Renewable Energy in Your Community

A Growing Industry

For decades the Midwest has been dependent on coal plants, which have been rapidly closing across the region. The transition to renewable energy is under way, as many new renewable technologies are or will soon be economically competitive with traditional energy sources. With its industrial capacity and high potential for wind energy and solar generation, the Midwest is well-positioned to achieve a clean energy future.

By 2030, the clean energy economy could create 85,000+ new jobs and $42.8 billion in lower electricity and gas bills in the Midwest alone, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists. Local governments across the country are leading the transition to renewable energy by integrating solar technology into building energy use, water delivery and utilities services, on-site operations, community-wide initiatives, and more.

The Future is Renewable

According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, the renewable technologies and flexible electric systems that are available could supply 80% of total generation in every region of the U.S. by 2050.

Cities are leading the way—more than 130 cities have committed to 100% renewable electricity by 2035 and all other energy sectors, like gas, by 2050 according to Yale Climate Connections.

The Benefits of Renewable Energy

Clean and Local Job Creation

The renewable energy industry is the fastest growing source of electricity generation and one of the fastest growing job sectors in the country according to the US Energy Information Administration.

More Reliable and Resilient

Unlike traditional energy resources, wind and solar energy systems do not require single-site power plants. This means they are more resilient to disruption from storms and other extreme events. Renewable energy is also less variable than traditional energy, allowing for stable, long-term pricing.

Fewer GHG emissions

Transitioning from fossil fuel-sourced energy to renewables reduces greenhouse gases (GHGs), the emissions that lead climate change. In the U.S., about a third of GHG emissions come from the electricity sector; renewable energy sources, produce little to no emissions.

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For more information, visit **eri.iu.edu,**
or contact the Environmental Resilience Institute at **eri@iu.edu.**

Tools and Resources for Renewable Conversion

Planning

Toolkits can help local governments identify economic and administrative barriers in the deployment of on-site renewable energy projects.
Planning toolkits include:

- "**USEPA Renewable Energy Project Development**"
- the American Planning Association's "**Planning for Solar Energy**" and "**Planning for Wind Energy**"
- the Institute for Local Self-Reliance's "**Community Power Toolkit**"
- the Solar United Neighbors, "**Solar for Municipalities**"

Financing

The Interstate Renewable Energy Council offers the **"Solar Power Purchase Agreement Toolkit for Local Governments"** to help streamline solar power purchase agreements and reduce solar costs.

Policy

The National Conference on State Legislatures created the **"Solar Policy Toolkit"** to provide information on solar markets by state and help assess possible policies to move local governments forward with solar.

How to Support Renewable Energy in Your Community

Install Renewable Energy On-site

Adopt a clean energy commitment to move your community's electricity sector to be renewable, affordable, and equitable. This commitment should include developing and implementing renewable energy generation on government-owned facilities.

Purchase Renewable Energy Directly From Providers

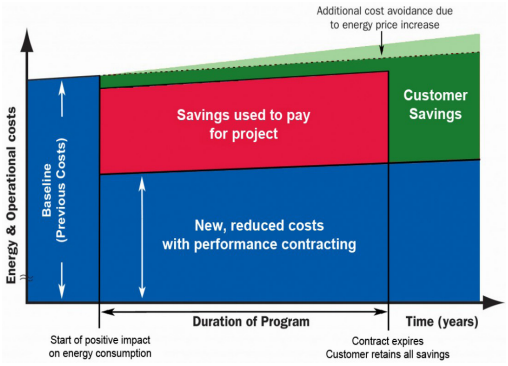
Authorizing Community Choice Aggregation allows the local government to negotiate electricity and gas supply on behalf of customers, and pursue carbon free suppliers. Another option is to negotiate a franchise agreement with your utility that prioritizes renewable energy and creates pathways for clean energy partnerships.

Generate or Purchase Renewable Energy Certificates

Using RECs puts a market value on the renewable energy you source for your constituents. RECs allow you to support renewable energy generation, offset carbon emissions, and promote a market-driven solution for members of the community to support renewable energy.

Support Community Renewable Energy Projects

Increase renewable generation by using bulk purchasing to help simplify the process and reduce upfront costs for homeowners through Solarize Indiana and for community solar through SolSmart.



An agreement offered by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance can be used to finance renewable energy and energy efficiency through the savings that are generated. *Chart obtained from Sander Mechanical Service - Energy Performance Contracting website*

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