

INDIANA RENEWABLE ENERGY

Siting through Technical Engagement and Planning (R-STEP™)

2026 Renewable Energy Ordinance Inventory

August 27, 2026

Counties with...	2022	2026 Preliminary Results*
Planning and zoning	82	82
Solar ordinance	46	67 (3 not permitted)
Wind ordinance	51 (8 not permitted)	56 (11 not permitted)
Battery ordinance	n/a	15 (1 not permitted)

*Results are still in review and are subject to change

White County

PLANNING DEPARTMENT	PLAN COMMISSION	REGION	COUNTY TYPE
County planning website	Area plan commission	North West	Rural

POPULATION (2025)	POPULATION DENSITY	FARMLAND COVERAGE
25,164	48.8/mi²	87.5%
+2.0% since 2020	25.7 housing units/mi ²	

ON THIS PAGE

- Solar
- Wind
- Battery storage

CONTACT

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Area plan commission
Updated September 30, 2025

Solar ✓ Regulated

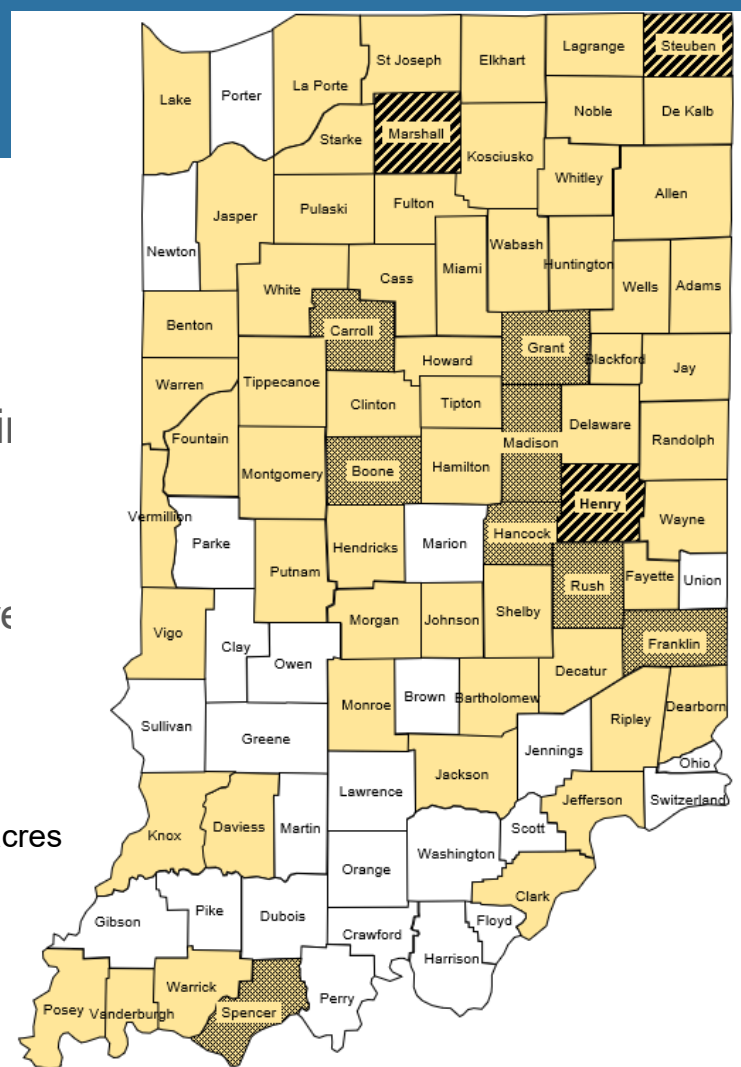
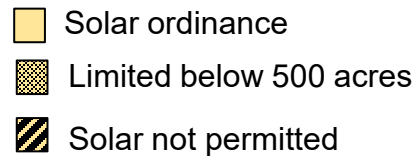
AS DEFINED IN THE ORDINANCE

Solar Energy System, Commercial (CSE): A system that captures and converts solar energy into electricity that is generated primarily for (1) the purpose of selling electricity at wholesale and (2) for use in locations other than where it is generated and which has a nameplate capacity of at least ten (10) megawatts.

