



COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY SITING TOOL (CREST)

UConn CLEAR WEBINAR: JUNE 18, 2025

ORIGINAL CREST PARTNERS

CT DEEP/STEPS team

- Camille Fontanella
- Chris Stone
- Claire Sickinger
- Emily Tully
- Eric Hammerling
- Lauren Savidge
- Linda Brunza
- Stuart DeLand

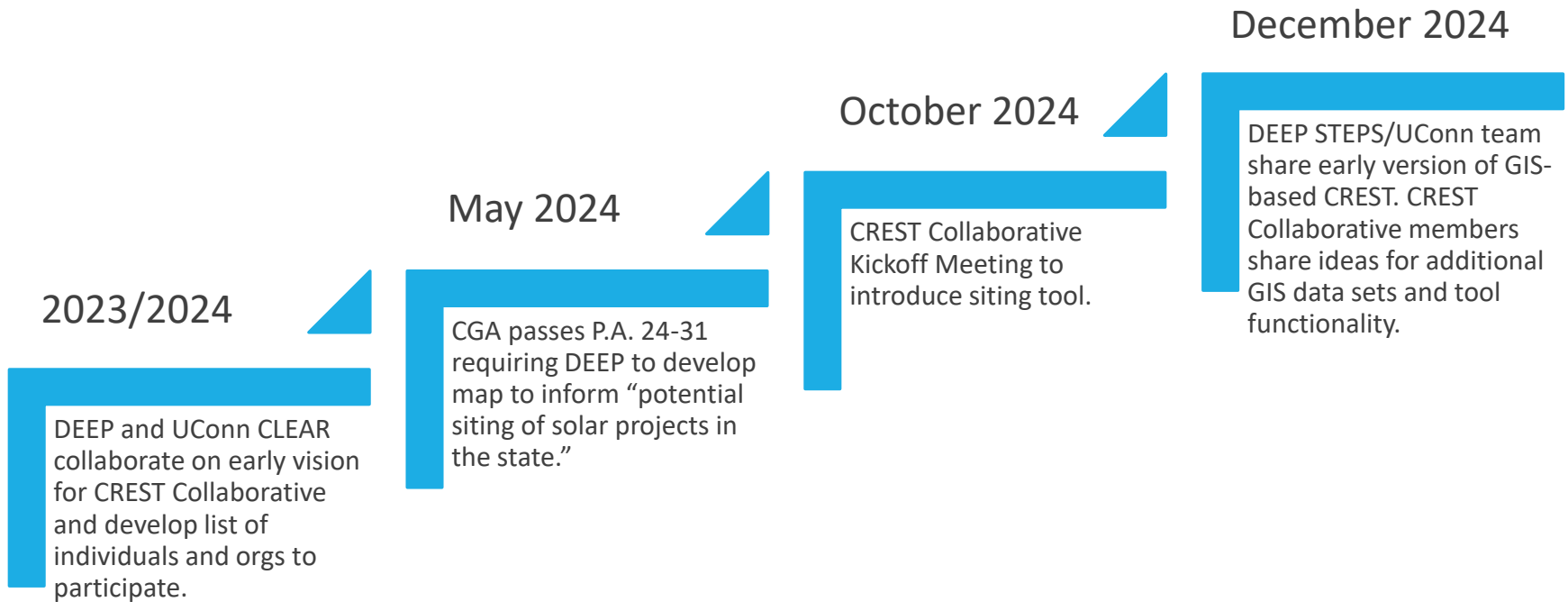
UConn-CLEAR team

- Dave Dickson
- Emily Wilson
- Renata Bertotti

25+ “CREST COLLABORATIVE” ADVISING ORGANIZATIONS

<u>Electric Utilities</u>	Avangrid/United Illuminating	Eversource	<u>Equity and Environmental Justice Stakeholders</u>	Connecticut Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council (CEEJAC)	<u>Farmland, Open Space, Wildlife, and Renewable Energy Conservation NGOs</u>	Acadia Center
Audubon CT	Connecticut Energy Network	Connecticut Farm Bureau	Connecticut Farmland Trust	Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC)	Connecticut RC&D	CT Roundtable on Climate & Jobs
PACE	Sierra Club, CT Chapter	Sustainable CT	The Nature Conservancy, CT Chapter	Working Lands Alliance	<u>Municipal/Regional Representatives</u>	CT Conference of Municipalities (CCM)
Council of Small Towns (COST)	9 Councils of Government (COGs)	<u>Solar Energy Developers/Legal Advisors</u>	Pullman & Comley, LLC	Verogy	VHB	<u>State Agencies (other)</u>
	DOAG	CEQ	DECD	OPM	PURA	

HOW WE GOT HERE



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February 2025

Beta CREST presented and test drive available for CREST Collaborative members and legislators.

March 2025

Changes to *Beta CREST* presented with goal of making any last revisions of this version by April/May 2025. Shared survey results and feedback received to date.

May 2025

CREST launched 5/14/25 pursuant to P.A. 24-31. Will continue to receive public input through Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) process and DEEP advisory groups like CEEJAC.

June 2025

UConn CLEAR Workshop **today** to show how to use CREST; efforts by all of us to expand public awareness and use of the tool.

NEXT STEPS FOR CREST

- CREST is part of the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) process for Connecticut that DEEP is currently working on. The purpose of the IRP is to identify strategies to affordably and reliably meet our state's growing electricity needs.
- Potential for future webinars on how to use CREST, especially if there is new functionality or data layers that are added.
- DEEP's STEPS team will continue working on guidance associated with siting of solar on certain types of lands (e.g. brownfields or previously developed properties).
- Data layers available in CREST will need to be maintained/updated/refined regularly through time to ensure the application remains useful.
- Feedback on CREST is welcome via DEEP.STEPS@ct.gov

CREST RESOURCES

CREST Map Viewer



CREST webpage

- [What is CREST factsheet](#)
- [CREST GIS Data Layer Information Factsheet](#)



Integrated Resources Plan



STEPS for Solar Development



UConn-CLEAR

- [CT ECO](#)



Contact us! DEEP.STEPS@ct.gov

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER ABOUT CREST

****CREST combines natural resource, utility, and other information for free public use. It is a planning tool developed for informational purposes only and is not intended to be used or interpreted as an agency determination or regulatory decision related to solar suitability.**