Wisconsin Counties Association

ANNUAL CONFERENCE & Exhibit Hall 2022

3:30 - 4:30 PM

Addressing Challenges in County Zoning with Renewable Energy

WI's Energy Future

Scott Coenen
Executive Director
Wisconsin Conservative Energy Forum

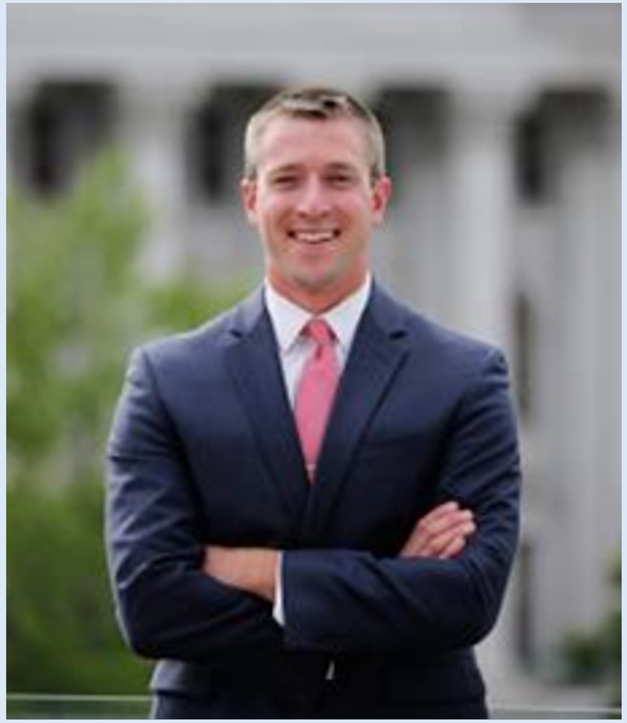
WISCONSIN
CONSERVATIVE
ENERGY FORUM

WHO WE ARE

Launched in December 2017

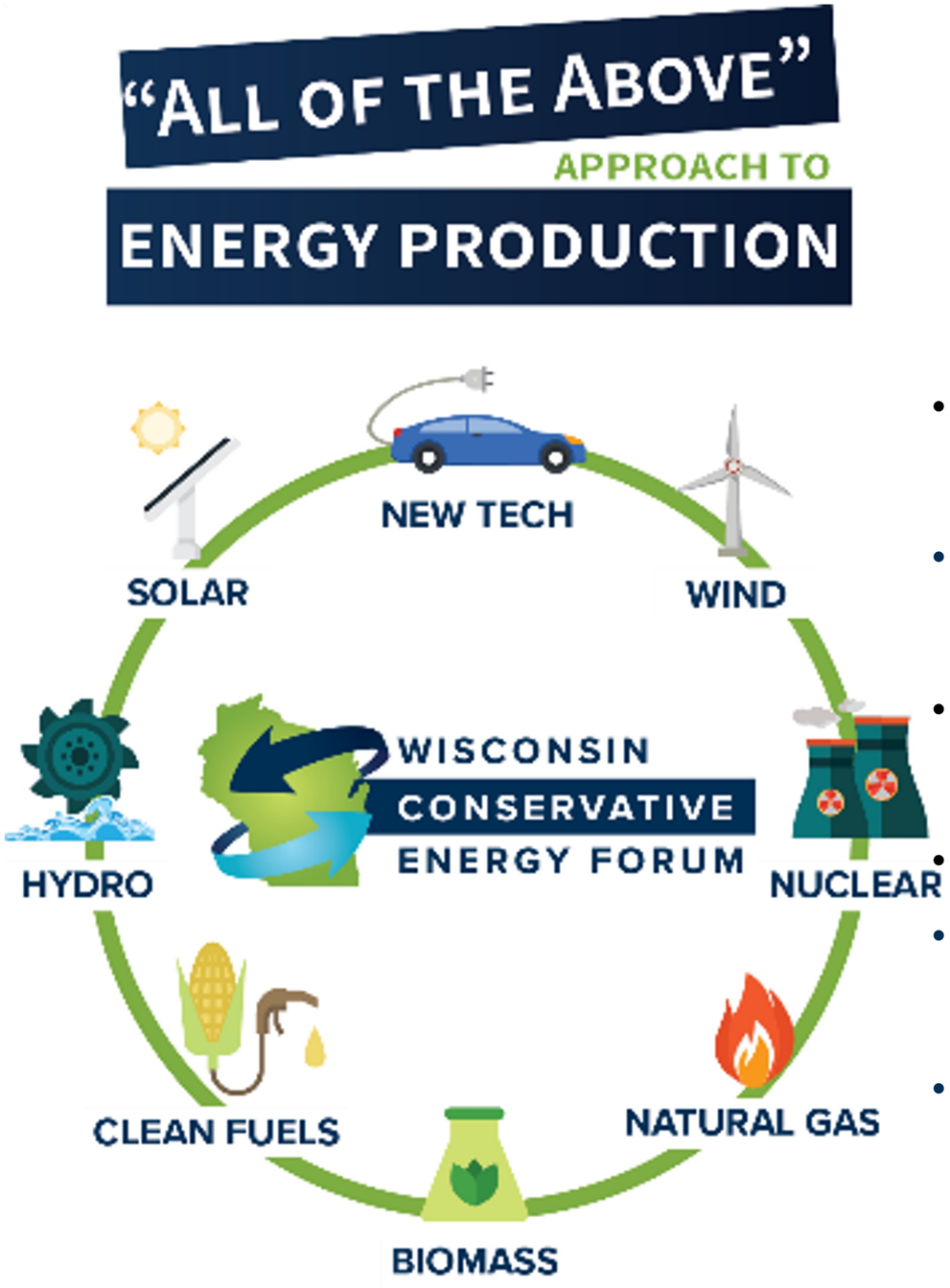
<u>Leadership Council</u>

- **Tommy Thompson –** Former WI Governor
- **Debbie Crave –** VP Crave Brothers Cheese
- **Jon Hochkammer –** WI Counties Association
- **Mark Honadel** – Former GOP Rep.
- **Matt Neumann –** Neumann Companies Inc.
- **Benji Backer –** American Conservation Coalition
- **Jeff Stone** - Former GOP Rep./VP Kapur



