INDIANA RENEWABLE ENERGY

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

2026 Renewable Energy Ordinance Inventory

August 14, 2026

Ordinance Inventory Update

- Summer 2025: Surveyed plan directors
- Winter/Spring 2026: Collected and inventoried ordinances
- Summer 2026: Analyzing data, writing reports, and creating website with county snapshots

2022 & 2026 Ordinance Inventory

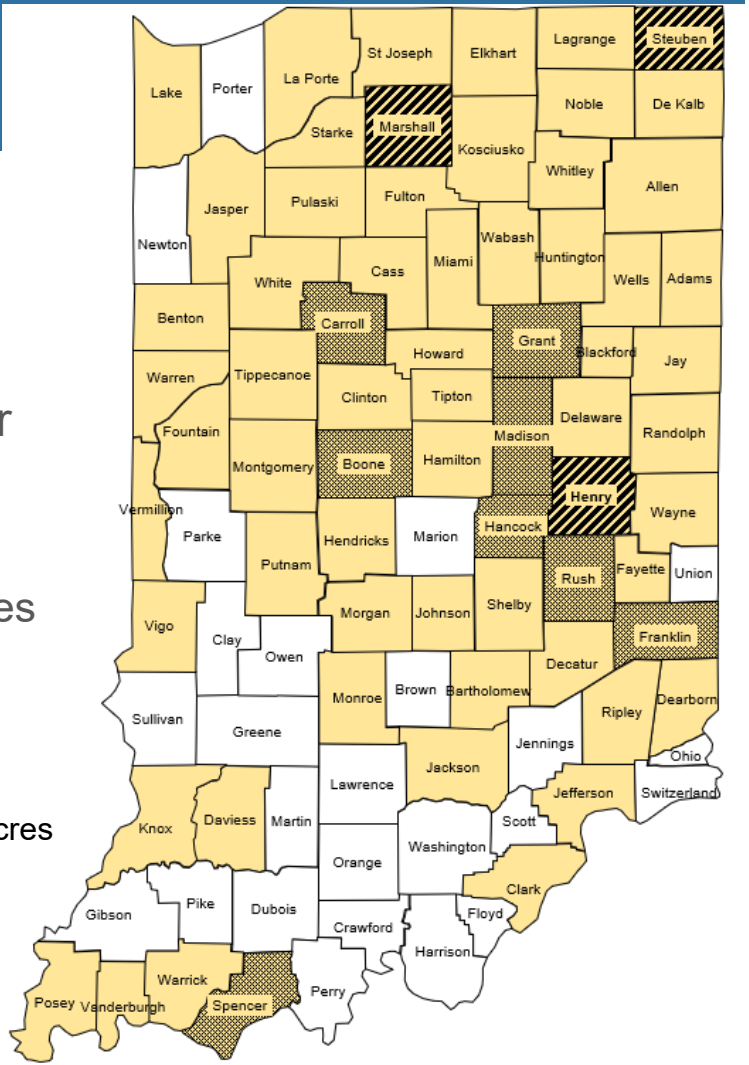
Counties with…	2022	2026 Preliminary Results*
Planning and zoning	82	82
Solar ordinance	46	67 (3 not permitted)
Wind ordinance	51 (8 not permitted)	56 (11 not permitted)
Battery ordinance	n/a	14 (1 not permitted)

*Results are still in review and are subject to change

Large utility-scale solar

Solar Ordinances

- 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



Solar: Permitting Processes

Process requirements for locating utility-scale solar in a general agricultural zone

	Permitted by right	Special Exception	Overlay district-permitted use	Rezoning to another district-permitted use	Rezoning with special exception
Number of counties^	7	32	11	4	1
Approving Body	Staff*	Board of Zoning Appeals	Plan Commission holds public hearing and vote on recommendation Legislative body has final approval		

^ Vigo County does not specify the approval process
* Projects would still need to meet district and use standards

25 counties also require a development plan review process as permitted by IC 36-7-4-1400.

Randolph County requires the project to be approved by the board of commissioners prior to applying for a permit.

Shelby County limits the number of projects permitted to 1 in a 10- year period.

LaPorte County permits solar by right instead of special exception on brownfield, superfund or former landfill sites.

Solar: Setbacks

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.

Solar: Farmland Protection

- 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)

Solar: Agrivoltaics

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

13 counties mention agrivoltaics

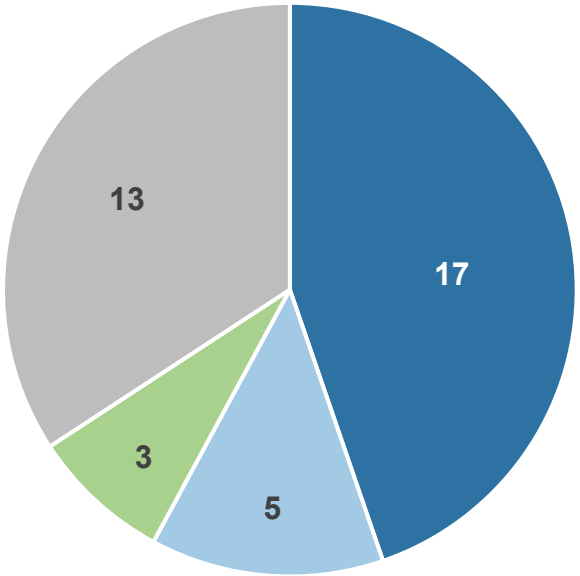
- Exemptions for specific standards like ground cover, fencing, and landscaping buffers
- Encouraged or considered in special exception process
- Considered mitigation for use of prime farmland

