

# Indiana Renewable Energy Community Planning Survey and Ordinance Inventory Study

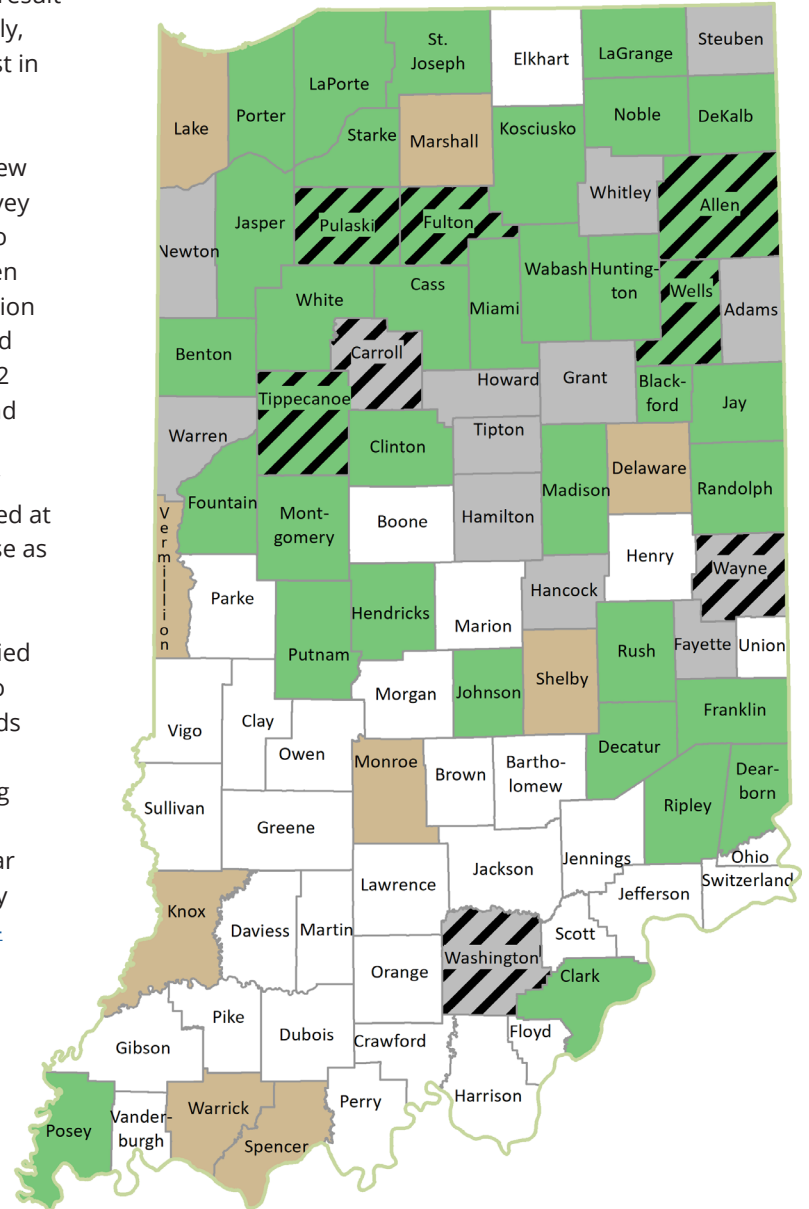
Indiana communities are faced with complex decisions related to land-use planning, particularly for renewable energy. This complexity and the unique characteristics of each community result in a patchwork of land use policies across the state. Additionally, many local communities are experiencing an increased interest in solar due to federal, state, and utility incentives (SUFG, 2021).<sup>1</sup>

In 2021, Purdue Extension conducted a comprehensive overview study of land use regulations for wind and solar energy. A survey was used to identify provisions in zoning ordinances specific to climate change and renewable energy, factors considered when adopting or rejecting policies, and the level of public participation and conflict. Ordinances were collected through the survey and direct county contacts from summer 2021 through winter 2022 and coded to identify common attributes of climate change and renewable energy land use policies to compare different local policies and summarize to create county snapshots. The study focused on commercial solar and wind development and looked at zoning ordinances for unincorporated areas that regulate these as unique uses.

Of the 82 counties with planning and zoning, this study identified 46 (56.1%) county zoning ordinances with standards specific to commercial solar energy systems and 51 (62.2%) with standards specific to commercial wind energy conversion systems. Eight of these counties do not permit commercial wind in any zoning districts. The ordinances vary in the tools they use to regulate renewable energy and even in how they define commercial solar and commercial wind as uses. The complete report and county snapshots will be available at: [cde.purdue.edu/collaborative-projects/land-use](https://cde.purdue.edu/collaborative-projects/land-use).

<sup>1</sup> State Utility Forecasting Group. (2021). Indiana Renewable Energy Resources Study. <https://www.purdue.edu/discoverypark/sufg/docs/publications/2021%20Indiana%20Renewable%20Resources%20Report.pdf>

## Land Use Regulations for Commercial Renewable Energy Developments in Indiana



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