Executive Director

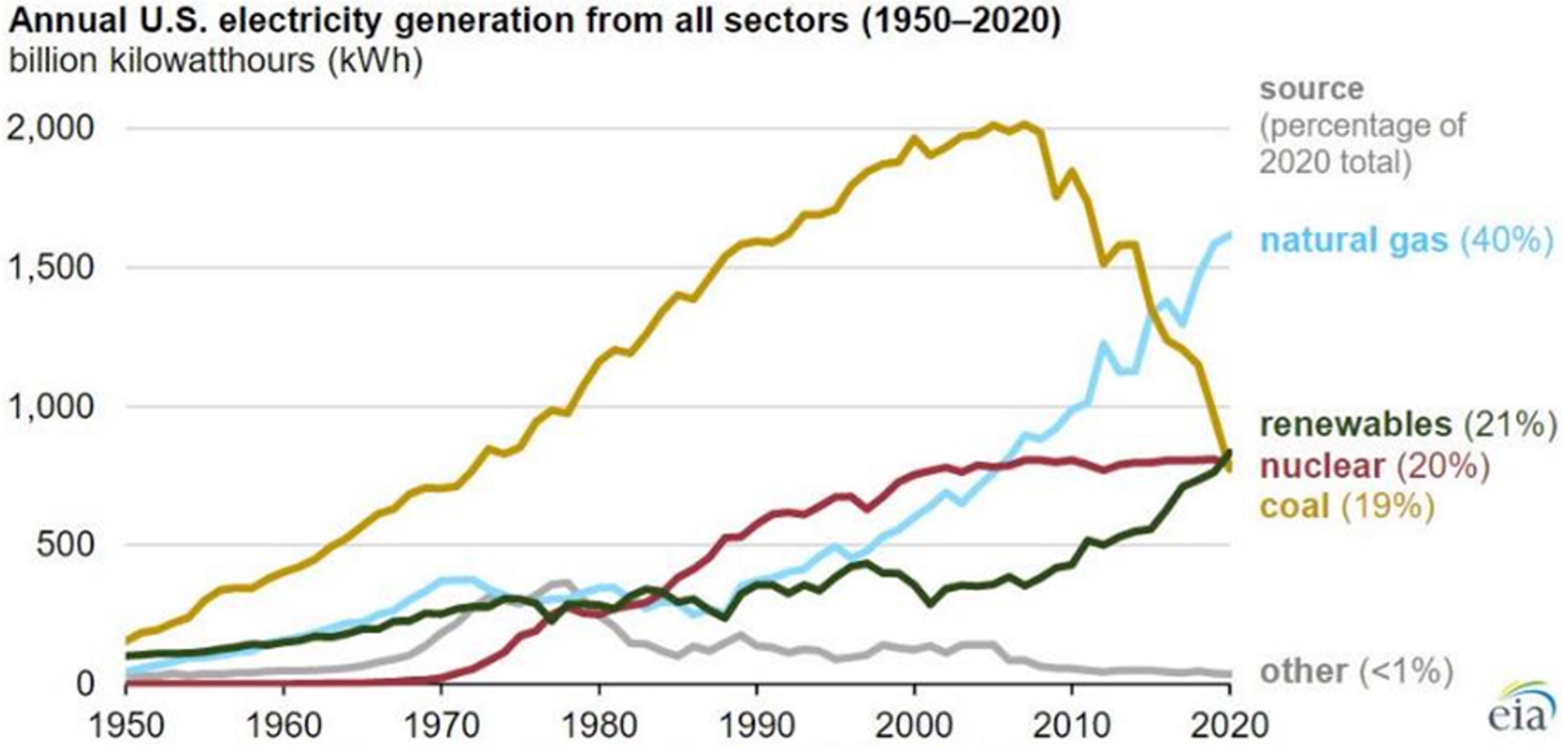
Scott Coenen



OUR APPROACH

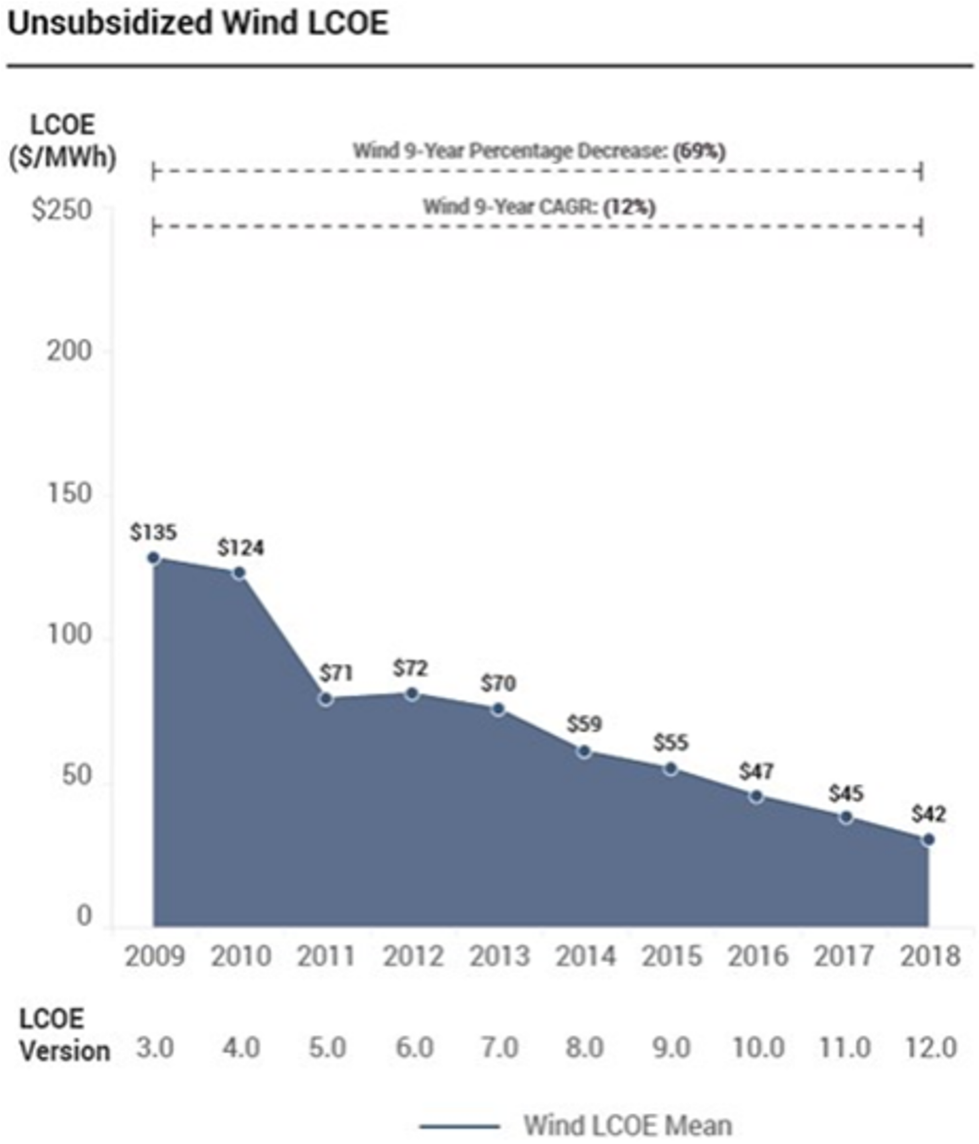
- Messenger; be the conservative voice for energy policy discussions.
- Expand well understood definitions of "responsible resource development" – All of the Above
- Focus on technology, innovation, cost competitive expansion of clean & renewable energy
- Sustainability is a "bottom line" value
- Principles: market driven, cost effective, reliable, home-grown, diverse sources.
