



Solar power stations are restricted

Are local bans blocking wind and solar energy?

Across America, local bans, moratoriums and construction impediments are blocking wind and solar energy with increasing levels of red tape. Here's what USA TODAY's analysis found.

How many states are restricting new wind & solar projects?

The updated report highlights 31 states with local restrictions on new wind and solar projects. There are also 204 renewable projects that have been contested across 49 states, representing a 23.6% increase over the report's September 2021 update. Mississippi was the only state without identified local opposition or restrictions.

How many solar energy zoning ordinances are there?

NREL released two data sets: one including nearly 2,000 U.S. wind energy zoning ordinances and another including nearly 1,000 solar energy ordinances at the state, county, township, and city levels.

How many counties have halted new solar panels?

At least 15% of counties in the U.S. have effectively halted new utility-scale wind, solar, or both, USA TODAY found. These are not the solar panels you might have on your house but installations significant enough to replace power plants, each one powering tens of thousands of homes.

How do local ordinances and zoning laws affect wind and solar energy projects?

Local ordinances and zoning laws can determine the parameters of wind and solar energy projects, like the mandatory required distance from other infrastructure such as roads. Photos from iStock

How many counties have blocked or impeded wind and solar power?

While 15% of U.S. counties may sound like a small portion of the country, the rate of those bans and impediments is increasing quickly. USA TODAY's analysis, backed by energy and academic experts, gauges which counties have effectively blocked or impeded new utility-scale wind and solar power.

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Web: <https://publishers-right.eu/contact-us/>

Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

