



Welcome to the Community Renewable Energy Siting Tool (CREST)!

The following is a quick guide on how to use this interactive mapping tool. Instructions for use are outlined based on areas of the screen, e.g. upper left, bottom right, etc. This is a web-based program that does not require a user to have ESRI/GIS software installed on their machine, and can be used with any browser. If you have additional questions, feel free to email us at DEEP.STEPS@ct.gov.

Initial Disclaimer: On application launch, a disclaimer window will appear for all users, please review that information, check the box indicating your agreement to the terms above, and hit 'Ok' to proceed into the application.

Right Side of Application: Every layer available to users is categorized into six layer lists segmented with their respective headers. To turn on/off layers, please toggle the square selector box on the left side of each layer's title. To set filters that interact with individual layer's attributes/fields, select the 3 dots on the right side of each layer's title to launch an SQL-based means of limiting what features are rendered within the map.

Upper Left of Application: Aside from GIS layer lists on the right side of the application, the majority of application functionality exists in the upper lefthand corner. Here, users have access to multiple interactive functionalities, outlined below.

- **Search:** The search bar is an address locator that allows users to input addresses, select the corresponding result, and zoom in to a specific area of the state. While the search bar uses the ESRI World Geocoder, it typically works best with town and zip code entered after street name.
- **Zoom In/Out:** Users can increase/decrease the extent of the map using the "+" and "-" buttons to the left of the search bar. This can also be accomplished by scrolling up/down on a user's mouse.
- **Home Extent:** This button, with the icon of a house, allows the user to automatically return to the full extent of the application (i.e. of Connecticut) regardless of current zoom level or number of layers active. Please be aware, the more layers currently toggled, the longer this extent will take to render.
- **Next/Previous Extent:** The forward and back arrows below the home extent button allow users to jump forward or back between zoom extents/areas of Connecticut based on recent searches. For example, a user could have two sites they would like to compare and could move between them quickly with these buttons, even if those sites are not geographically concurrent.

Upper Left of Application (continued):

- **Near Me – Layer Intersections:** This tool allows users to place a point or polygon in an area of the map and return all intersections of included layers at that unique location. NOTE: this is a processing-heavy tool which will take some time to load. Additionally, you do not need to turn on layers in the layer lists on the right side of the app for the intersections to be run; the tool is set up to compare regardless. Once a result is returned, users will see a list of intersected layers, and be able to expand each for additional information about the intersected layer. By hovering a mouse over each expanded results, those intersected geometries will highlight on the application.
- **Add Data:** Gives users the option to upload/add GIS data not encompassed in the layer lists on the right of the application for visualization. Users can add content from ArcGIS online via the 'Search' tab, from GIS Server endpoints such as REST URLs via the 'URL' tab, or from local GIS files from their computer via the 'File' tab. NOTE: user-uploaded layers will not return in the Near Me tool's intersections.
- **Ruler:** Allows users to measure linear/area based distances via mouse clicks within the application, change the unit of measure to suit variety of metrics.
- **Legend:** The legend will display all symbology of currently toggled layers from the layer list on the right side of the application.
- **Basemaps:** Switching basemaps give a different backdrop for layers and sites to be considered; aerial imagery, topography, and streets are examples of possible basemaps for the application.
- **Print:** To export a pdf output of a user's current view, active layers, and Near Me analysis, use the Print tool to capture everything rendered in the current extent of the application. NOTE: this tool will take a minute or two to execute, depending on the number of layers, complexity or symbology, and extent of current view.

Bottom Left of Application:

- **Additional Info tab:** Once launched, click on any of the three tabs at the top of the window (How to Use This Application, Layer Metadata, or Useful Links) to see related info to each topic. NOTE: any URLs in these windows will open a new tab on the user's browser with selected content, as opposed to navigating them away from the application.
- **STEPs Home Page:** a URL that opens a new window in the user's browser to launch the STEP's homepage.