Zoning districts		3
REZONE REQUIRED	DEVELOPMENT PLAN	
No	No	
Agricultural Industry		Permitted Use
Light Industrial		Permitted Use
Heavy Industrial		Permitted Use

Large utility-scale solar

- Study defines large utility-scale solar as 500 acres or more
- 67 counties had utility-scale solar listed in their zoning ordinance
 - 3 explicitly do not permit
 - 8 have maximum projects sizes below 500 acres
 - Remaining 56 included in solar analysis



Description	Number of Ordinances	Range (ft)	Median (ft)	Mean (ft)
Residences	37	65-1500	300	413
Setback (Property Line)	45	10-2500	100	269
Setback (ROW)	37	30-1650	75	220

- 9 counties have setbacks from educational and religious institutions.
- 7 counties have setbacks from outdoor recreation or park land.
- 7 counties have a municipal setback.
- Jasper, DeKalb, and Randolph base setback on the number of sides of a residence that are surrounded by a solar project.

Setbacks are measured differently among counties, with some being measured from the fence while others are measured from the nearest panel.

Counties also may or may not be recorded ROWs. These variations make it difficult to compare between counties.

- **Acreage Caps**
 - Maximum amount of land allowed in solar projects
- **Grading or topsoil removal standards-6 counties**
 - i.e. No grading, topsoil removed must be stored on the property
- **Limit or mitigation requirements for prime soils**
 - Delaware: no more than 20% of project
 - Howard: mitigation required such as agrivoltaics
- **Prohibition on prime soils**
 - Hamilton and Huntington

Table: Utility-scale solar acreage caps in Indiana Counties

County	Acreage Cap	Measurement
Clark	4,000 acres	fenced area
Dekalb	6,000 acres	overlay district
Delaware	5,000 acres	under panels
Fulton	1% of total acreage (2,362 acres)	use
Jefferson	4,000 acres	project area not farmed
Noble	4,700 acres	fenced area or overlay district
Shelby	1% of total acres of cropland (1,990) [^]	overlay district
Starke	6% in any individual township (varies) and/or 6% of total acreage in county whichever occurs first (11,869 acres) [*]	CSES systems
Wabash	2,000 acres	total project area

[^]Calculated using amount of farmland reported in the 2022 Census of Agriculture using NASS Quick Stats.

^{*}Calculated using the total land area for Starke County from the U.S. Census (2024)

Agrivoltaics: the practice of co-locating agricultural production with solar energy production

