



Indiana Energy Landscape: Energy Ready Communities

Siting through Technical Engagement and Planning (R-STEP)
September 10, 2025

About OED

Mission

To support the development of affordable, stable, and reliable energy solutions for the benefit of all Hoosiers.

State of Indiana's federally-designated State Energy Office (SEO)

Priorities

Policy Guidance

Public Education

*Grant
Administration*



Indiana's Energy Policy

All the Above approach

- Support a diverse and balanced portfolio of energy resources

Responsible management of the energy transition

- Maintain energy reliability and affordability
- Adaptability to new and emerging technologies
- Economic and workforce development

Collaboration across Indiana agencies



Education & Outreach

Serve as an energy information hub for Indiana

Indiana Rural Energy Tours

Studies & Reports

- Battery Energy Systems Storage
- Small Modular Reactor Technology
- Good Questions Project
- County Zoning Ordinances for Commercial Solar/Wind

Interactive tools

- Vehicle Fuel Dashboard
- Energy Map



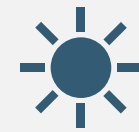
Grant & Funding Programs

**Benefit Hoosier citizens,
communities, and businesses**

**Support Indiana energy
policies and priorities**



State Energy Program



Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant



Indiana Energy Efficiency Fund



Grid Resilience



Home Energy Rebates





Commercial Solar and Wind Energy Ready Community Development Center

Energy Ready Communities

Commercial Solar and Wind Energy Ready Communities Development Center

- Established under OED in 2023

Provide information regarding wind and solar energy development

Certification and incentive program for communities

- Commercial Solar and/or Wind Energy Ready Community



Center Resources

Good Questions Project

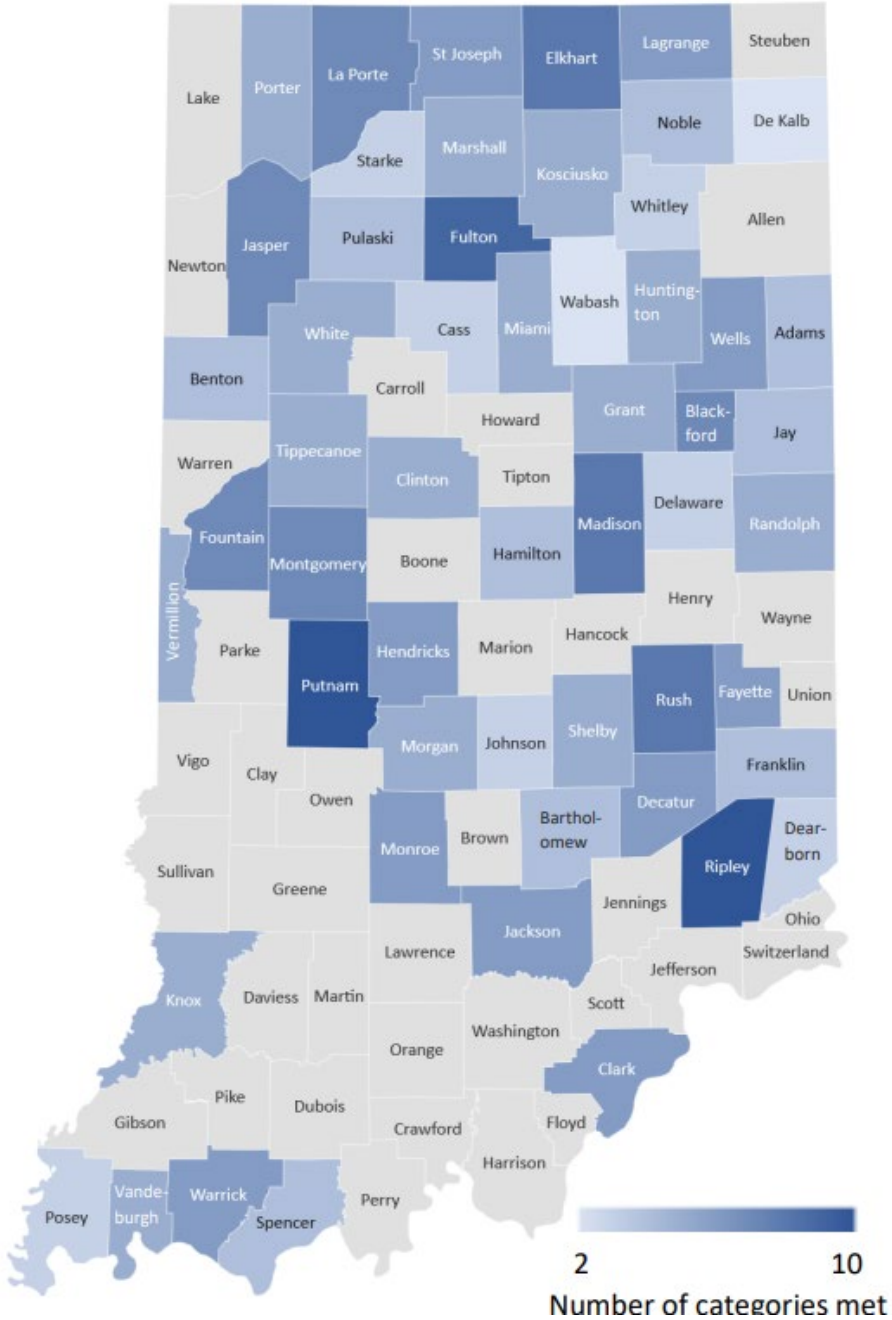
- FAQ handout to assist communities with wind/solar projects