Potential Conflicts

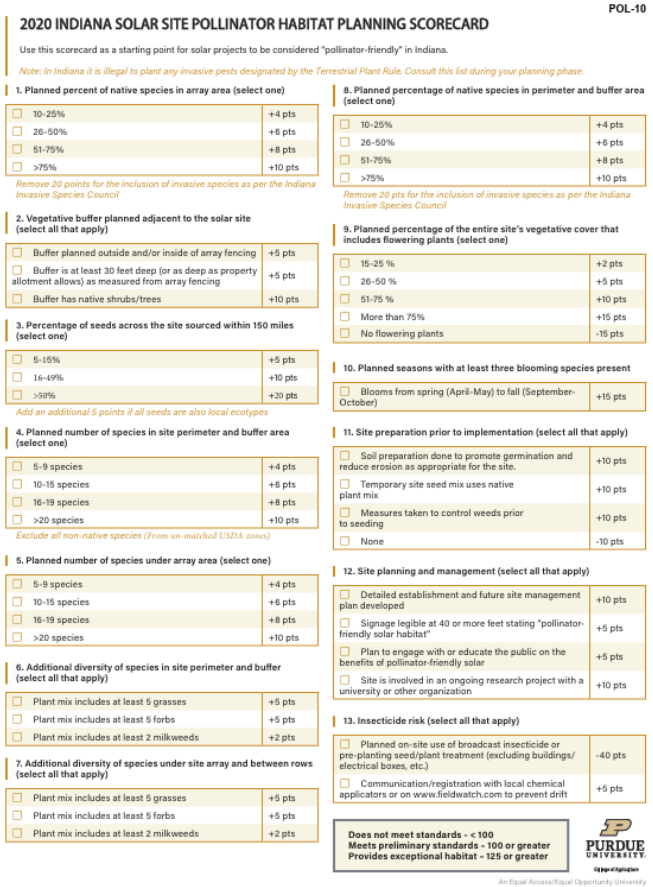
- Maximum panel height
- Strict groundcover standards
- Fencing
- Landscape screening
- Decommissioning plan
- Noise Limit
- Zoning district
- Really specific wiring standards

Solar: Groundcover Standards

- 38 counties have ground cover standards
  - This includes everything from perennial and vegetative to scoring systems with native and pollinator-friendly requirements.



- Pollinator-friendly required
- Pollinator-friendly encouraged
- Pollinator-friendly waives other standards
- No mention of pollinator-friendly



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2020 INDIANA SOLAR SITE POLLINATOR HABITAT PLANNING SCORECARD

Use this scorecard as a starting point for solar projects to be considered "pollinator-friendly" in Indiana.

Note: In Indiana it is illegal to plant any invasive pests designated by the Terrestrial Plant Rule. Consult this list during your planning phase.

1. Planned percent of native species in array area (select one)

☐ 10-25%	+4 pts
☐ 26-50%	+6 pts
☐ 51-75%	+8 pts
☐ >75%	+10 pts

Remove 20 points for the inclusion of invasive species as per the Indiana Invasive Species Council

2. Vegetative buffer planned adjacent to the solar site (select all that apply)

☐ Buffer planned outside and/or inside of array fencing	+5 pts
☐ Buffer is at least 30 feet deep (or as deep as property allotment allows) as measured from array fencing	+5 pts
☐ Buffer has native shrubs/trees	+10 pts

3. Percentage of seeds across the site sourced within 150 miles (select one)

☐ 5-15%	+5 pts
☐ 16-49%	+10 pts
☐ >50%	+20 pts

Add an additional 5 points if all seeds are also local ecotypes

4. Planned number of species in site perimeter and buffer area (select one)

☐ 5-9 species	+4 pts
☐ 10-15 species	+6 pts
☐ 16-19 species	+8 pts
☐ >20 species	+10 pts

Exclude all non-native species (From un-matched USDA zones)

5. Planned number of species under array area (select one)

☐ 5-9 species	+4 pts
☐ 10-15 species	+6 pts
☐ 16-19 species	+8 pts
☐ >20 species	+10 pts

6. Additional diversity of species in site perimeter and buffer (select all that apply)

☐ Plant mix includes at least 5 grasses	+5 pts
☐ Plant mix includes at least 5 forbs	+5 pts
☐ Plant mix includes at least 2 milkweeds	+2 pts

7. Additional diversity of species under site array and between rows (select all that apply)

☐ Plant mix includes at least 5 grasses	+5 pts
☐ Plant mix includes at least 5 forbs	+5 pts
☐ Plant mix includes at least 2 milkweeds	+2 pts