- Apply business principles to energy markets that are changing.

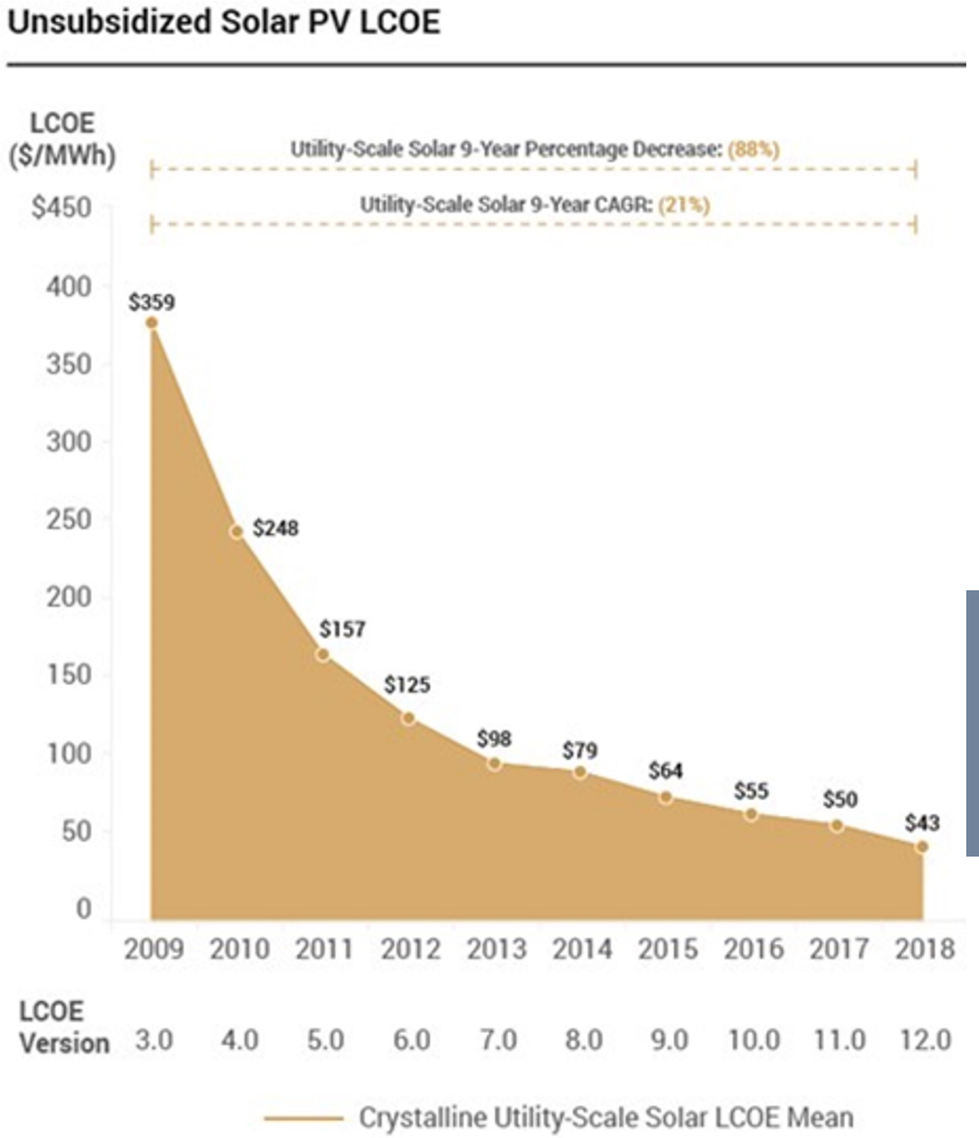
Electricity Generation



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), *Monthly Energy Review*
Note: This graph shows electricity net generation in all sectors (electric power, industrial, commercial, and residential) and includes both utility-scale and small-scale (customer-sited, less than 1 megawatt) solar.

