

Does your county have impediments to new solar energy?

USA TODAY's analysis found 15% of counties nationwide now have some impediment to new utility-scale wind and solar energy. Gauging those impediments required researching a variety of local rules including outright bans, zoning restrictions, specialized land-use rules or political stonewalls.

Should we block wind & solar?

As wind turbines get more efficient and solar panels more affordable, wind and solar plants have grown rapidly. Efforts to block them have grown rapidly, too, especially since 2021. USA TODAY's analysis found 15% of counties nationwide now have some impediment to new utility-scale wind and solar energy.

Where in America is wind & solar a good idea?

While many counties seek ways to keep clean energy out of their backyards, some places in America are embracing wind and solar. Iowa, for example, gets over 65% of its electricity from wind and solar, but 11 counties there now block new wind farms. Illinois, meanwhile, prohibits counties from banning wind and solar.

Should new wind turbines and solar energy plants be built?

That means new wind turbines and solar energy plants could be built in the places that have the most potential for wind and solar energy, because the distance from where energy is needed wouldn't matter. Building a new network for transmitting electricity would be a big job.

Can solar power be used if wind turbines are not working?

Solar is only available on sunny days, not during storms or at night. Wind turbines don't work when the wind doesn't blow enough--or when it blows too much. Because of this, some studies have argued that these technologies are only viable if large-capacity batteries are available to store energy from these sources to use when they aren't working.

Are local governments banning green energy faster than building it?

A nationwide analysis by USA TODAY shows local governments are banning green energy faster than they're building it. At least 15% of counties in the U.S. have effectively halted new utility-scale wind, solar, or both, USA TODAY found.

He illustrates how investment in solar and wind energy and battery storage is taking leaps in the U.S., solar up 23% in 2023 and battery storage doubling in 2024. Costs are ...

However, wind and solar energy are intermittent sources that currently need back up power from reliable energy sources like coal, nuclear, and natural gas to keep the lights on, keep our homes heated, and keep our ...

According to Solar Power World records, of the U.S. solar panel factories that have opened specifically due to

IRA credits, 60% have obvious Chinese investors. These include companies like Canadian Solar -- which, ...

The biggest challenge to solar technology is that it cannot be a standalone solution; it needs complementary storage technologies like batteries to be fully accessible 24/7. Solar installations also require significant land, ...

Solar panels and wind farms can generate electricity without releasing any greenhouse gas emissions. Nuclear power plants can too, although today's plants generate long-lasting radioactive...

Increased Solar Storage Capacity. Solar energy storage is a crucial element of solar adoption. The sun is strongest in the daytime, but people use energy in the evening after the sun goes down. Storage ensures you will have ...

Here's what the energy transition looks like in rural America right now -- and what needs to change to speed it up. Reasons for adopting (or avoiding) clean energy in rural areas

Thankfully, recent technological advancements in solar energy, cost reductions, and its lower emissions profile have made solar power more appealing, especially in urban areas. The electricity sector, on the other hand, ...

The second Donald Trump administration has put up roadblocks to clean energy investment but renewable energy analysts say superior technology and its economic benefits ...

Now, despite political and economic headwinds, solar energy is reaching a critical tipping point that will continue to transform the U.S. energy sector.

Energy experts believe solar power, the price of which fell 90 percent between 2010 and 2020, will continue to proliferate across the landscape. (Last year, the United States added three times as much solar capacity as ...

The federal energy regulator alleges the company has sold bogus energy efficiency claims to electric grid operators. But American Efficient has mounted a stiff ...

Here's a quick list of the equipment you get when you go solar: Solar panels: Capture energy from the sun. Inverter(s): Converts solar energy into energy that your home can use. Racking equipment: Mounts solar panels to ...

After due diligence, they recommended a local contractor who was professional, knowledgeable, and efficient in handling the installation. They made the entire process seamless and hassle ...

Due to the lack of domestically assembled solar panels using American components, the groups are proposing to waive their required use through Dec. 31, 2025. The "buy America" preference was established as part ...

To summarize these results, terrestrial nuclear fission power and the scalable terrestrial renewable power options of wind and ground solar cannot practicably enable America to go green. This leaves space solar power as the ...

Additionally, if you ever find yourself without solar power, you can transition to the grid. Most homes are within a mile of the grid and can access energy, even if solar panels are ...

The U.S. has seen a 23% drop in solar energy prices year after year and a staggering 42% drop since 2020. It is now the cheapest form of energy in the country. In terms ...

The federal solar tax credit is back to 30%, and there's never been a better time to install solar and start saving on energy costs. On August 16, 2022, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 into ...

Solar incentives and rebates: Some states and utility providers offer incentives and rebates that reduce the upfront solar system cost or provide extra savings as the solar panels generate power. The solar tax credit is the largest solar ...

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