8. Planned percentage of native species in perimeter and buffer area (select one)

☐ 10-25%	+4 pts
☐ 26-50%	+6 pts
☐ 51-75%	+8 pts
☐ >75%	+10 pts

Remove 20 pts for the inclusion of invasive species as per the Indiana Invasive Species Council

9. Planned percentage of the entire site's vegetative cover that includes flowering plants (select one)

☐ 15-25 %	+2 pts
☐ 26-50 %	+5 pts
☐ 51-75 %	+10 pts
☐ More than 75%	+15 pts
☐ No flowering plants	-15 pts

10. Planned seasons with at least three blooming species present

☐ Blooms from spring (April-May) to fall (September-October)	+15 pts

11. Site preparation prior to implementation (select all that apply)

☐ Soil preparation done to promote germination and reduce erosion as appropriate for the site.	+10 pts
☐ Temporary site seed mix uses native plant mix	+10 pts
☐ Measures taken to control weeds prior to seeding	+10 pts
☐ None	-10 pts

12. Site planning and management (select all that apply)

☐ Detailed establishment and future site management plan developed	+10 pts
☐ Signage legible at 40 or more feet stating "pollinator-friendly solar habitat"	+5 pts
☐ Plan to engage with or educate the public on the benefits of pollinator-friendly solar	+5 pts
☐ Site is involved in an ongoing research project with a university or other organization	+10 pts

13. Insecticide risk (select all that apply)

☐ Planned on-site use of broadcast insecticide or pre-planting seed/plant treatment (excluding buildings/electrical boxes, etc.)	-40 pts
☐ Communication/registration with local chemical applicators or on www.fieldwatch.com to prevent drift	+5 pts

Does not meet standards - < 100
Meets preliminary standards - 100 or greater
Provides exceptional habitat - 125 or greater