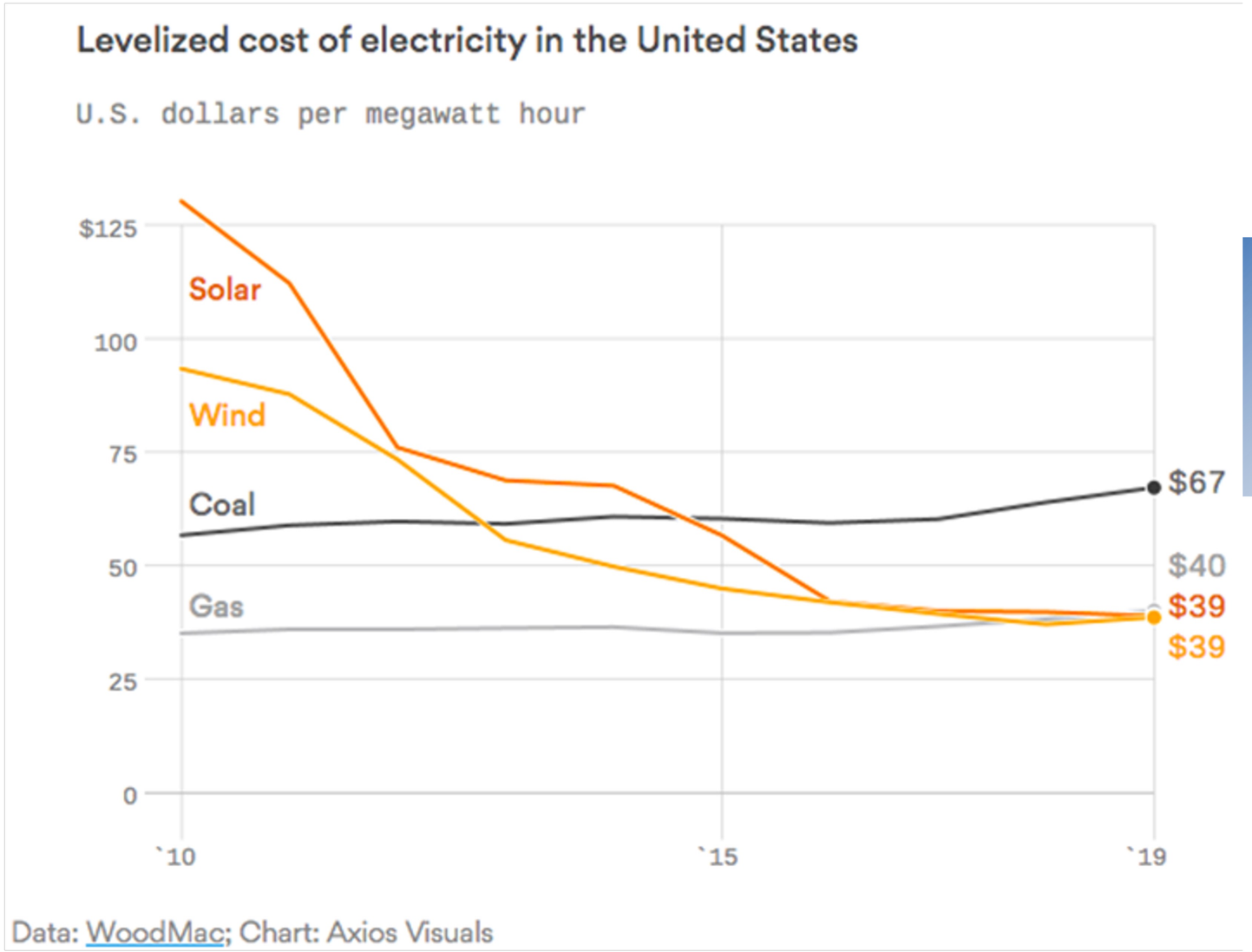
Renewable Costs Collapse



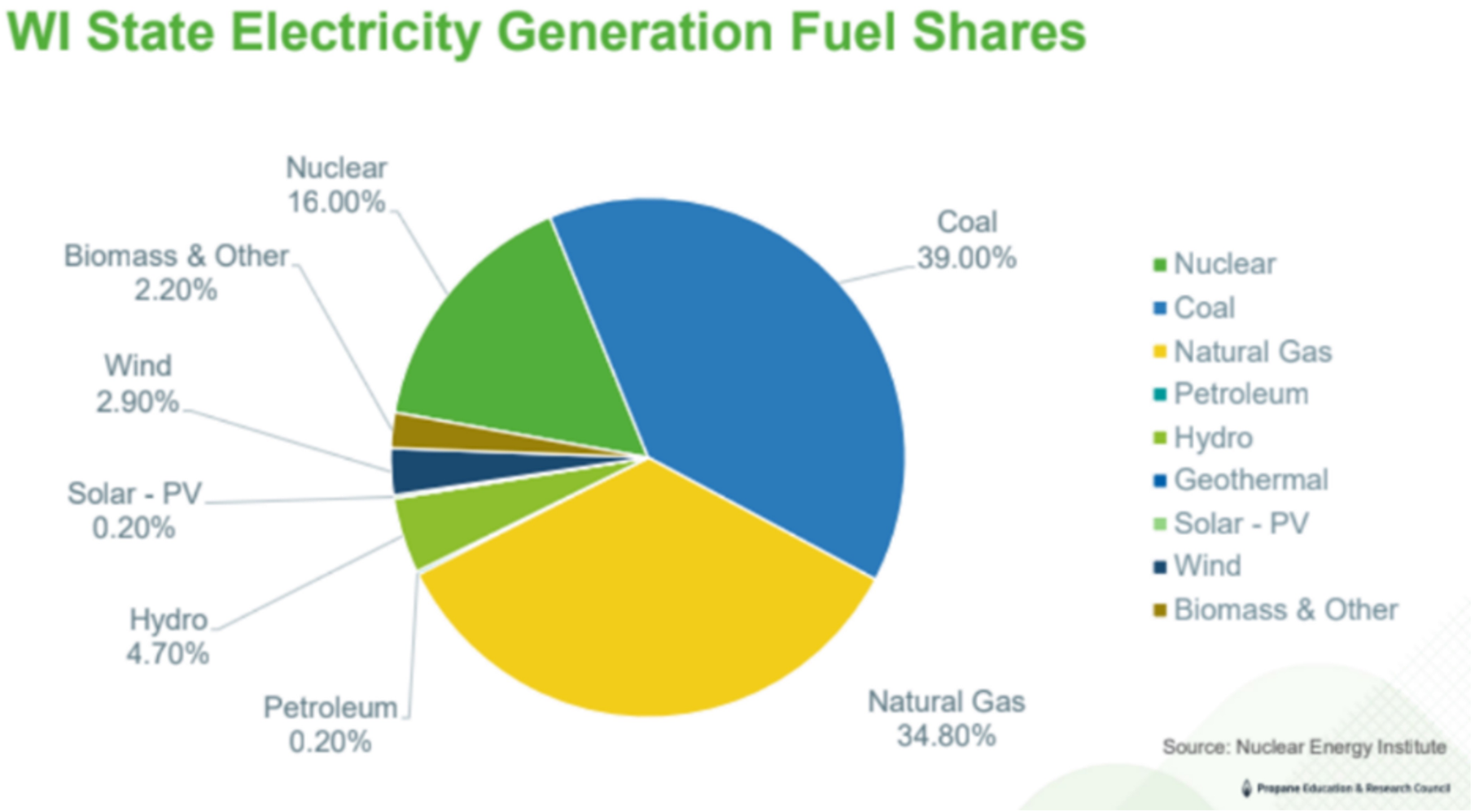


Changing Landscape

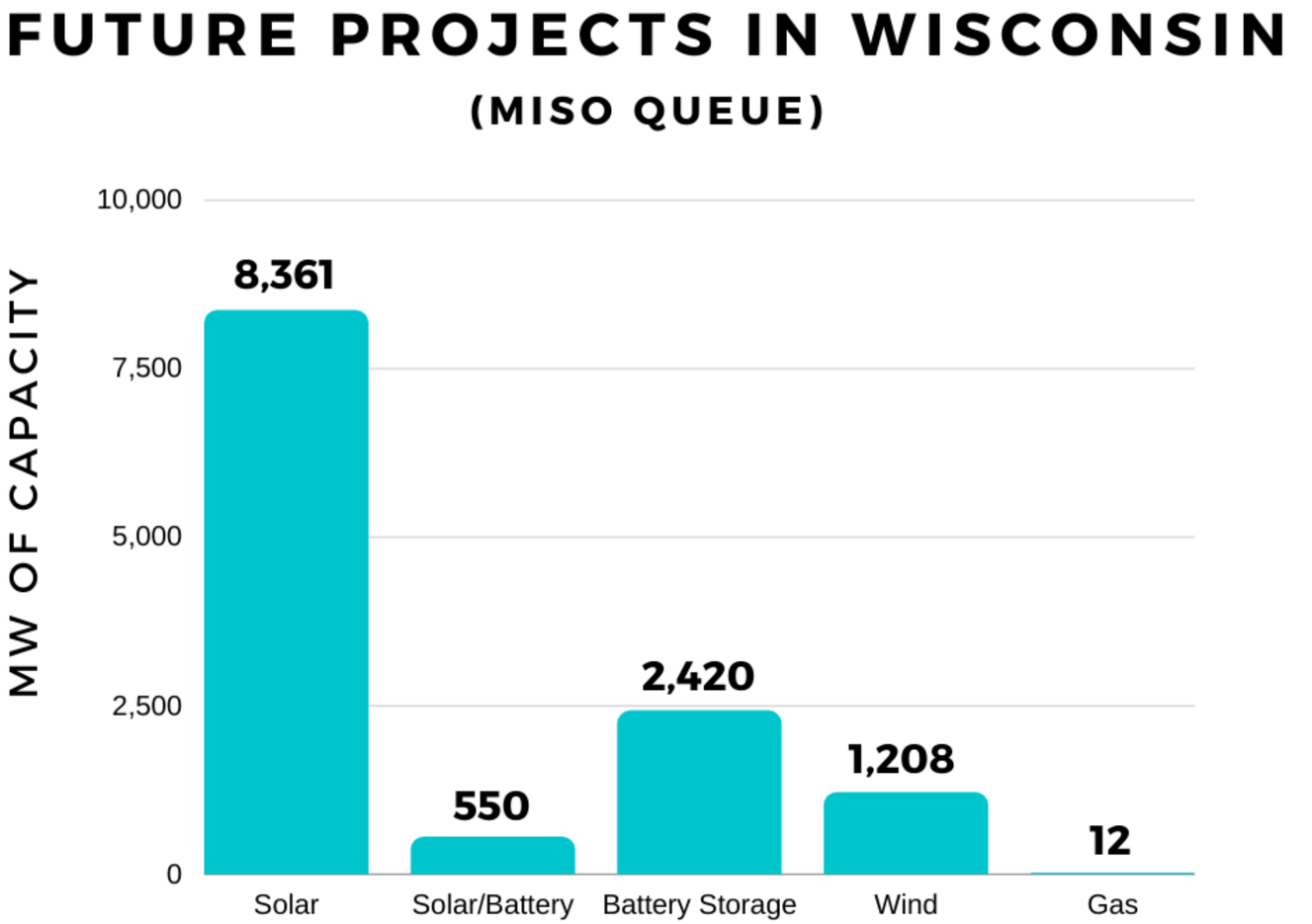
Renewable Energy is **cost competitive.**



Wisconsin's Energy Mix 2020



Wisconsin's Future: Proposed Projects to 2027



Wisconsin’s Future:
Proposed Projects to 2027

Right Now: Cost Pressures <u>Everywhere</u>

European benchmark natural gas price (TTF), 2003-2022
IEA Analysis

American markets are no longer insulated.

