

**From:** [Butler, Matthew](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** public comment 21-0960  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 1, 2022 11:55:45 AM  
**Attachments:** [2022.02.25 Letter of Engagement C4EE Chipmunk.pdf](#)

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# Center for Energy Education

February 25, 2022

Ohio Power Siting Board  
Attn: Matt Butler  
180 E. Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: Chipmunk Solar, OPSB Case Number 21-0960-EL-BGN

Dear Mr. Butler:

The Center for Energy Education (C4EE) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and a center for renewable energy research, education, and workforce development for eastern North Carolina, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, and Virginia. Since 2015, our organization has grown to support communities where solar projects are located or being developed. As the utility-scale solar market expands, the Center expands its education, community engagement, and workforce training programs into communities where solar development is underway. We work closely with schools, public officials, community leaders, and work-readiness organizations to engage students, residents, community leaders, and public/elected officials with the opportunities that solar development bring into their communities.

The Center has impacted many people across five states to include 260 trained in solar construction; 240 teachers trained in solar and renewable energy; 620 public officials educated and informed about solar and renewable energy; and over 1400 students who attended our renewable energy summer camps.

The Center has an all-inclusive approach to renewable energy education. Our approach is designed to expand and diversify the community's education towards awareness and understanding of the growing solar industry. Our goal is to ensure that students, teachers, and the community are well versed and informed about this technology when it's introduced into their community.

The Center for Energy Education has developed a great and ongoing relationship with the communities in Pickaway County and has provided opportunities for the folks to gather knowledge of solar development coming to the County. C4EE continues to be an organization that assists Ohio communities efforts to inform and educate people about the benefits of solar energy. Our objective is to educate and inform students, teachers, residents, community leaders, and public/elected officials about renewable energy and its many economic and environmental benefits. We serve as the conduit to provide unique educational programs through our community engagement events, renewable energy summer camps, and teacher training in solar and renewable energy. We continue to bring forward opportunities that allow for broader participation in the benefits of this growing industry. As solar development expands into new regions, it is important that we work with area leaders to continue to educate and inform about this exciting shift in our energy landscape.

The State of North Carolina is the South's leader, and fourth among U.S. states, in using solar power to diversify its portfolio of electric power generation fuels. What has added to this success is a sunny climate, investor and business friendly policies, and capable companies across the solar power value chain have made this state's leadership possible. The benefits of this industry have accrued to residents across the state. All regions – both rural and urban have profited from solar power investments. People in the state receive gains from the economic, environmental, and social benefits of less-polluting electric power generation.

Ohio is on the path to becoming a leader in renewable energy and diversifying its energy portfolio. The Chipmunk Solar Project will benefit the county and its residents as well as help our country become less reliant on foreign energy sources. The Chipmunk Solar team have been excellent collaborators and we have seen their commitment to community engagement. The team have been active listeners and are willing to have tough conversations in the process of finding what is important to the residents of the county. They are open to compromise and finding solutions that work for everyone.

We are confident that Chipmunk Solar will be excellent community members and we support this project.

In 2021, C4EE held several events in Pickaway County, Ohio to help support the country's growth of the solar industry and inform local residents of industry standards and processes. These programs include:

- May 2021  
Interacted with middle school students and teachers to showcase, educate, and answer questions regarding the use and life of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels. This included a live demonstration of a table-top solar display and interaction with utility-scale PV solar panels.
- June 2021  
Virtual Renewable Energy Summer Camp – Provided a free four-day STEM summer camp program for middle school students which was designed to explore renewable energy sources, energy efficiency measures, and learn about careers in the solar and renewable energy fields. The camp is highly interactive and encourages students to use their creative, and problem-solving skills to create projects and crafts using everyday items while learning about energy.
- August 2021  
Soil and Water District, Experience Earth Day Camp – Showcased the C4EE mobile classroom to educate elementary and middle school students about the benefits and processes of solar and renewable energy. Spotlighted for children in attendance how solar reacts and how it can generate power from the sun. This was done by allowing children to participate in building and racing solar cars.

- September 2021  
Public Official Workshop – C4EE held and facilitated a Public Official Workshop. The workshop was a one-day event for public/elected, community and county officials. Participants were provided the latest information and updates on topics related to the utility-scale solar and renewable energy industry. The information was presented by industry experts, academia, and county officials on topics such as solar industry updates, state and local permitting, health and safety impacts of solar technology, legal considerations, revenue impacts, etc.
- November 2021  
STEM Workshop with Westfall Middle/High School – In collaboration with Westfall Staff, hosted a STEM Solar Workshop where students could interact with miniature photovoltaic panels. Students tested current/voltage calculations by measuring panels output in heat, cold, different lighting, series/parallel wiring, and other methods to compare external effects on solar. Participants were also placed in a drawing to take home a solar robot kit.
- December 2021  
Solar 101 Community Education Workshop – C4EE held a two-hour educational, and question-answer forum for community residents, and public/elected officials. The forum was held in a small intimate setting with a platform to inform and educate attendees about solar and renewable energy, benefits of solar and renewable energy, and other C4EE programs.

More programs are being planned for 2022 including another Solar 101 Education Workshop in March.

Best Regards,



Mazine Lowe, Executive Director  
Center for Energy Education

CC: Nathan Wiles, EDF Renewables

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities  
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Summary: Public Comment Public comment Mazine Lowe, Executive Director  
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behalf of Docketing