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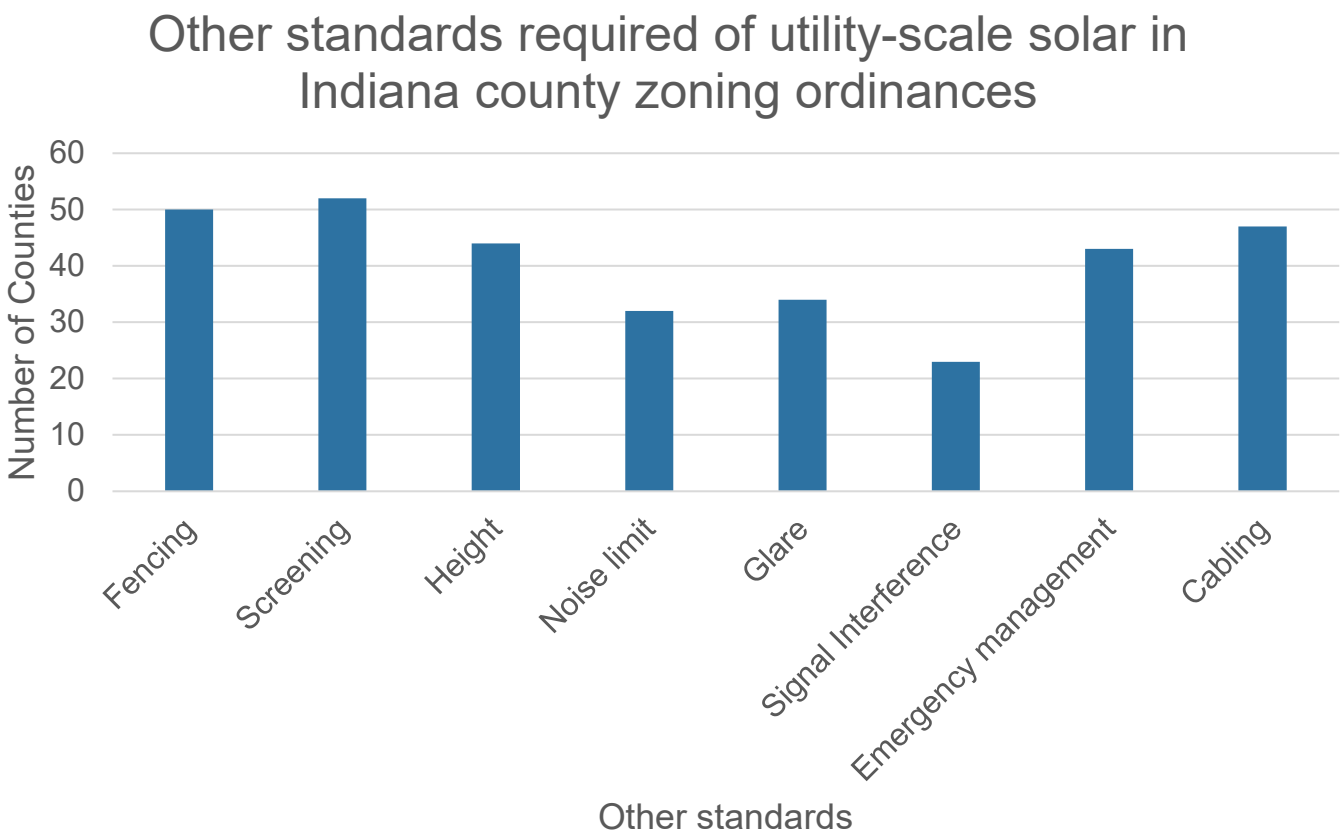
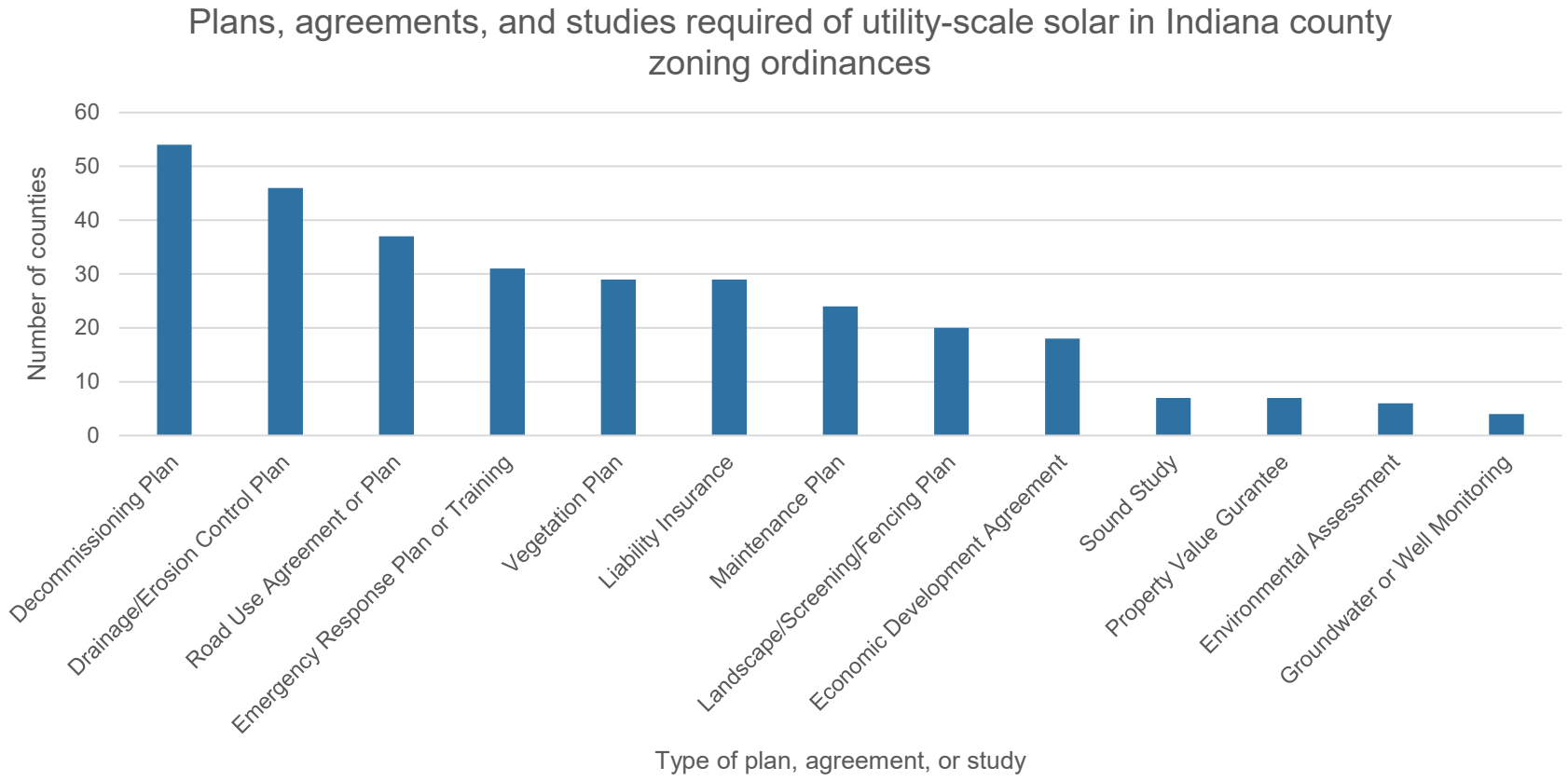
Solar: Other standards



Counties have adopted a wide array of standards regulating large-scale solar. The table shows some of the most common.

Solar: Plans, agreements and studies



Battery Energy Storage Systems

BESS Ordinances

- BESS included in ongoing ordinance inventory update
- Collected BESS ordinances from 14 counties so far; 1 county prohibits
- Adopted between 2024 and spring of 2026

BESS, primary use

BESS not permitted

BESS: Permitting Processes

Process requirements for locating a BESS in an agricultural zone

Process	Number of Counties	Counties
Special Exception	5	Delaware, Jasper, Starke, Vermillion, and Warren
Rezoning or amendment to the zoning map	4	Lake, Marshall, Montgomery*, and Wells*
Rezoning with special exception	4	Clark, Jefferson, Madison, White

* Use overlay districts

Delaware, Huntington, Madison, and Montgomery counties also require a development plan review process as permitted by IC 36-7-4-1400.

