

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS authorizing solar power purchase and lease agreements.

Submitted by: Steven Winter, Executive Director, Office of Climate and Sustainability

REPORT: 1668-08

ADVICE: Approve.

BACKGROUND

This order will authorize and empower the Mayor to enter into multi-year power purchase and lease agreements for City-owned facilities or sites (including Board of Education and Parks Department facility sites) for the use of solar arrays and parking canopies, and to enter into any utility agreements required for the installation and technical execution of the aforementioned power purchase and lease agreements, including but not limited to electrical interconnection agreements with United Illuminating containing provisions indemnifying United Illuminating inclusive of attorney fees and court costs. This is subject to the approval of the City of New Haven Energy Committee.

Specifically, the City is seeking to develop solar parking canopies at the Bowen Field parking lot, the Alling Memorial Golf Course parking lot, the East Shore Park north parking lot, and the Roberto Clemente Leadership Academy for Global Awareness parking lot.

HISTORY

As part of the City's commitment to reduce energy costs and improving energy efficiency and in alignment with the City's adopted Climate Emergency Order, the City of New Haven is developing solar energy resources at the City landfill and two parking canopies (at LW Beecher School and Hill Central School). Construction on these projects is planned to begin this summer.

The Office of Climate and Sustainability and the Engineering Department continue to explore new opportunities for solar development. Together, they have identified new sites for solar parking canopies, where lease agreements which will generate revenue to support municipal services and power purchase agreements to reduce City energy bills. Developing solar parking canopies allows the City to generate solar energy while conserving undeveloped land and providing shade and protection from the elements to vehicles.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

This order aligns with the goals of the Vision 2025 Comprehensive Plan which states as a planning consideration "*The City will require a continued commitment to sustainable environmental policy and a systematic approach to energy efficiency and development of renewable energy resources to further improve air quality and ensure a high quality environment*" as well as Vision 2034, the City's soon-to-be- Comprehensive Plan Climate & Ecological Connections section which states "*Support agencies, communities, and neighborhoods working together to become more resilient to climate change impacts*"

to “*Develop neighborhood-scale platforms for clean and affordable renewable energy,*” and to “*Expand the deployment of solar energy systems across the City,*” among other goals and strategies.

ADVICE

Approve, with suggestion to offset trees to be removed with an equal or greater number of trees planted elsewhere.

ADOPTED: June 18, 2025
Ernest Pagan
Chair

ATTEST:

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Laura E. Brown

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Laura E Brown

Executive Director, City Plan Department