- Natural gas UP
- Oil UP
- Coal UP
- Uranium UP

- Things that take energy are about to get historically more expensive.

Future: inherent advantages for renewables

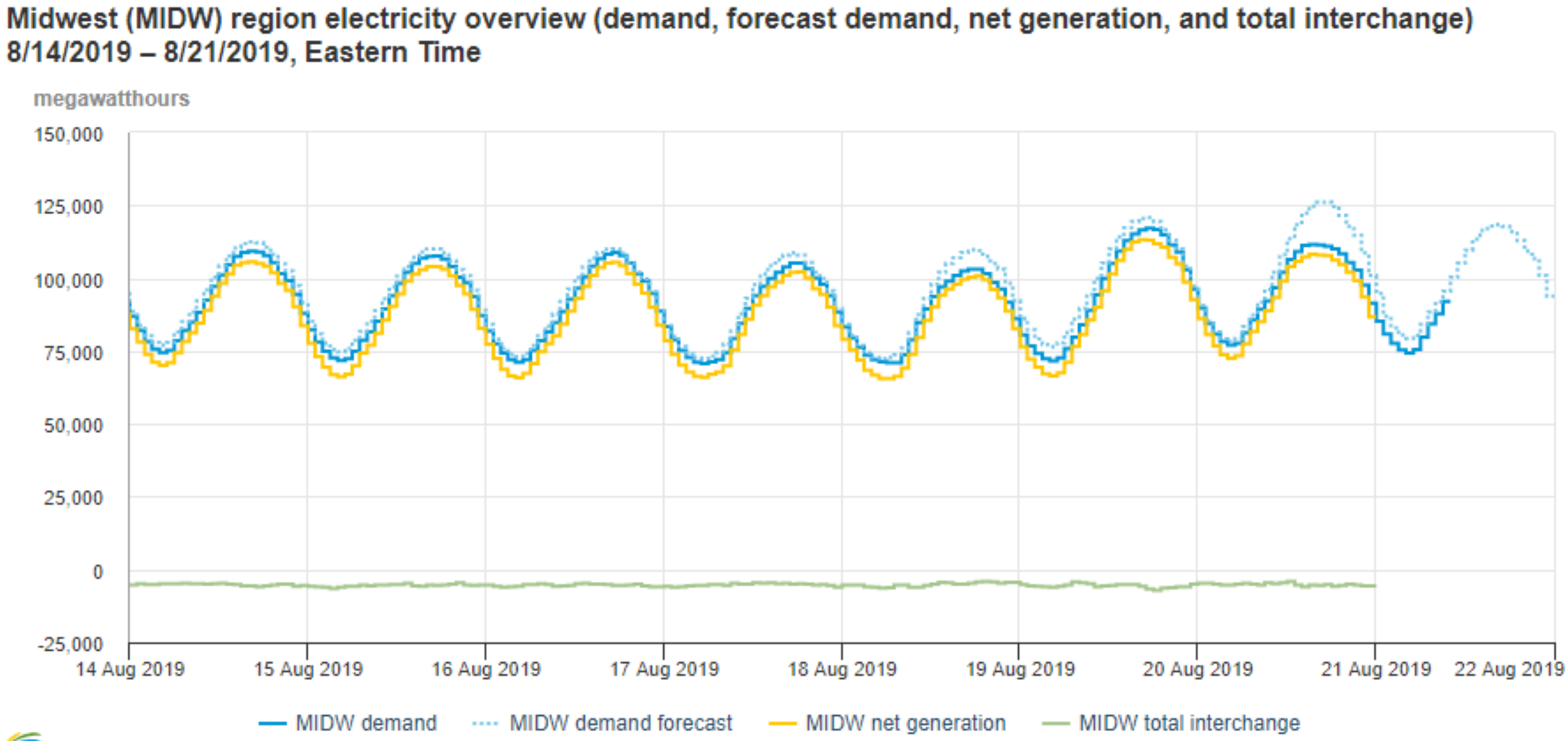
BUT

Challenge: Old Infrastructure+ New

No Fuel ?

No Problem!

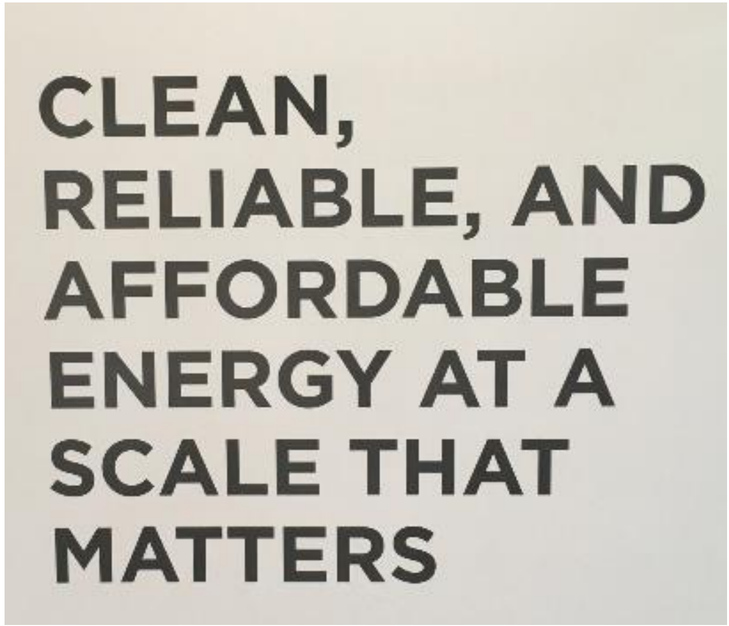
Where does solar fit in WI?