BESS: Setbacks

Description	Number of Ordinances	Range (ft)	Median (ft)	Mean (ft)
Residences	7	300-2000	500	920
Setback (Property Line)	8	50-2000	400	709
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.

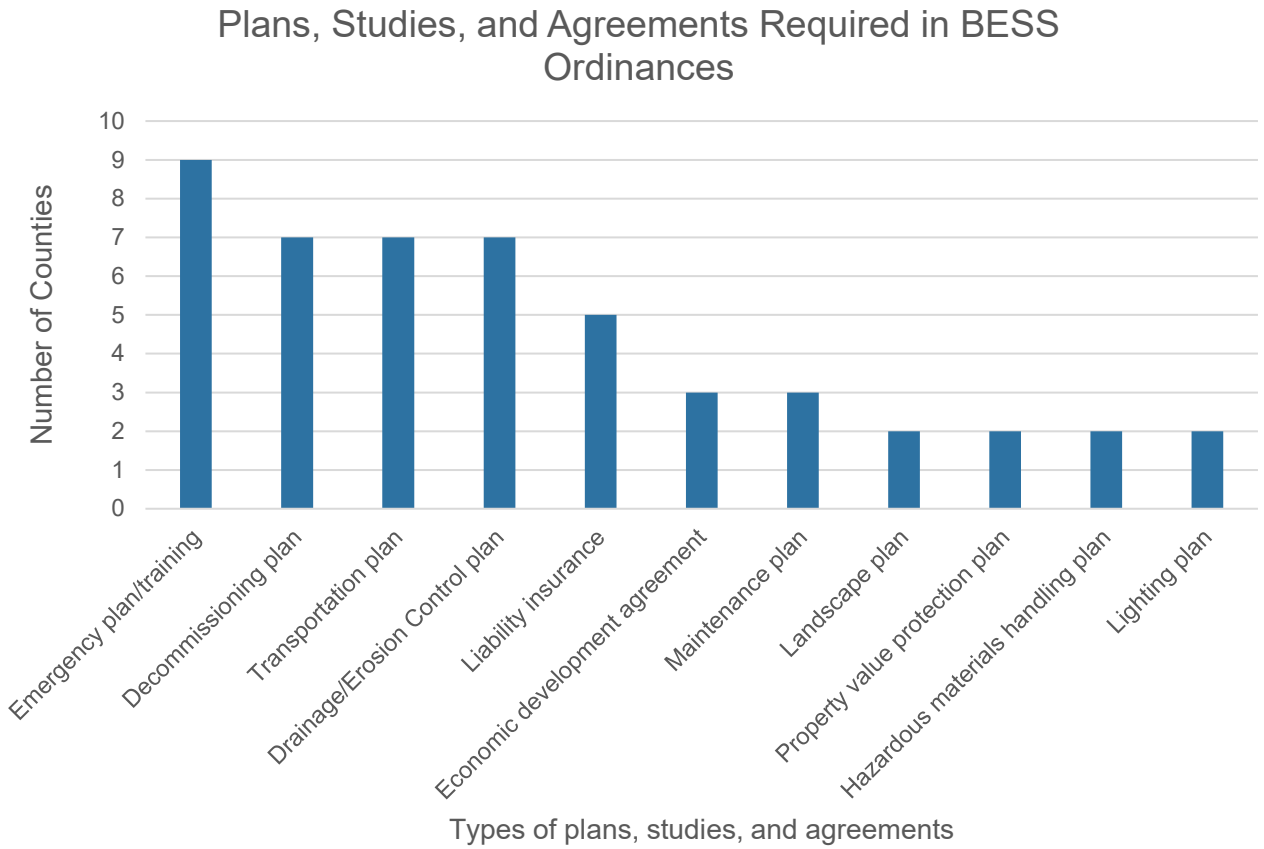
Setbacks are measured differently among counties, with some being measured from the fence while others are measured from the nearest BESS unit.

