

# Solar Policy Town Meeting

NH Envirothon Spring Webinar

*- or classroom activity*



# Welcome to the Solar Policy Town Meeting Activity

**Lesson Objective:** Students will enact a model solar choice session at a town meeting where they work with varied groups of people with different goals and values to agree upon the best solar policy that best represents the imaginary town of Granite Cliff, NH.

- Which type of solar does the town want to encourage?
  - Only the individual systems (rooftop or small ground mount)
  - Municipal (canopies on town- owned buildings/car garages)
  - State driven opportunities for large scale ground mounted solar facilities.
- What policy **procedures** should the town adopt to ensure that the agreed upon choice is carried out?
- **Questions?**

# Breakout Rooms Part One:

- Students should be randomly assigned to groups / breakout rooms with the same identity.
- Follow the prompts
- Keep aware of the time. - 30 minutes  
Total.

# Breakout Room – Goal One

- **Get to know your role and each other**
- **10 minutes**
  - To understand the identity/role of this group and to read through the types of solar available for the imaginary town of Granite Cliff, NH.
  - Each breakout room will review the solar identity and the types of solar information sheets, plus the fictional town map.
  - Students will learn their identity and review the four types of solar options.
  - Students can ask each other questions about their tasks and roles.
  - Students should discuss their discussion parameters, i.e. time limit per speaker, disagreements, how to ensure everyone who wants to speak can, etc.
  - Students work in their groups within each identity.

# Goal 2 – Part One

*Discuss the pros and cons of each option, decide on the best option that fits with their group's identity, and to develop supporting evidence and reasons for their claim.*

- **Prompt 1**
- **10 minutes**
  - What is your identity group's solar recommendation?
    - Decide what you want to advocate based on your identity role.
      - Weigh the pros and cons of different types of solar energy.
      - Keep in mind that finances typically play a heavy role in community decision-making.

# Goal 2 – Part Two

*Discuss the pros and cons of each option, decide on the best option that fits with their group's identity, and to develop supporting evidence and reasons for their claim.*

- **Prompt 2**
- **5 minutes**
  - Explain and give evidence for your reasoning.
  - Why is your solar choice the best option for Granite Cliff?

# Goal 2 – Part Three

*Discuss the pros and cons of each option, decide on the best option that fits with their group's identity, and to develop supporting evidence and reasons for their claim.*

- **Prompt 3**
- **5 minutes**
  - What policy **procedures** should be developed to ensure your group's plan?
    - FYI - Policy is a law, regulation, **procedure**, administrative action, incentive, or voluntary practice of governments and other institutions. Policy decisions are frequently reflected in resource allocations.
  - Prepare to discuss solar recommendations. Compile supporting evidence to explain your choices.

**Welcome Back!**

**Overall group discussion/debate**

**30 minutes total**



# Goal 3

The overall group should come to a consensus of a best plan for the town of Granite Cliff.

**15 minutes total**

**Each group should quickly share their choice of plan.** *(This could be a show of hands.)*

**Debate prompt 1:** Discuss what type(s) of solar should our town policy prioritize and why?

**Debate prompt 2:** How can we best compromise for all identities?

# Goals 4 & 5

The overall group should come to a consensus on best town location(s) and policies for the town of Granite Cliff.

**15 minutes total**

- **Goal 4:** Reach a consensus on town location(s) and policies.
  - **Debate prompt 1:** Where should this plan be implemented?
  
- **Goal 5:** Reach a consensus on town policies.
  - **Debate prompt 2:** What policies/procedures should the town adopt to ensure that the chosen solar plan is implemented properly?

# Reflection

*To be done by each school, sometime **AFTER** the webinar*

**Goal 6:** The ultimate lesson goal was to find the best compromise within a variety of groups with diverse opinions, motives, and values.

- **Reflection prompt 1:** What are some key takeaways from this activity?
- **Reflection prompt 2:** What was hard to negotiate?
  - What did everyone agree upon?
  - Where was there tension between different groups?
  - How did you compromise?
- **Reflection prompt 3:** Do you feel that this activity realistically reflects how NH town groups interact and work together?