Incentive Calculator

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Energy Ready Community Development Center					
2	Incentive Calculator Estimates					
3						
4		Enter the Total Nameplate Capacity for the Project(s)	Capacity Factor*	Electricity Generated (MWh per year)	Incentive Estimate \$1/MWh (per year)	Incentive Estimate \$1/MWh (10 years)
5	Wind	200	0.33	578160	\$578,160	\$5,781,600
6	Solar	200	0.201	352152	\$352,152	\$3,521,520

County Ordinance Comparison with State Voluntary Standards

Figure 1. Number of categories in IC 8-1-42 analysis met by counties' commercial solar zoning ordinance



Certification as Energy Ready

Certification Guide

- Step-by-step application process for Energy Ready designation
- Example responses provided
- Includes a copy of the current regulations

Designation Criteria

- Eligibility
- 10-year commitment
- Types of local standards
- Project standards
- Procedural standards



Eligibility & Commitment

Eligibility

- County and municipal units of government

Commitment

- **Demonstration of commitment to maintain:**
 - standards and procedural framework set forth in the unit's local regulations and/or standards, and
 - all applicable zoning, land use, and planning regulations.
- **Commitment must be at least 10 years from the latter of:**
 - project's start date of full commercial operation or
 - date of IOED's certification



Types of Local Standards

Regulatory

- Standards that have been adopted and enacted through regulations at the unit level
- Zoning and planning ordinances encompass the unit's jurisdiction
- Covers all projects within the unit

Contractual

- Standards that have been outlined through a legally-binding contract between the unit and project owner
- Project-specific
- May require submit separate certification applications for each project within the unit

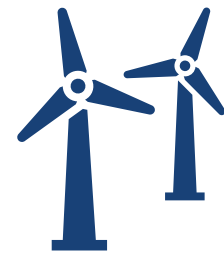
Economic Development Agreement

- Standards that have been outlined through a legally-binding economic development agreement between the unit and project owner
- Project-specific
- May require submit separate certification applications for each project within the unit



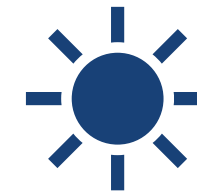
Project Standards

Local standards must demonstrate the wind/solar project standards are no more restrictive than the voluntary state standards set forth by IC 8-1-41 (wind) and IC 8-1-42 (solar)



Standards for Wind

1. Setback, height, buffer requirements
2. Shadow flicker limitations
3. Signal interference
4. Sound level limitations
5. Light mitigation technology
6. Damage to drainage infrastructure
7. Decommissioning and site restoration plan



Standards for Solar

1. Setback, height, buffer requirements
2. Ground cover
3. Fencing
4. Cables
5. Glare minimization
6. Signal interference
7. Sound limitations
8. Damage to drainage infrastructure
9. Decommissioning and site restoration
10. Abandonment
11. Force majeure event



Procedural Standards

Clear and transparent process to identify potential sites for development

- Unit's development process and procedures, and where to locate them online
- Easily accessible map of potential development locations within the unit
- Contact information for relevant unit officials

Does not unreasonably eliminate portions of the unit for project development

- Unit map that denotes areas for development

Provide a fair review and approval process, including final approval that cannot be revoked

- Unit's public review process including applicable local code/standards
- Documented public review of each wind/solar project under consideration
- Appeals process for members of the unit
- Clear demonstration of commitment to the project, incentives, permits, and others as applicable

Plan for how incentive funds would be used if granted

- Economic development purposes within or near the project's footprint, or
- Benefits residents and businesses within or near the project's footprint



Certification Application Checklist

☒ **Applicant information**

☒ **Project standards**

- Identify alignment with default standards

☒ **Process standards**

- Four statutory requirements

☒ **Commitment & Affirmations**

☒ **Copy of wind or solar standards**

- Regulations
- Contract
- Economic development agreement

☒ **Supporting documentation**

- Maps, letters of support, copy of ordinances, etc.



Thank You

Please visit our website at:

www.in.gov/oed/indianas-energy-policy/energy-ready-communities/

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