COMMUNITY CLIMATE COLLABORATIVE

SOLAR CLIMATE JUSTICE SCORECARD

Executive Summary and How To



OVERVIEW

Responding to the climate crisis requires a rapid, equitable transition to clean energy. Yet, clean energy siting is highly variable depending on local ordinances. Standardized assessments, like C3's Solar Climate Justice Scorecard, can help localities accelerate the siting process. The scorecard rates solar proposals based on developer and local conditions (see Figure 1).

PERCENT OF SCORE BY CATEGORY

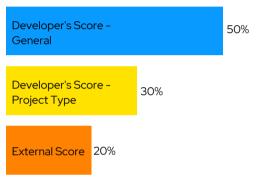


Figure 1. The graph shows what categories makeup the final score. In total, 80% of the final score (50 + 30) is determined by the developer, and 20% is from external factors.

This scorecard is a free, open-source tool aimed at developers, climate advocates, and decision-makers for the purpose of objectively and comprehensively reviewing proposed solar projects. Our hope at C3 is that this tool can be used to responsibly and rapidly develop solar across the U.S.

DISTRIBUTION OF POTENTIAL SCORES

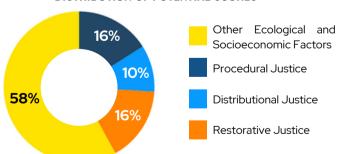


Figure 2. The figure shows that justice-specific questions were worth 42% (16 + 10 + 16) of the score, and Other Ecological and Socioeconomic Factors were worth 58% of the score.

RELEVANCE TO CLIMATE JUSTICE

Solar energy advances climate justice by replacing fossil fuel power, which negatively impacts the health of nearby communities while intensifying climate change. Specifically, solar deployment can increase participation in the energy siting process, connect directly to end users for increased autonomy, and restore local land conditions from previous uses.

The equitable transition to solar must reduce the burden of groups historically disadvantaged by climate change. This scorecard rewards projects that engage diverse voices, address energy and other burdens, and protect the local environment. To quantify how well a project achieves these ends, we looked at (i) Procedural Justice, (ii) Distributional Justice, (iii) Restorative Justice, and (iv) Other Socioeconomic and Environmental Factors (see Figure 2).

HOW TO USE THE TOOL

To use the tool for your own solar project, please scan the QR code below. There, you will find the scorecard guide and an editable spreadsheet. Add your own info to create a site score. Please email

policy@theclimatecollaborative.org in advance of releasing your final score.

SCORE A PROJECT

Use the QR code to access our website and contact C3 for details on how to analyze a project in your area!