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

BESS: Noise Limit

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

BESS: Plans and other standards



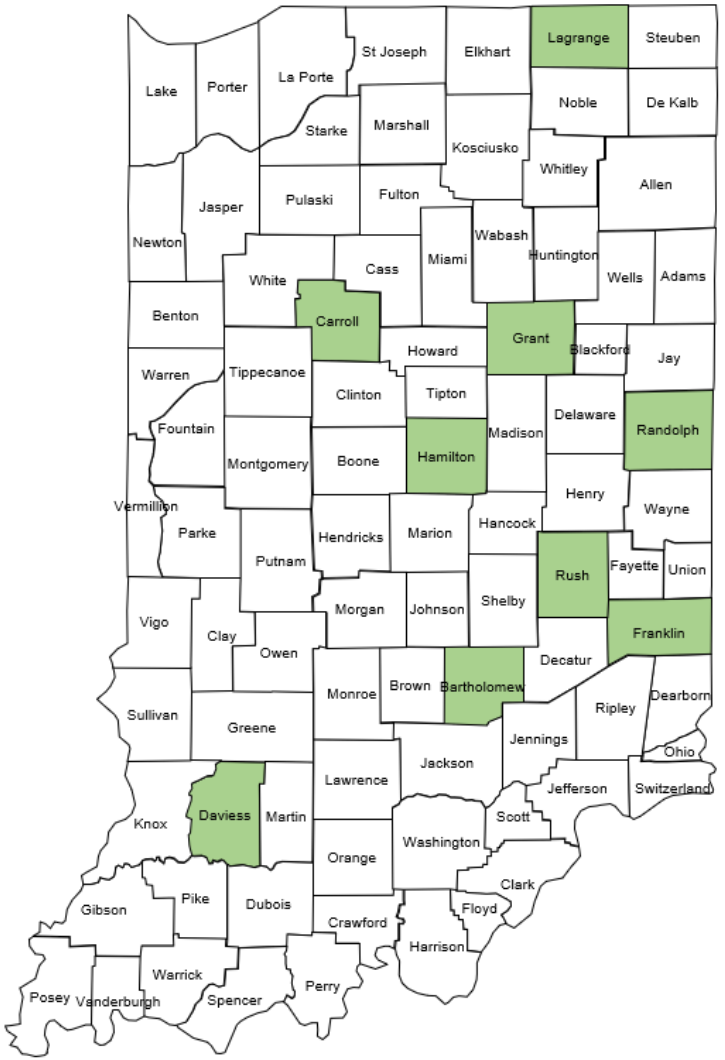
Other Standards

Standard	Number of counties
Fencing	9
Maximum height	7
Warning signage	7
Wiring, underground	6
Screening	5
Lighting	2
Signal interference	2

Many counties require BESS to comply with applicable state codes or NFPA standards

BESS in Solar Regulations

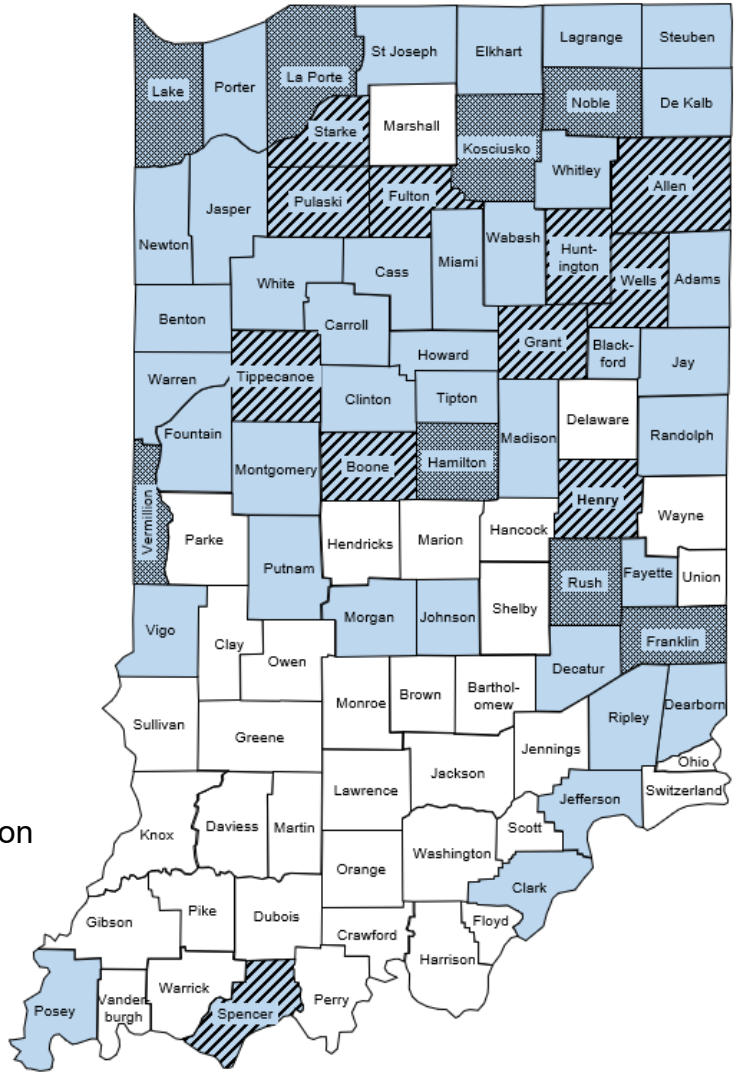
- 9 additional counties mention BESS in their solar use standards
- Unclear how they would treat a standalone BESS permit
- Grant County does not allow BESS within a commercial solar development
- These are generally a sentence or maybe two regulating BESS co-located with solar.



