

Small Cell (5G) Citizens Guide



WHAT IS A "SMALL CELL ANTENNA"?

Small Cell Antennas are a type of wireless communication facility being installed by cellular communications providers to supplement traditional, larger cell phone towers and enhance 4G and 5G coverage.



CAN SMALL CELL ANTENNAS BE LOCATED ON PRIVATE PROPERTY?

Yes, if mounted to an existing building or structure. Small Cell Antennas are subject to the Hartford's Zoning Regulations. If a new pole, such as a parking lot light, the Connecticut Siting Council (CSC) regulates that type of installation.

WHY ARE SMALL CELL ANTENNAS IN HARTFORD?

Federal Regulations require the City and State to allow Small Cell Antennas to co-locate on existing utility and light poles or to install them in the street right of way. The Federal Regulations do not allow Hartford or the State of Connecticut to regulate the placement of the Small Cell Antennas but do allow Hartford to create standards for the installations when on city facilities. Hartford is currently developing standards for Small Cell Antennas on City facilities, and has not yet approved the installation of any Small Cell Antennas as of today. However, the Connecticut Public Utility Regulation Authority, Siting Council, and 5G Council are approving Small Cell Antennas in Hartford.

DO SMALL CELL INSTALLATIONS CAUSE HEALTH HAZARDS?

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) establishes limits of radio frequency (RF) emissions that all small cell equipment must comply with. The FCC and the American Cancer Society (ACS) have information on their websites about RF safety

FCC: www.fcc.gov/engineering-technology/electromagnetic-compatibility-division/radio-frequency-safety/faq/rf-safety
American Cancer Society: www.cancer.org/cancer/cancer-causes/radiation-exposure/cellular-phone-towers.html



WHO DO I CALL IF THE RIGHT OF WAY IN FRONT OF MY HOME OR BUSINESS IS DAMAGED DURING THE INSTALLATION OF A SMALL CELL ANTENNA, OR THE SMALL CELL ANTENNA NEEDS MAINTENANCE?

Providers are required to address the damage or maintenance concerns, and installations are required to have labels with a 24-hour contact number.

CAN HARTFORD OR THE STATE DENY SMALL CELL ANTENNA APPLICATIONS BASED ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS FROM RADIO FREQUENCY EMISSIONS?

No, existing Federal Regulations limit the ability to regulate wireless facilities based on potential environmental effects (Telecom Act of 1996; 47 U.S.C. 332(c)(7)(B)(iv)).



HOW WILL HARTFORD MANAGE SMALL CELL DEPLOYMENT

Hartford is continually monitoring federal and state regulations and the development of wireless communications technology and is developing a comprehensive wireless communications facility policy that will clearly identify the city's regulatory role in every type of wireless communication facility. Hartford will maintain a webpage that will include the regulatory framework adopted by the city and a map of the installations approved through the Public Utility Regulation Authority (PURA), Connecticut Siting Council (CSC), Connecticut 5G Council (C5GC), and Hartford.

I RECEIVED A NOTICE THAT A SMALL CELL ANTENNA IS BEING INSTALLED WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Hartford strongly encourages direct communication to the party listed in the notice. The notice should clearly identify the regulating agency and provide details on how you can participate in the review process. Each regulating agency has a different process, which you can learn more about here:

Who should I call if I still have questions or comments?
Email us at smallcell@Hartfordct.gov or call 860.757.9056