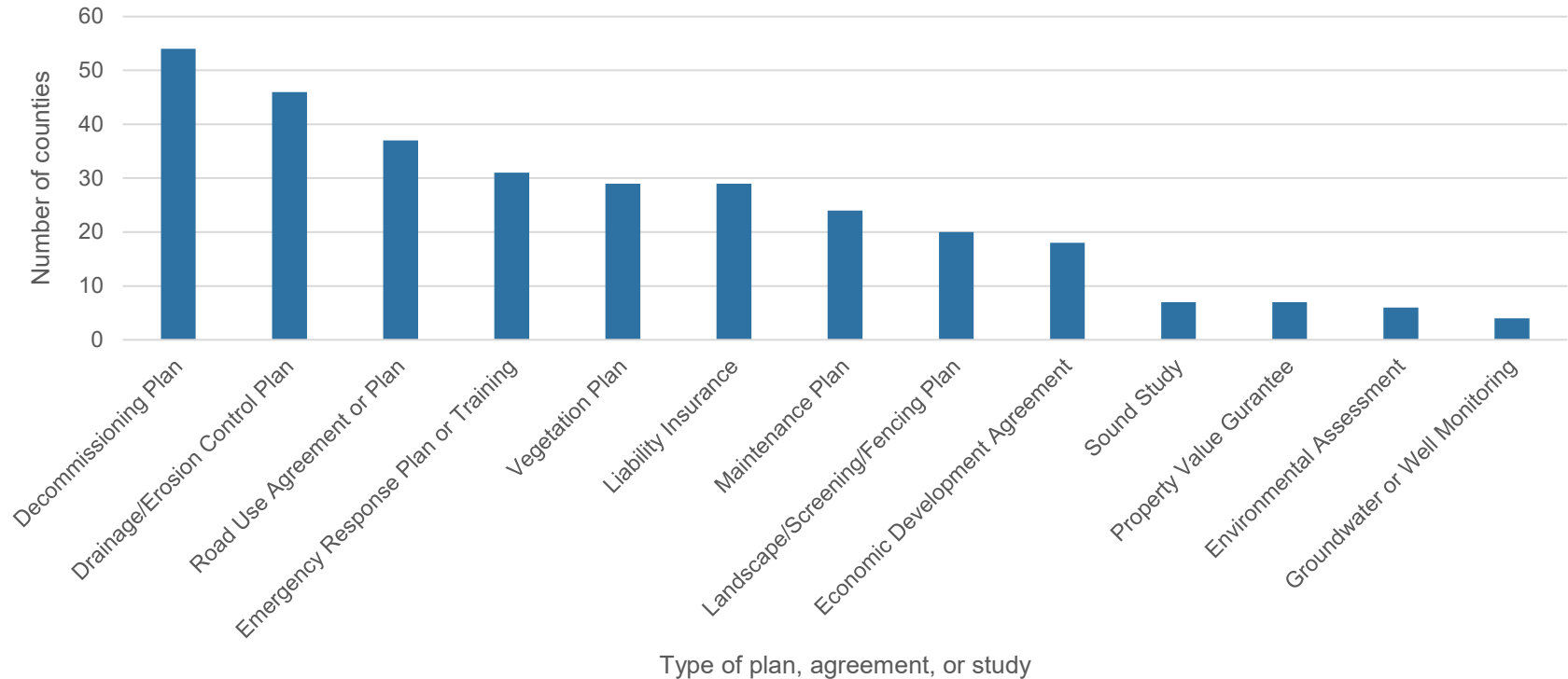
13 counties mention agrivoltaics

- Exemptions for specific standards like ground cover, fencing, and landscaping buffers
- Encouraged or considered in special exception process
- Considered mitigation for use of prime farmland

Potential Conflicts

- Maximum panel height
- Strict groundcover standards
- Fencing
- Landscape screening
- Decommissioning plan
- Noise Limit
- Zoning district
- Really specific wiring standards

Plans, agreements, and studies required of utility-scale solar in Indiana county zoning ordinances



Battery Energy Storage Systems

- BESS included in ongoing ordinance inventory update
- Collected BESS ordinances from 15 counties so far; 1 county prohibits
- Adopted between 2024 and spring of 2026

 BESS, primary use

 BESS not permitted



Description	Number of Ordinances	Range (ft)	Median (ft)	Mean (ft)
Residences	7	300-2000	500	920
Setback (Property Line)	9	50-2000	500	741
Setback (ROW)	6	30-2000	125	438

- 3 counties have setbacks from educational and religious institutions.
- White County has a municipal setback of 2 miles.
- Marshall County has specified distances between units.
- Starke County has a 2000' setback from medical facilities, waterways, drains, wells, and conservation or wildlife refuges.

Setbacks are measured differently among counties, with some being measured from the fence while others are measured from the nearest BESS unit.

Counties also may or may not be recorded ROWs. These variations make it difficult to compare between counties.