A business case for clean energy?

✗ Subsidies?
✗ Mandates?
✗ Climate?

✓ Falling price
✓ Versatility
✓ Rural economic development
✓ Business/consumer choice
✓ Grid diversity
✓ National security



Markets are changing. Our reasons for supporting clean energy can change too.

Local communities have challenges here

In Wisconsin 99mw and up = Public Service Commission vote.

Local opposition to solar is growing across the state. Local opposition to wind and has been historically very high.

Statewide standards exist for wind. More flexibility in solar development.

Joint development agreements can be key for local leaders, residents impacted by development, and developers.

Look for knowledgeable resources to help.

Energy cost pressures may NOT be subdued in the next decade.

- Coal to natural gas switch backfires.
- Low cost renewables coming online now face hurdles – but market pressure only increases demand for renewables at all scales.
- Our systems are old and under pressure.

- What can we do?
  - **Be realistic.**
  - **Recognize limitations and challenges.**
  - **Push for pragmatic solutions.**
  - **Think creatively about how to make new technologies work in your community.**

THANK YOU

Scott Coenen – Executive Director
10 West Mifflin Street, Suite 205
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
Phone: 608.210.3401
Email: info@wiscef.org

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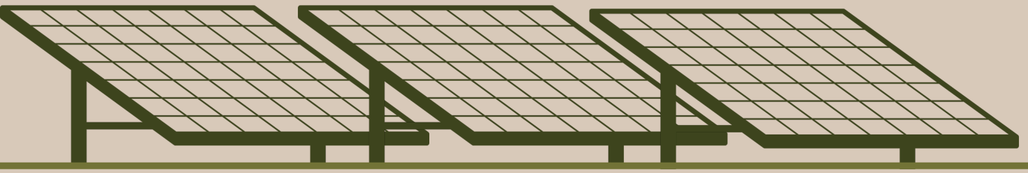
JACKSON KEITH
L&LC DIRECTOR
jkeith@landandlibertycoalition.com

BRADLEY PISCHEA
L&LC DEPUTY DIRECTOR
bpischea@landandlibertycoalition.com

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

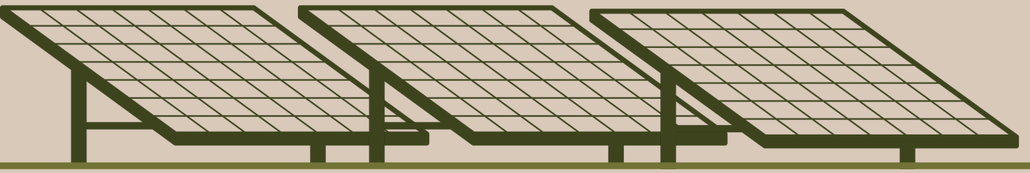
- In 2021, we helped site ~19,000 MW of new, utility-scale clean energy
- Using the statistics in our Purdue White Paper on the Economic Impact of Wind, it results in the following figures:
  - 56,400 full-time construction jobs
    - 1,886 of them permanent, local, high-paying O&M jobs
  - $7,900,000,000 ($7.9B) in economic impact
  - $74,000,000 in farmer and landowner payments
  - 8,219 metric tons of CO2 offset
  - 19,000 MW roughly equates to about 20 projects
  - Overall, we are engaged on 100+ projects

To do all of this, last year, we attended 252 county hearings – and we brought 1,180 people along with us.



TRENDS

- New Program to Track Field Teams' Metrics
  - Total projects, type of project, total MW, project circumstances, etc… QUANTIFY!
- Solar to Wind Trends Over the Years
  - 2019
    - Almost Exclusively Wind
  - 2020
    - 50/50 Wind:Solar
  - 2021
    - 33% Wind, 66% Solar
  - 2022
    - 15% Wind, 85% Solar



ILLINOIS

- Utility-Scale wind and solar projects are sited at the county level.
  - Counties in IL are based on population and not consistent

- Many large-scale renewable developments in IL are PPA between developers and large corporations rather than powering their communities

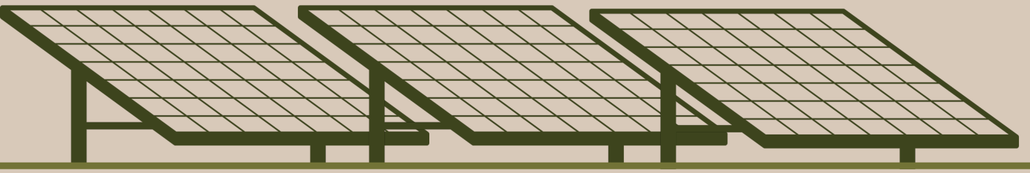
- Signed Into Law in September, 2021, Climate and Equitable Jobs Act
  - 100% Zero Emissions Power Sector by 2045

INDIANA

- Utility-Scale wind and solar projects are sited at the county level.
  - Each County in Indiana has three (3) commissioners per state regardless of the county's population

- Multiple attempts at passing statewide
  - HB 1381 – Mandatory statewide siting guidelines
  - SB 411 – optional siting guidelines

