

Alaska | Interconnection Grade




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For states that have adopted statewide interconnection policies, Freeing the Grid scored them based on criteria that fall under the list of categories included below. For a detailed summary of all evaluation criteria, please visit FreeingtheGrid.org/Criteria.

- **Rule Applicability**
- **Streamlined Review**
- **Modifications**
- **Timelines & Efficiency**
- **Interconnection Costs & Requirements**
- **Updated Standards & Export Provisions**
- **Initial Review Screens**
- **Supplemental Review Screens**
- **Data Sharing & Reporting**
- **Dispute Resolution**

Interconnection policies specify the processes, timelines, and costs associated with connecting distributed energy resources — like solar and energy storage systems — safely and reliably to the grid. Because Alaska has not adopted statewide interconnection procedures, it is recommended that state policymakers standardize interconnection processes and practices through the following actions:

Recommendations

Adopt statewide interconnection rules that apply to all state-jurisdictional generator interconnections to standardize the processes, timelines, costs, and reporting requirements across all utility territories.

Where to start:

- Review the Freeing the Grid [Interconnection Grade Criteria](#) to learn more about key provisions within state interconnection rules that impact the efficiency, clarity, transparency, and overall cost of connecting distributed energy resources to the grid
- The Building A Technically Reliable Interconnection Evolution for Storage (BATRIES) [Toolkit and Guidance for the Interconnection of Energy Storage and Solar-Plus-Storage](#) includes model language and recommendations for streamlining the integration of energy storage and solar-plus-storage with the grid
- IREC's 2019 [Model Interconnection Procedures](#) provides model language based on more than a decade of regulatory engagement in states across the country (stay tuned for an updated version to be released in 2023)

NOTEWORTHY BEST PRACTICES

This section highlights noteworthy interconnection best practices, from among the evaluation criteria. States that are in the process of developing or revising their interconnection procedures should consider adopting these practices which are critical to the effective integration of energy storage, the provision of information to interconnection applicants, and the incorporation of IEEE 1547-2018.

ENERGY STORAGE

To improve clarity and enable the operational capabilities of storage, states should include energy storage as an eligible technology in their interconnection rules, incorporate the concept of export capacity, and identify acceptable export control methods.

TRANSPARENCY

To improve data sharing, states should require pre-application reports, detailed screening and study results, itemized upgrade cost estimates, and at least monthly public queue reporting that allows for the tracking of interconnection process steps.

IEEE 1547-2018

To update and clarify interconnection requirements, states should incorporate the IEEE 1547-2018 Standard and identify performance categories as well as voltage and frequency settings.

Freeing the Grid is a joint initiative of the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) and Vote Solar that grades states on specific policies that help to increase clean energy adoption and access to the grid. The state grades are intended to assist policymakers and other stakeholders with identifying policy best practices for enabling the growth of distributed energy resources (DERs), such as solar and energy storage, and benchmarking their existing policies against those adopted in other states.

Between 2007 and 2017, the project team released ten report cards that included state grades for both interconnection and net metering policies. In this 2023 release, IREC used updated interconnection scoring criteria based on best practices that have emerged in the last five years to grade all 50 U.S. states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Future releases will include grades on statewide DER compensation policies from Vote Solar, as well as information on the important equity implications of interconnection policies.

For more information, visit

FreeingtheGrid.org

