

Bolton Recreation Department Budget Summary 2024 - 2025 -			
Category	Expenditure	Revenue	Difference
Payroll	\$ (60,773.61)	\$ -	\$ (60,773.61)
Other Payroll	\$ (81,465.23)	\$ -	\$ (81,465.23)
Herrick Park Summer Camp	\$ (19,200.00)	\$ 92,600.00	\$ 73,400.00
Other Summer Camps	\$ (3,750.00)	\$ 8,250.00	\$ 4,500.00
Youth Basketball	\$ (10,150.00)	\$ 20,700.00	\$ 10,550.00
Afterschool Programs	\$ (150.00)	\$ 3,025.00	\$ 2,875.00
School Recess	\$ (1,000.00)	\$ 3,430.00	\$ 2,430.00
Bus Trips	\$ (2,500.00)	\$ 3,250.00	\$ 750.00
Adult Programs	\$ (250.00)	\$ 2,772.00	\$ 2,522.00
Indian Notch Park	\$ (4,200.00)	\$ 36,775.00	\$ 32,575.00
Community Events	\$ (5,400.00)	\$ 8,300.00	\$ 2,900.00
Miscellaneous Youth Programs	\$ (1,170.00)	\$ 3,100.00	\$ 1,930.00
Professional Training	\$ (950.00)	\$ -	\$ (950.00)
Office Operations	\$ (500.00)	\$ -	\$ (500.00)
Request Town Support	\$ -	\$ 9,257.00	
Total	\$ (191,458.84)	\$ 191,459.00	\$ 0.16

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McCavanagh, Kathleen

From: Rose Carroll <notifications@branchcms.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 10:20 AM
To: townadmin@boltonct.org
Subject: Email Popup Form Submission

External (notifications@branchcms.com)

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New form submission on March 05, 2024

Name: Rose Carroll

Email: rdcarroll01@yahoo.com

A copy of this form will be sent to your email as listed above.

Phone number: 18606822953

Message: This is written testimony for Public comments tonight at the Board of Selectmen. This document is to make the Board aware of the Carter St. Solar Proposal and the effects it may have on the Bolton Residents. Fran Rokicki, a Bolton resident, will be speaking on behalf of the concerned residents. Thank you.

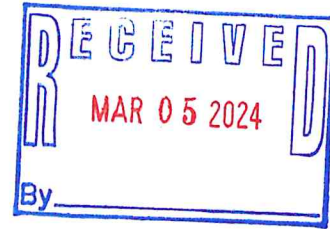
Attachment: Download at https://bcms-files.s3.amazonaws.com/EzoynNLyL2-1704/form-file-uploads-oeVrw0Q5Me/BOD_Carterst_Solar_bolton-R6a9Q5Ux.pdf

Contact name: Jim Rupert

Contact: dG93bmFkbWluQGJvbHRvbmN0Lm9yZw==

Date: March 5, 2024

Town Hall
222 Bolton Center Road
Bolton, CT 06043



To: Bolton Board of Selectmen

RE: 250 Carter St. Solar Farm Proposal

I am speaking on behalf of concerned residents of Bolton regarding the proposed installation of a solar photovoltaic electric generating facility (Solar Farm) at 250 Carter Street.

This initiative, as presented by TriTec, a California-based company, has raised significant apprehensions within our community, particularly in light of the numerous negative impacts we expect, ranging from decreased property values, health and safety, water management, to the environment, wildlife and destruction of natural habitat.

As the Board of Selectmen, we are asking for your assistance with the following:

1. To submit formal testimony via email in opposition to Petition NO. 1609 to the CT Siting Council and request a public hearing by **March 7th**. - It is imperative that our voices are heard, and a thorough examination of the environmental and community impacts is conducted.

siting.council@ct.gov

melanie.bachman@ct.gov Melanie Bachman, Executive Director

Why you should be concerned:

- **Local Approval Not Needed:** A Solar developer just needs to file an application with the CT Siting Council. The Siting Council has exclusive jurisdiction over this type of project. This can happen anywhere in town or anywhere in the state. Your back yard could be next.
- **Bolton Residential Impact:** This proposed solar farm is located next to the Bolton Town line and residents would be affected by the noise and any adverse effects of the solar farm.
- **First Responder Support:** may be needed if there is a fire.

Let me highlight some of the specific concerns raised by Manchester residents regarding the proposed industrial solar farm project.

