

Accelerating Smart Renewable Energy

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TNC's Approach to Renewable Energy

CLIMATE

- Siting on low-impact lands can reduce land-use conflicts, permitting time, and likelihood of project cancelation.
- Conversion or alteration of natural lands serving as carbon sinks erodes NY's chances of achieving climate goals

CONSERVATION

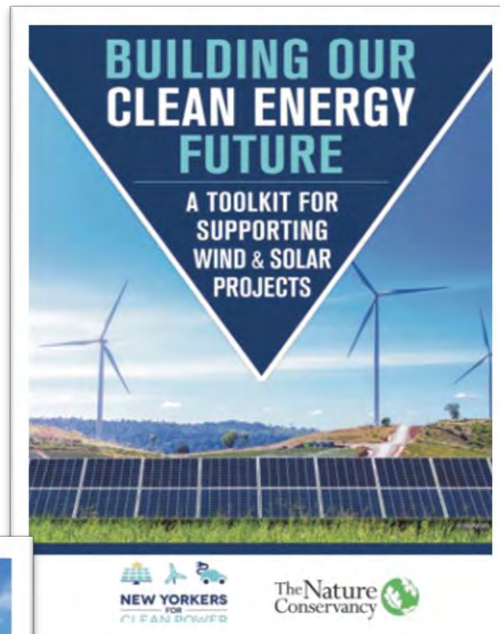
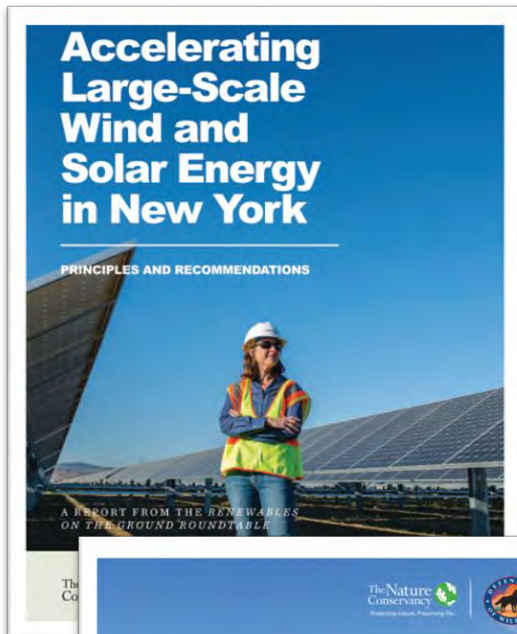
- Siting that avoids or minimizes alteration of natural lands can support biodiversity and habitats for future generations and maintain their essential function for clean air, water, and food.

COMMUNITY

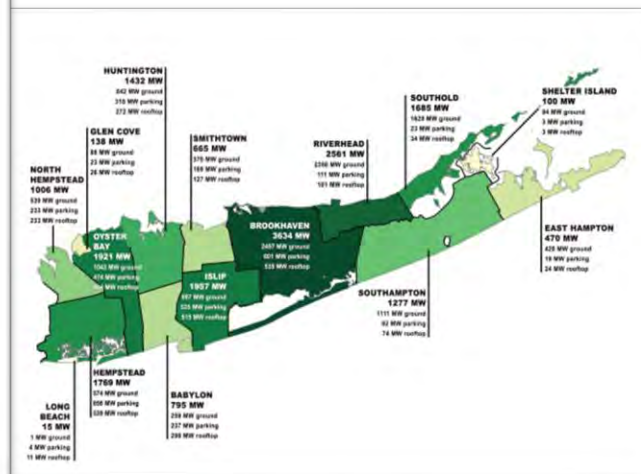
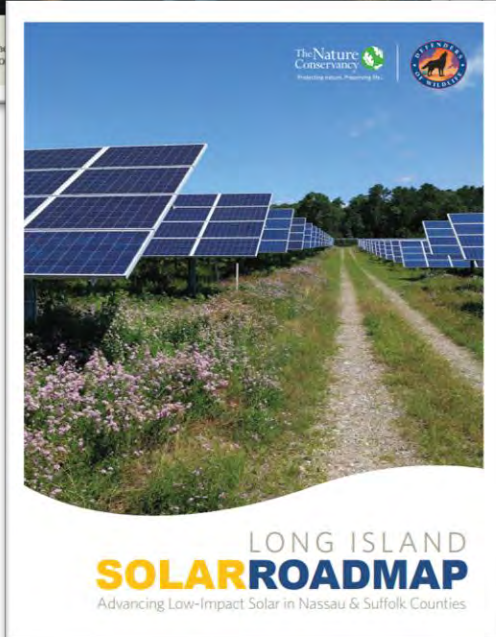
- Success depends on community-supported projects that deliver benefits and address local needs.