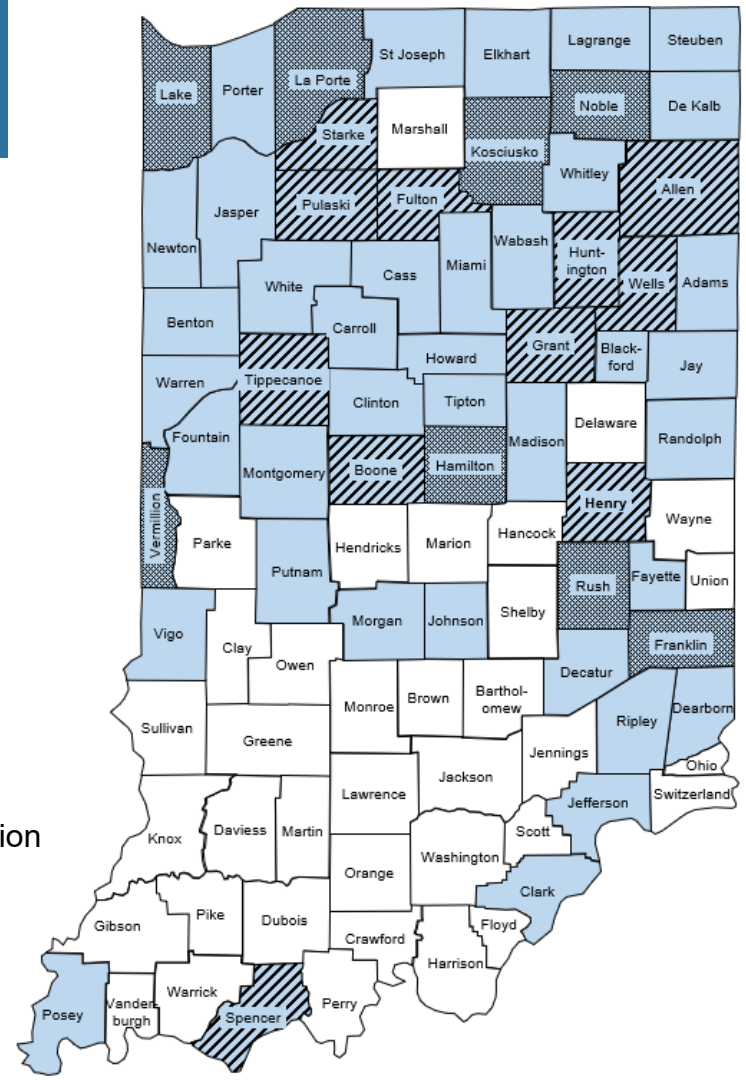
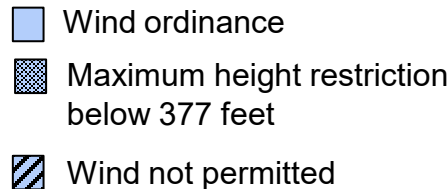
County	Decibel Limit	Duration Measurement	Place of Measurement
Delaware	60 dBA	hourly average	Property line of adjacent dwelling or residential zone
Jasper	50 dBA	hourly average	Property line
Marshall	40 dB		Property line
Montgomery	32 dBA		Property lines
Starke	55 dBA/dBC	at any point	Non-participating parcel
	45 dB	for more than 12 hours a day	Non-participating parcel
White	50 dBA	hourly average	At dwelling on an adjacent property

- 9 additional counties mention BESS in the solar use standards
- Unclear how they would treat a standalone BESS permit
- Grant County does not allow BESS within commercial solar development
- These are generally a sentence or maybe two regulating BESS co-located with solar.



Wind Energy Ordinances

- Study defines utility-scale wind as turbines greater than 377 feet that produce electricity for off-site use
- 56 counties have utility-scale wind listed in their zoning ordinance
 - 11 explicitly do not permit
 - 8 have maximum heights below 377 feet
 - Remaining 37 included in wind analysis



