

# West Virginia: Use It or Lose It

## The Potential to Accelerate Renewables in **WV** in 2026

West Virginia's solar capacity has grown significantly since 2019, reaching **230 MW** and wind energy is over **800 MW**. Lower solar costs, IRA tax credits, & inflation-adjusted electricity price increases of up to **8%** since 2020 fueled this growth. With electricity demand surging and risks of more price hikes, brownouts, and outages, WV must sustain the momentum behind renewables.

### Rising Electricity Prices in West Virginia

- **37%** of households in WV are energy-burdened (spend > 6% of their income on energy)
- Electricity rates in WV have risen **twice as fast as US** rates in the past 15 years, going from 30% below to 10% below the national average
- Nearly **one in five** West Virginian households are typically behind on their electric bills every month
- Utilities shut power off for 56,000 households for not paying bills in 2023, up from 3,300 in 2020 and over **10 times the typical state**

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) extended base **Investment Tax Credits** of 30% for solar projects & boosted credits to **up to 70%** of project costs with bonuses. The IRA made schools, municipalities, & nonprofits eligible through "elective pay."

**While the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) shortened deadlines, commercial and industrial projects can still qualify.**

- Projects must be under construction by July 4, 2026 to get 4 years + to become operational or
- Become operational by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2027

### **What projects still have time to qualify?**

- Projects "under construction" & in PJM & utility queues
- Small commercial projects with short interconnection/build timelines
- Residential solar owned by companies that lease the roof

### **How to maximize drawdown of IRA tax credits for renewables in West Virginia**

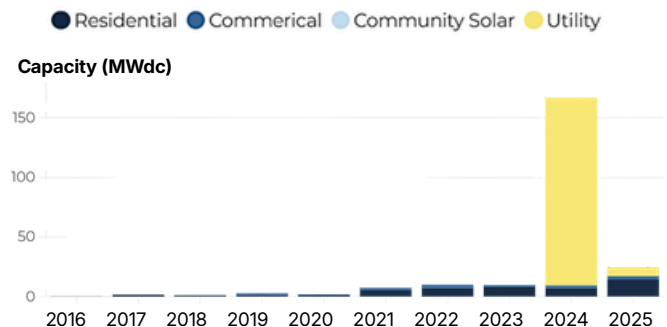
1. Give priority to projects in PJM-utility queues that can meet the deadlines
2. Require utilities to interconnect faster
3. Owners and developers move quickly on new projects & get expert help

(See Table 1 on the back side to find expert help)

### WV's Key Solar & Wind Facts

- Wind accounts for **4%** of WV's electricity and solar **0.64%**
- West Virginia ranks **27<sup>th</sup>** for wind capacity and **49<sup>th</sup>** for solar in the US
- West Virginia allows net metering
- **Interconnect Grade: D**--not good enough

### **Annual WV Solar Installations**



Source: SEIA/Wood Mackenzie Power & Renewables U.S. Solar Market Insight 2025 Year in Review



Find more info on federal tax credits and policy recommendations at this link. →



If half the **solar** capacity in the PJM queue in West Virginia get a **40% tax credit**, that brings in **\$755 million** in tax credits, \$1.9 billion in total investment that would increase **WV's solar capacity 6x**. **Wind tax credits would add to this.**

# Case Studies

## RenewAll Inc

RenewAll is a nonprofit in West Huntington, WV focused on strengthening the Central City commercial district. In 2024, the organization added rooftop solar to an old antique store that now houses nearly 50 small businesses. RenewAll will save \$300 per month, with lifetime savings of over \$130,000.

RenewAll took advantage of IRA tax credits through elective pay, and received the 30% investment tax credit and 10% energy community bonus to help finance the project.

## Wayne County Schools

In 2023, Wayne County School District signed a 25-year power purchase agreement for 5.53 MW of power with Solar Holler. This agreement is expected to offset 99% of the district's electricity consumption and save the district \$6.5 million total. The energy community and local content bonus made the tax credit 50%. The project savings could pay for Wayne County to hire an additional three teachers.

## Mount Storm Energy Center

This 335 MW wind farm in Grant County, WV was first operational in 2008 and is currently undergoing a "repower", where current turbines will be replaced with newer, more efficient turbines. The electricity generated (enough to power 155,000 homes) will be bought by Microsoft through a Power Purchase Agreement. The repower will be completed by union labor, includes \$3.6 million in community benefits and represents a \$735 million investment in WV's economy.

# Technical Assistance Resources

Organization	Contact Info.	Website	Customer Focus	Assistance Available
Solar United Neighbors	Leah Turgeon, WV Program Director <a href="mailto:LTurgeon@solarunitedneighbors.org">LTurgeon@solarunitedneighbors.org</a>	<a href="https://solarunitedneighbors.org">https://solarunitedneighbors.org</a>	Residential Solar Co-Ops	Solar United Neighbors is a resource for rooftop solar arrays, community solar and plug-in solar.
Appalachian Solar Finance Fund	Autumn Long, <a href="mailto:autumn.long@appvoices.org">autumn.long@appvoices.org</a>	<a href="https://www.solarfinancefund.org">https://www.solarfinancefund.org</a>	Nonprofit organizations and public institutions, commercial anchor institutions in Appalachian counties	Technical assistance and financing including bridge loans and competitive grants for nonprofits and public institutions, technical assistance and credit enhancement for anchor institutions
Lawyers for Good Government (L4GG) Elective Pay Sprint Hub	Complete the intake form on the website	<a href="https://www.lawyersforgoodgovernment.org/elective-pay-sprint">https://www.lawyersforgoodgovernment.org/elective-pay-sprint</a>	Nonprofits and local governments	Help maximize IRA clean energy credits while available. For projects seeking tax credits funded by federal grants or loans, L4GG provides specialized legal guidance on compliance with <a href="#">Build America, Buy America (BABA)</a> through the Elective Pay Assistance pipeline.
Laborers-Employers Cooperation & Educ. Trust (LECET)	Marshall Brown, <a href="mailto:mbrown@maliuna.org">mbrown@maliuna.org</a>	<a href="https://www.lectmidatlantic.com/https://www.liuna.org/work-with-liuna">https://www.lectmidatlantic.com/https://www.liuna.org/work-with-liuna</a>	Commercial and grid-scale solar projects performed by unionized contractors	Access to skilled workers; compliance w/prevaling wage & app. utilization required for 30% tax credits on projects 1 MW or above; assist w/local permits and accessing credits—e.g., registering the project with the IRS & filing for credits after the project is operational.
IBEW	Aaron Brown, <a href="mailto:aaron_brown@ibew.org">aaron_brown@ibew.org</a>	<a href="https://poveyourcommunity.org/">https://poveyourcommunity.org/</a>	Large-scale renewable energy projects built by skilled union workers	Collaboration with developers & community leaders to ensure renewable projects are built safely & on time w/local skilled union labor; assistance w/local permits & accessing IRA credits