- **Property Values:** Studies have shown that nearby solar farms can negatively impact residential property values, leading to decreased property assessments and lower

property tax revenue for towns. This area of town is zoned rural-residential to prevent industrial and commercial encroachment

- **Environmental Impact:** The construction of the solar farm will result in deforestation, habitat destruction, and contamination of wetlands. This poses a significant threat to local ecosystems and biodiversity. The proximity to the Shenipsit Hiking Trail, a cherished recreational resource that traverses' conservation lands protected by the Kongsicut Land Trust and the Manchester Land Trust, is at odds with industrial development.
- **Endangered Species:** The project further endangers multiple species of concern, including the Eastern Box Turtle and Long-Eared Bat, as identified by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).
- **Water Management:** Inadequate stormwater management measures will compound the erosion and water runoff that occurs when land is deforested. It will threaten downslope properties with higher flooding risks than exist today and escalate environmental degradation of the entire community.
- **Safety and Health Concerns:** Residents are concerned about potential noise pollution, fire risks associated with industrial solar farm electric generating facilities - usually started by inverters or other equipment malfunctions or failure. The proximity of the solar farm to the Algonquin pipeline: which transports about 20 billion cubic meters of natural gas per year, seems ill-advised.

Thank you,

Concerned Residents of Bolton

We have included sources in our written testimony that support our concerns highlighted above.

Documentation / Sources

Property Values – A decrease in residential property values would decrease our property assessment in turn lower the towns’ property tax revenue.

[Solar’s Impact on Rural Property Values \(asfmra.org\)](#) A 2021 study from the University of Rhode Island looked at 400,000 transactions in New England over the course of 15 years, finding that suburban residential property values suffered negative impacts when nearby solar farms replaced resources perceived as scarce, such as green space.

[What Is a Safe Distance to Live from a Solar Farm? – Climate Cafes](#) There were a number of other studies completed with the same negative impacts. For instance, it could have an aesthetic impact on your neighborhood.

Environmental

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_495.htm#sec_26-305 **Multiple Species of Concern per DEEP** – Eastern Box Turtle, Long Eared Bat

<https://ctwoodlands.org/trails/shenipsit-trail/> **Shenipsit Hiking Trail:** This trail uses these woodlands. The trail crosses conservation lands protected by the Kongscut Land Trust and the Manchester Land Trust.

Deforestation / Habitat Destruction: Intact Forests in the United States: Deforestation Mitigates Climate Change and Serves the Greatest Good

https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/ffgc.2019.00027/full?te=1&nl=climate-fwd:&emc=edit_clim_20200328

Deforestation contributing to Climate Change

<https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/-/media/Project/Nyserda/Files/Publications/Research/Environmental/impacts-of-climate-change.pdf>

Contamination of Wetlands

<https://apnews.com/general-news-50f48ebff6c474dfa2767395c5edb291>

Inadequate Decommissioning plan [Petition NO. 1609](#) Exhibit E - Decommissioning Plan
Stormwater Management / Wetlands

Wetlands

- [The Impacts of Climate Change on Forests of the Northeastern ...](#)
- [nyserda \(.gov\)](#)
- <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov › Environmental › i...>

Flooding to downslope properties

- Inadequate storm water basin

- Erosion
- Water runoff from the deforestation

<https://www.cbf.org/issues/land-use/solar-power.html> Avoid Wetlands, Encourage development on degraded developed (Commercial / Industrial) land.

Safety and Health Concerns

Noise Pollution

- <https://ctmirror.org/2023/06/19/east-windsor-ct-solar-farm-noise/>
- <https://www.ctinsider.com/journalinquirer/article/solar-farm-noise-east-windsor-18160968.php>

Fire Concerns with Solar Panel Inverter and equipment

- [Solar farm fire in Upstate New York sends possible toxic smoke billowing into surrounding community - CBS News](#)
- [After three fires this summer at commercial battery storage facilities in N.Y., Hochul creates working group for safety investigation - RiverheadLOCAL](#)
- [Fire a major hidden danger for solar farms | Insurance Business America \(insurancebusinessmag.com\)](#)

Proximity to Gas line

[Petition NO. 1609 Exhibit B - Civil Plan Set https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/CSC/3_Petitions-medialibrary/Petitions_MediaLibrary/MediaPetitionNos1601-1700/PE1609/PetitionerSubmissions/Exhibit-B---Civil-Plan-Set.pdf](#)

Given the possible fire danger, this site is too close to a pipeline pumping billions of cubic feet of natural gas through, adding critical concern for our local and neighboring first responders.