Our Work in New York



- **Renewables on the Ground Roundtable** – research, dialogue, & advocacy to identify & reduce barriers to renewable energy development in New York
- **Building our Clean Energy Future** – toolkit for individuals to voice & build support for renewables
- **Long Island Solar Roadmap** – spatial analysis, economic & public opinion research, & recommendations for accelerating solar on low-impact, low-conflict sites



Solar Solutions Project

- Social science research to understand:
 - What is driving community perceptions about non-residential solar projects?
 - What tools or strategies can local officials or other stakeholders use to build support and maximize community benefits?
- Findings from community interviews and stakeholder workshops:
 - Community involvement
 - Sense of place & pride in local character
- Next steps: develop, test, iterate strategies for community participation, engagement, & leadership, working with pilot community, e.g.:
 - Stakeholder mapping & engagement
 - Local community analysis

Factors shaping community perspectives towards solar



'No voice' over local developments



Lack of capacity in towns



Costs tend to matter more than benefits



Getting a fair deal matters



Avoid loss of regional character and sense of place



Protect the existing environment

Spatial Analysis and Planning

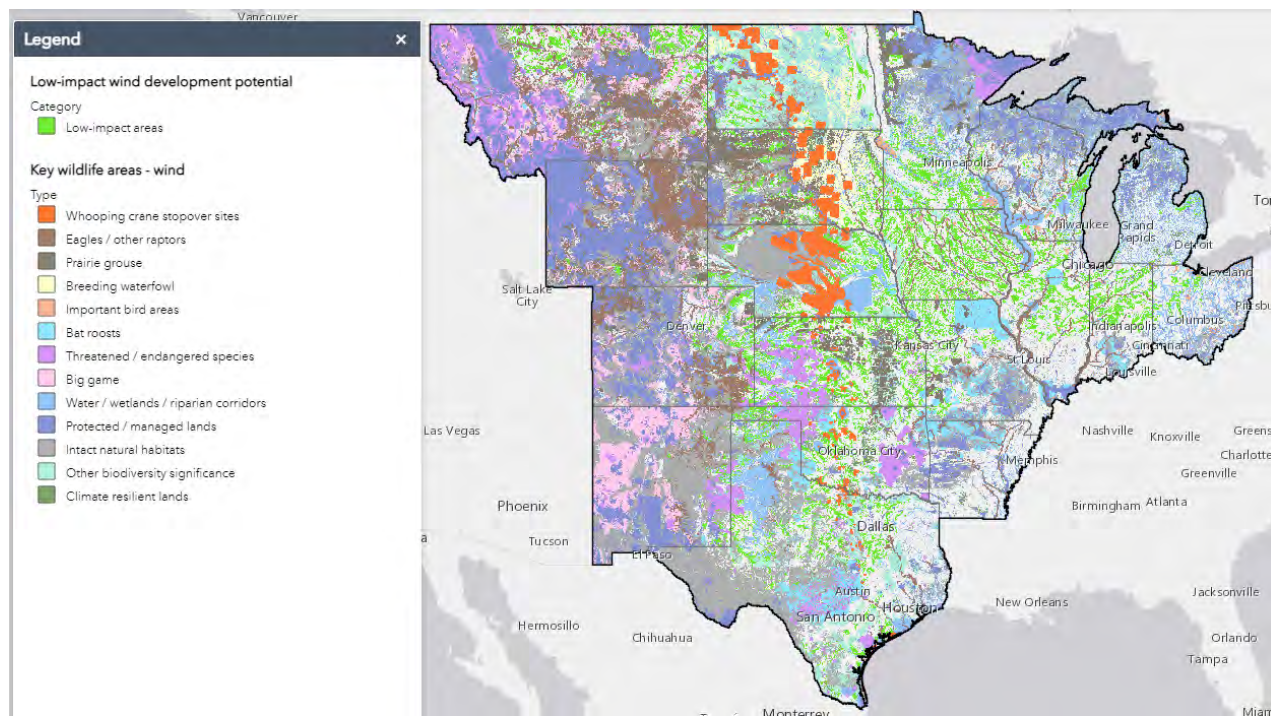
POWER OF PLACE

- Integration of land use considerations into decarbonization pathways
- Assess interactions between natural and working land protection, energy costs, pace of energy build out
- Previous studies (CA, Western US) show:
 - Scenarios for achieving net-zero transition that avoids sensitive natural areas and working lands
 - Avoiding impacts possible for comparable or minimal additional cost
 - Energy planning that includes land use considerations key to maximize community, conservation, and economic benefits
- National study to be released in coming months



Figure from Power of Place West study (Wu et. al, 2023)

Spatial Analysis and Planning



TNC site renewables right mapping tool

SITE RENEWABLES RIGHT

- Siting tool for companies and communities to identify where renewable energy can be developed while conserving important wildlife habitat and natural areas
- >100 layers of engineering, land-use, and wildlife data
- Currently available for central US, expanding nationally

Thank You!



Helpful Links

- Renewables on the Ground Roundtable:
<https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/new-york/stories-in-new-york/accelerating-large-scale-wind-and-solar-energy-in-new-york/>
- Building our Clean Energy Future Community Toolkit:
<https://nyforcleanpower.org/windsolarsupportertoolkit/#toggle-id-1>
- Long Island Solar Roadmap:
www.solarroadmap.org
- Power of Place: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-priorities/tackle-climate-change/climate-change-stories/power-of-place/>
- Site Renewables Right: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-priorities/tackle-climate-change/climate-change-stories/site-wind-right/>
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