Wind Energy Ordinances

IN R-STEP Wind 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



Wind: Permitting Processes

Process requirements for locating utility-scale wind in a general agricultural zone

	Permitted by right	Special Exception	Overlay district-permitted use	Rezoning to another district-permitted use	Overlay district-special exception	Rezoning with special exception
Number^ of counties	5	21	6	1	2	1
Approving Body	Staff*	Board of Zoning Appeals	Plan Commission votes on recommendation Legislative body has final approval		Plan Commission votes on recommendation Legislative body has final approval Board of Zoning Appeals	

^ Vigo County does not specify the approval process
* Projects would still need to meet district and use standards

Wind: Setbacks

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

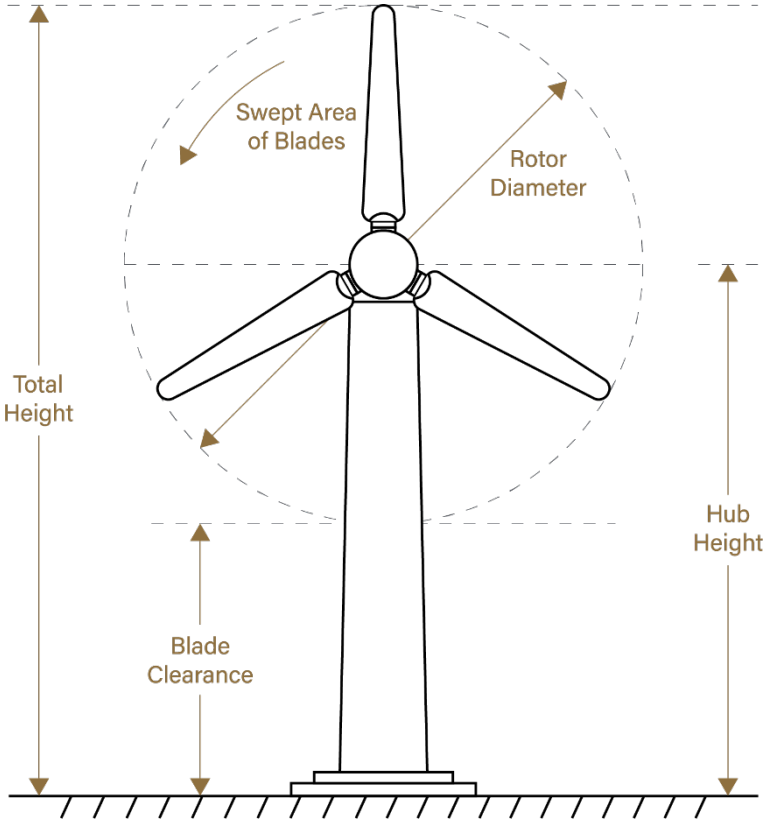
^ A wind turbine height of 600' was used to calculate setbacks.

- 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.

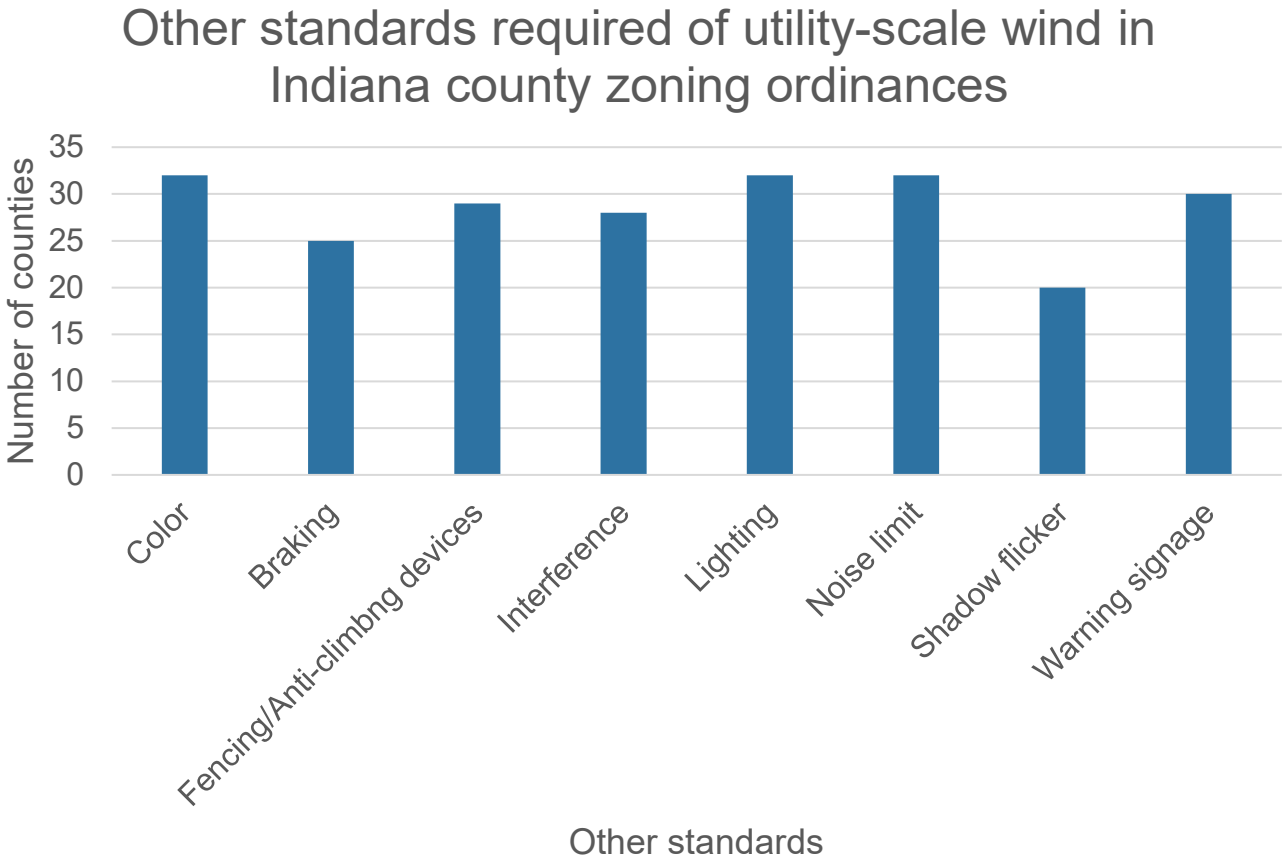
Counties may or may not be recorded ROWs. These variations make it difficult to compare between counties.