- Mammoth Solar Project
  - 1.3 Gigawatts of solar in Starke & Pulaski Counties

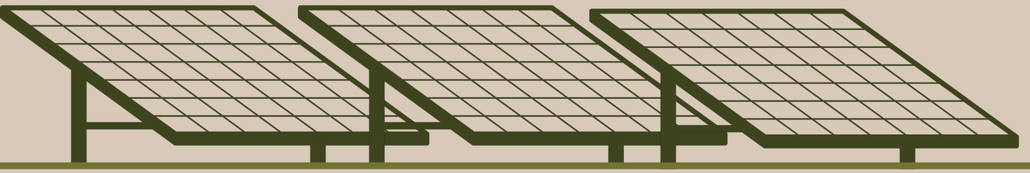


IOWA

- Utility-Scale wind and solar projects are sited at the county level.
  - Each county has three (3) commissioners regardless of size

- The State Legislature is eyeing legislation that would prevent or cap solar energy production on “prime farmland” based on USDA measurements.
  - The bill would have also set mandatory setbacks from residences and other solar energy facilities

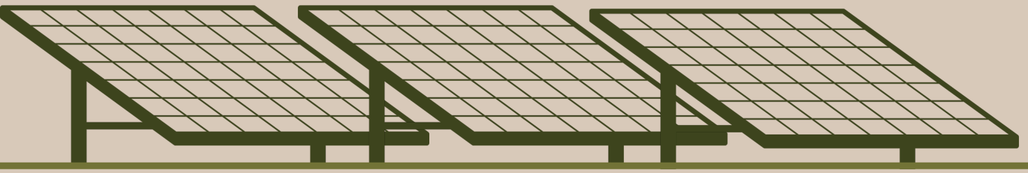
- Iowa is the nation’s 4th largest producer of renewable energy by millions of megawatt hours



MICHIGAN

- Michigan is unique in its process because all utility-scale wind and solar projects are sited at the township level
  - This makes larger projects more challenging because they are likely to span across multiple townships – particularly in wind development.

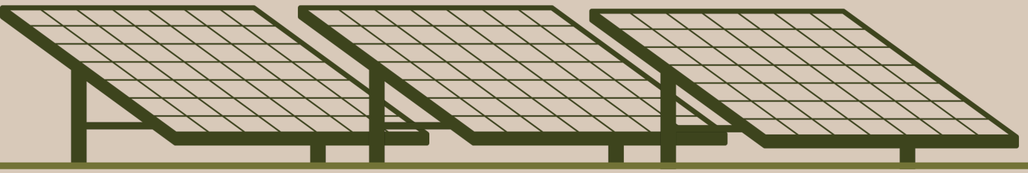
- Michigan is expected to pass legislation that would move away from a PPT taxation and towards a PILOT program for local revenue generation
  - SB's 1106 and 1107 introduced by Senators Kevin Daley and Curtis Vanderwall introduced similar legislation in the last session that was vetoed by Governor Whitmer
    - She cited a lack of stakeholder inclusion from the municipalities, townships, and counties as reason for her veto
- Michigan's two biggest IOUs have ambitious clean energy goals that keep Michigan at the forefront of developer's interest



MINNESOTA

- Generally, all utility-scale siting projects in Minnesota occur at the state level through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
  - 50 MW of Solar
  - 25 MW of Wind

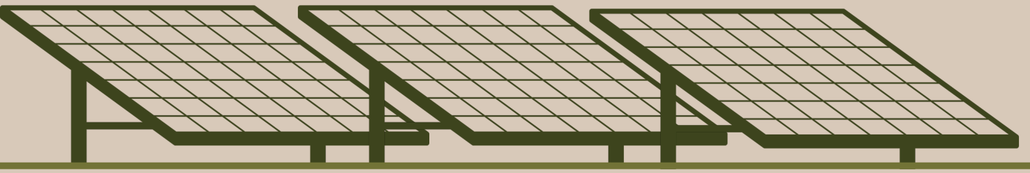
- Through the pandemic, the MPUC has moved at a more deliberate pace, causing a backlog in projects
  - Walleye Wind in Rock County just broke ground and will provide 110 MW of wind energy
  - During this time, there has been a strong focus on projects that can be sited at the county level
    - Typically, community solar projects smaller than 5 MW
- MN is also poised to provide rare earth materials for the industry in proposed mining operations in NE MN.
  - Large copper, nickel, and cobalt are abounded



OHIO

- Ohio's siting process for utility-scale wind and solar is a hybrid state/local process
  - Prior to SB 52, passed in 2021, large projects were sited by the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB)
    - Wind projects under 5 MW and solar projects under 50 MW aren't subject to OBSP approval
  - Now, this process exists, but early in the process, representatives from proposed project's townships and counties serve on ad hoc committees to give input and vote in the process.
  - Counties are now also able to create exclusion zones within their borders that prevent any clean energy development from occurring in designated areas

- Following a supreme court case, Icebreaker Wind, an offshore wind project in Lake Erie, can move forward in the process
  - This is a smaller project with 6 prospective turbines that would produce just over 20 MW of energy

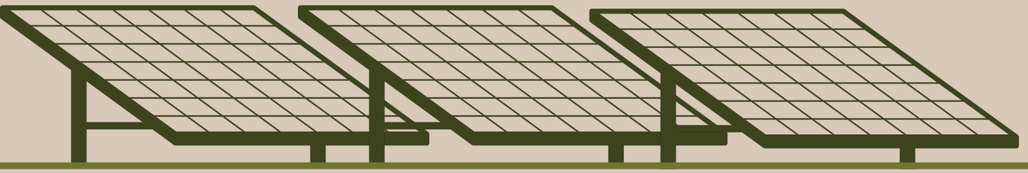


PENNSYLVANIA

- Pennsylvania is the other state that approves utility-scale wind and solar projects at the county level
  - This imposes similar challenges to what we see in Michigan

- PA ACRE Claim
  - Grassroots push through AG Shapiro's Office to prevent systemic bans on solar development on farmland
  - This could help answer the question as to whether or not clean energy development will be treated like traditional “farming”

- Unlike many states in the “Midwest”, PA is a legacy state for coal and natural gas, leading to more interest in traditional energy generation



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QUESTIONS