



Town of Barrington

MEREDITH J. DESISTO, CMC • TOWN CLERK

Town Hall | 283 County Road | Barrington, RI 02806

March 1, 2022

To The Honorable

Daniel J. McKee, Governor of the State of RI

Dominick J. Ruggerio, Senate President

K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker of the House

Cynthia Armour Coyne, Senator (32)

Lianna M. Cassar, Representative (66)

Jason Knight, Representative (67)

RE: Resolution to Enable Residential Solar to Better Contribute to Reach the RI Renewable Electricity Goals.

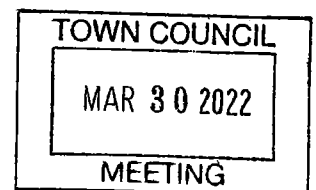
On February 7, 2022 the Barrington Town Council voted to approve a resolution to enable residential solar to better contribute to reaching the State's renewable electricity goals, by taking legislative action to remove the capacity limit from the rules for net metering. **The motion passed 5-0-0-0; in favor, President Carroll, Vice President Humm, Councilman Brier, Councilwoman Conway, and Councilman Kustell; no one opposed, no recusals and there were no abstentions.**

RE: A Resolution Asking the General Assembly to Enact Legislation Creating the Rhode Island Broadband Development Program and Enabling Rhode Island Municipalities to Incentivize Broadband Services and Provide Municipal Broadband Services.

On February 7, 2022 the Barrington Town Council voted to approve a resolution asking the General Assembly to enact legislation creating the Rhode Island Broadband Development Program and enabling Rhode Island municipalities to incentivize broadband services and provide municipal broadband service community wide. **The motion passed 4-0-1-0; in favor, President Carroll, Councilman Brier, Councilwoman Conway, and Councilman Kustell; no one opposed, one (1) recusal, Vice President Humm, and there were no abstentions.**

Meredith J. DeSisto, CMC
Barrington Town Clerk

Enclosure



TOWN OF BARRINGTON, RI
Resolution to Enable Residential Solar to Better Contribute to
Reaching the RI Renewable Electricity Goals

By taking legislative action to remove the capacity limit from the rules for net metering¹, allowing net metering of up to 100 percent of residents' historic usage, and then allowing the payment of a cash incentive by the grid operator to residential solar generators for excess production beyond the 100 percent at a fairly priced supplier rate.

Whereas, the State of Rhode Island has put into effect the Act on Climate and has set aggressive goals for replacing electricity that is generated by burning fossil fuels with electricity from renewable sources; and

Whereas, every contribution toward moving to renewable energy should be highly welcome; and

Whereas, this is not the case when it comes to regulating residential solar installations. The State of Rhode Island, under the rules for net metering, limits the amount of solar energy that residents are allowed to generate. Their solar system can only be "... sized to annually produce electricity in an amount that is equal to, or less than ... the three-year (3) average annual consumption of energy over the previous three (3) years ..."; and

Whereas, if a resident wants to install additional solar panels beyond that capacity and feed extra electricity into the grid, our state regulations don't allow that—even if there would be enough roof space and the resident wanted to pay for the larger system; and

Whereas, actively limiting solar installations contradicts the spirit of the Act on Climate and disregards the urgency to stabilize the climate by reducing carbon emissions. We can no longer afford to continue tolerating instead of eliminating this contradiction; the time to act on climate is running out; and

Whereas, rooftops are an ideal location for solar panels. Residential rooftop solar does not require additional space, nor converting open spaces into solar fields. Legislation should encourage, not limit using all available rooftop space for generation of renewable solar electricity, and treat this as a highly welcome contribution to reaching 100% renewable electricity; and

Whereas, every kilowatt hour of solar electricity produced by a resident directly eliminates an equivalent of carbon emissions and directly helps the climate; and

Whereas, maximizing residential solar creates additional jobs. Limiting residential solar is a missed opportunity for the labor market and local economy; and

Whereas, removing the limit removes unnecessary administrative and financial burden for residents who plan to install a solar system first, convert from natural gas heat to electric heat pumps in the future, and, still later purchase an electric vehicle. The current rule forces to install a limited capacity initially, add more solar panels to support the heat pump later, and then, when the time comes, again add more panels to charge the electric vehicle. This requires several

applications and the overall cost of installation increases, compared to a one-time, larger installation.

Whereas, there are no unresolvable technical reasons to justify the limit—the state of Massachusetts has no comparable limit and uses the same grid as Rhode Islanders. What works in Massachusetts will work equally well in Rhode Island; and

Whereas, in February 2021, the Town of Barrington passed a Resilient Future Resolution placing energy efficiency, carbon emissions reduction, and renewable energy choices among its top priorities.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that Rhode Island seize the opportunity to maximize residential rooftop solar capacity, which accelerates the conversion to renewable energy and directly reduces carbon emissions; and be it further

Resolved, that Rhode Island support transformative, creative solutions that meet the challenge of the climate crisis; and remove the capacity limit during the current legislative session, allowing net metering of up to 100 percent of historic usage, and then allowing the payment of a cash incentive by the grid operator to residential solar generators for excess production beyond the 100 percent at a fairly priced supplier rate; and be it further

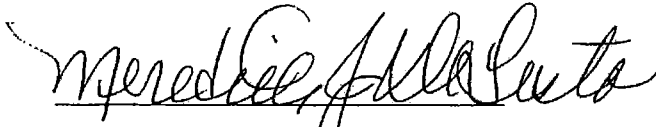
Resolved, that upon passage of this resolution, copies of it be distributed to the Governor of the State of Rhode Island, the Senate President and Speaker of the House of Rhode Island's General Assembly, Barrington's three representatives in the General Assembly, and the Town Clerks of all municipalities in the State of Rhode Island requesting distribution to each of their respective elected officials.

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This resolution shall take effect upon passage.



Michael Carroll,
Barrington Town Council President

ATTEST:



Meredith J. DeSisto, CMC
Barrington Town Clerk

R.I. Gen. Laws §39-26.4-2

TITLE 39
Public Utilities and Carriers

CHAPTER 39-26.4
Net Metering

SECTION 39-26.4-2

"§ 39-26.4-2. Definitions.

... (5) "Eligible net-metering system" means a facility generating electricity using an eligible net metering resource that is reasonably designed and sized to annually produce electricity in an amount that is equal to, or less than, the renewable self-generator's usage at the eligible net metering system site measured by the three-year (3) average annual consumption of energy over the previous three (3) years at the electric distribution account(s) located at the eligible net-metering system site. A projected annual consumption of energy may be used until the actual three-year (3) average annual consumption of energy over the previous three (3) years at the electric distribution account(s) located at the eligible net-metering system site becomes available for use in determining eligibility of the generating system...."