Wind: Height and Blade Clearance



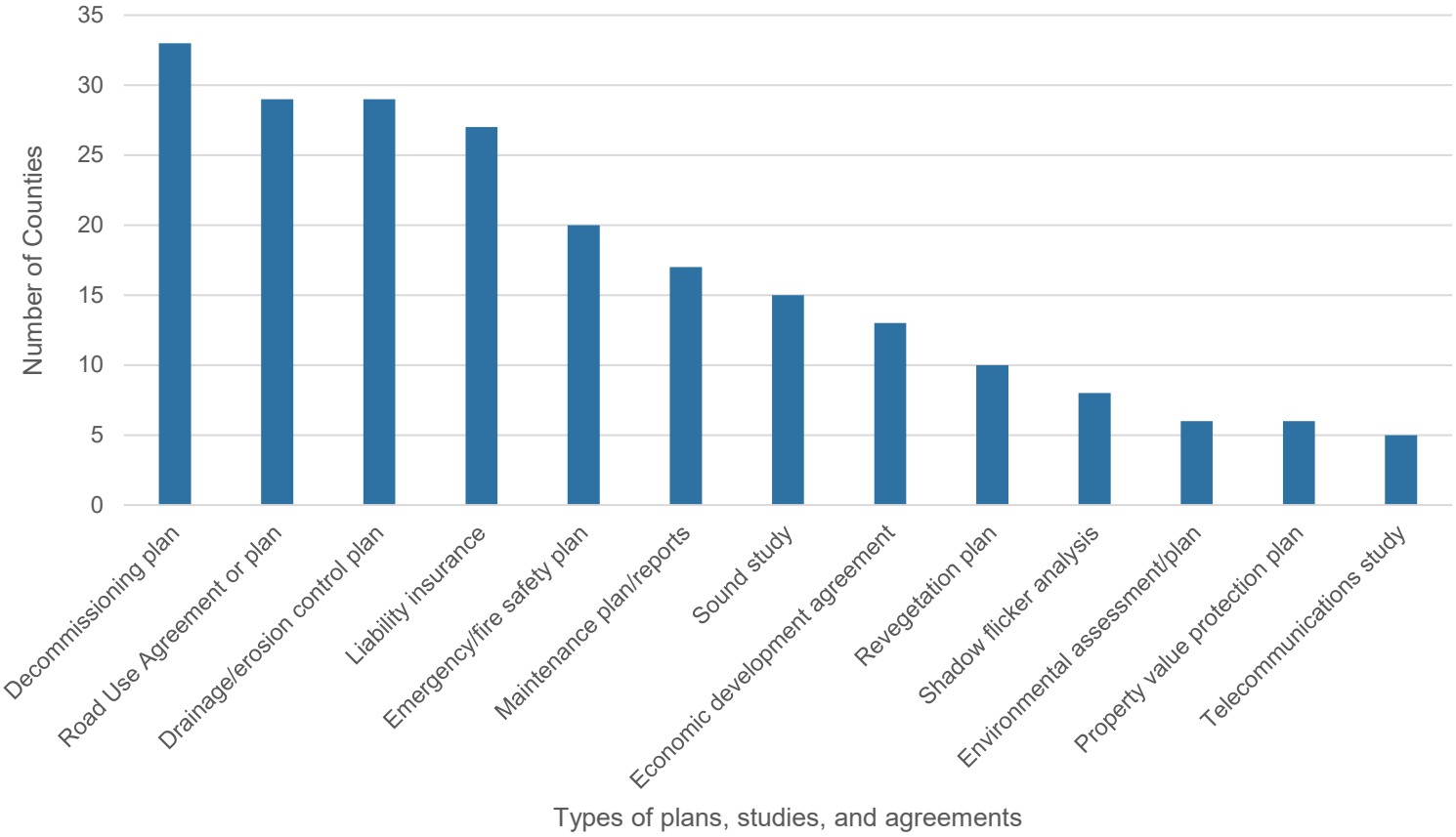
	Blade Clearance	Maximum Total Height
Number of Counties	27	5
Range (ft)	15-75	500-600
Median (ft)	25	600
Mean (ft)	29	575

Wind: Other Standards



Counties have adopted a wide array of standards regulating utility-scale wind. The table shows some of the most common.

Wind: Plans, agreements and studies



Thank You

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