Rural Energy
Indiana Office of Energy Development

NASEO ENERGY POLICY OUTLOOK CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 8, 2023
82% of Indiana’s counties are either rural or a mixed rural/urban

38% of Indiana’s population lives in a rural or a mixed rural/urban county (14%: rural; 24%: mixed rural/urban)

Agriculture contributes $31.2 billion to the state economy

8th largest state exporter of agriculture products

More than 56,000 farming operations in the state, with an average farm size of 264 acres.
Indiana Energy

- 5 investor-owned utilities
- 72 municipal-owned utilities
- 38 rural electric membership cooperatives
- $91 million from USDA Electric Loan Program
- 4 rural REMCs/utilities in Indiana
Indiana Energy

- Rapidly changing fuel mix
- 4th in the nation for new clean energy development
- Home to largest planned solar farm in the U.S.

![Energy Pie Charts](chart.png)

- **2011**
  - Coal: 77.7%
  - Natural Gas: 31.7%
  - Nuclear: 11.1%
  - Wind: 6.5%
  - Other fuels: 3.4%
  - Solar: 2.5%

- **2020**
  - Coal: 47.3%
  - Natural Gas: 3.1%
  - Nuclear: 6.6%
  - Wind: 11.1%
  - Other fuels: 3.4%
  - Solar: 6.5%
Rural Clean Energy

- Patchwork of wind and solar ordinances
- Voluntary standards created in 2022
- Wind Ready Communities
  - 52 / 92 counties have ordinances
  - 8 do not permit any wind
  - 2 fully meet the standards
- Solar Ready Communities
  - 54 / 92 counties have ordinances
  - Zero fully meet the standards
Rural Energy Tours

- Opportunity for local official and community members
- 2 Tours in 2022, showcasing:
  - Biodigester
  - Wind Farm
  - Solar Farm
  - Ethanol production plant
- More to come in 2023
Rural Energy Innovation Grant Program

- State Energy Program funding
- 2 Rounds of Applications
  - 10 applications in 2019
  - 36 applications in 2020
- 16 projects awarded
- ~ $550,000 total

- All eligible SEP activities
  - Energy efficiency projects
  - Renewable energy

- OED Approach
  - Emphasis on saving costs. Secure, reliable, affordable energy
  - Rural = 30,000 residents or fewer
  - Farms, small towns, businesses, etc
  - Simple application
FFA Training Center

Indoor & Outdoor LED Lighting
Small business in Wakarusa

HVAC
Lighting
Windows & doors
Huntington University

Rooftop solar
More examples

- Chiller for Greene County Hospital, a public rural Critical Access Facility
- Lighting at rural convenience store cooperatives
- Cooler for produce storage at Melon Acres
- Wabash Heartland Innovation Network: Student-led study of 5 manufacturing facilities for energy efficiencies
- Grain bin dryers*
Thank you

Julie Kempf
Policy Director
Indiana Office of Energy Development
jkempf@oed.in.gov