicly developed **27% of the state's K-12 solar capacity**. Connecticut's public option solar model is responsible for making Connecticut the #1 state for the percentage of solar-powered K-12 schools in the contiguous US. The Solar MAP program provided the needed technical assistance and financing support for schools across the state who would not have gone solar

without that partnership. In recent years, **50-75% of the Connecticut Green Bank's K-12 solar projects have been built in low-income and disadvantaged communities.**

How the Public Option for K-12 Solar Works

Public finance institutions – like green banks and state development finance agencies—can finance and own K-12 solar projects, and then sell the power back to schools at lower rates than the utility charges. Schools can save money from day one, with no upfront costs or added staff time. **Because every state has at least one of these institutions, this full-service public-public partnership can be replicated nationwide.**

Behind the scenes, this approach is powered by innovative public finance tools. Institutions like the Connecticut Green Bank can recycle capital again and again, leveraging the value of one round of investments to access additional capital – often through bonds – and finance future rounds of clean energy projects. This public developer model turns green banks into self-sustaining engines of decarbonization that keep building projects no matter who is in power in Washington, DC.

“Public renewables offer a practical answer to federal climate rollbacks. With fewer federal subsidies, private clean energy developers are not building projects fast enough. Publicly developed renewables can fill that gap – building the projects that private for-profit developers won't, and making sure the benefits flow to schools and workers, not shareholders. This report proves that the public developer model works, and all 50 states already have the public finance tools to follow suit. We're launching the Public Renewables Project to replicate the Connecticut Green Bank's success in other states,” said **Jason Kowalski, Executive Director, Public Renewables Project.**

“This model is the strongest public option for K-12 solar in the country, and is not only a win for schools who save time and money, but it will help states meet their climate goals,” said **Jeremy Liskar, US Legislative Manager, The Climate Reality Project.**

“Working with a green bank offers an ‘easy button’ for schools and local governments, who are more likely to consider solar if they can count on a neutral, trusted expert to guide them through the process,” said **Tish Tablan, Senior Director of Generation180's Electrify Our Schools program.**

“We realized that school and municipal leaders understood the cost saving benefits of adding solar and storage to their buildings, but the resources required to navigate the complexity of the development process was a challenge,” said **Mackey Dykes, Executive Vice President of Financing Programs, Connecticut Green Bank.** “Through Solar MAP+, the Green Bank manages the process from start to finish, simplifying each step along the way. The end result is more solar and storage on schools and more energy savings and resiliency for the municipalities.”

“The Connecticut Green Bank’s approach benefits every school in Connecticut, but it’s especially impactful for smaller towns and municipalities. Smaller towns face limited resources, which can strain their ability to pursue other initiatives. The Green Bank was instrumental in the success of the Town of Manchester’s school solar projects,” said **Chris Till, Manchester Public Schools Facility Manager**. Manchester Public Schools, a large suburban district in central Connecticut, partnered with the Connecticut Green Bank to finance and develop 1.6 megawatts (MW) of solar capacity across six of Manchester’s seventeen public schools. Solar installations are saving the Town of Manchester approximately \$100,000 annually.

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About Generation180

Generation180 is a national nonprofit working to inspire and equip people to take action on clean energy in their homes, schools, and communities. Our Electrify Our Schools program works towards the vision that all of our schools become clean-powered, resilient centers in the community where students, families, and community members can learn about how to help build a brighter future together. Through this program, Generation180 is building the clean energy movement at K-12 schools by elevating the work of school leaders in this space and empowering them to support and inspire others to take action. Learn more at www.Generation180.org/Electrify-Our-Schools/.

About Public Renewables Project

The Public Renewables Project is a new climate advocacy organization calling for publicly financed, publicly developed renewable energy. Our mission is to stand up a public renewable energy developer in all 50 states, to build the renewable energy that for-profit developers are currently not building. We work with labor unions, climate groups, grassroots organizations, and public finance experts to deploy public renewables in a way that reduces inequality and increases worker power. Learn more at www.PublicRenewables.org.

About The Climate Reality Project

Founded by former US Vice President Al Gore, The Climate Reality Project is working to catalyze a global solution to the climate crisis by making urgent action a necessity across every level of society. With a global movement of more than 3.8 million strong and a grassroots network of trained Climate Reality Leaders, we are spreading the truth about the climate crisis and building popular support for clean energy solutions. Learn more at www.ClimateRealityProject.org.