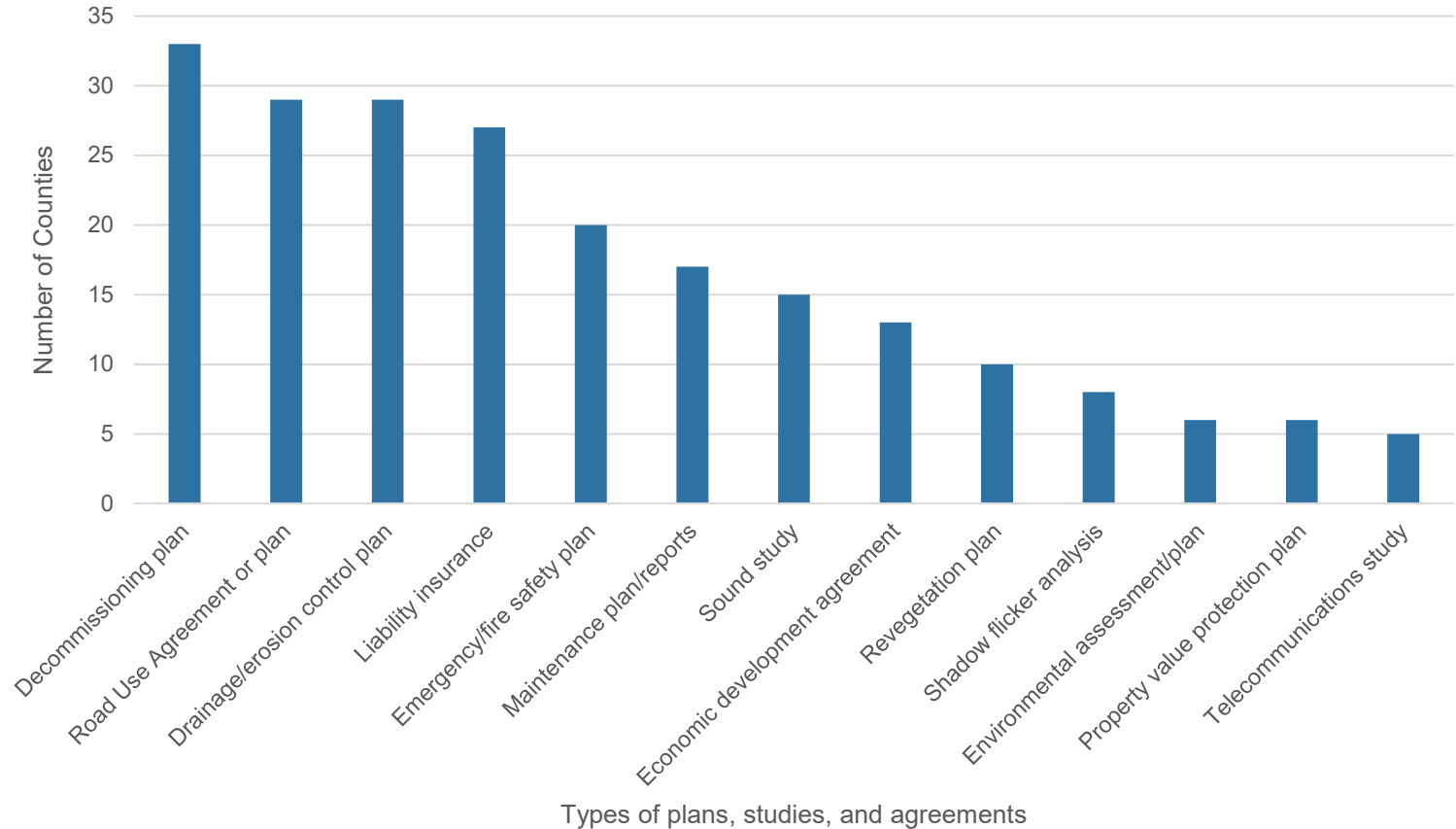
Description	Number of Ordinances	Range (ft)^	Median (ft)^	Mean (ft)^
Residences	26	200-3,960	1,225	1,440
Setback (Property Line)	33	50-3,960	660	1,247
Setback (ROW)	30	120-3,960	660	1,058

^ A wind turbine height of 600' was used to calculate setbacks.

- 15 counties have setbacks from schools.
- 12 counties have setbacks from religious institutions
- 22 counties have a municipal setback.

Many setbacks for wind are a factor, such as 1.1, multiplied by the turbine height.

Counties may or may not be recorded ROWs. These variations make it difficult to compare between counties.



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