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. This state’s interconnection grade is based on the following criteria:*

**Recommendations**

- Use 100% of minimum load rather than 15% of peak load screen under initial review for Levels 3-5
- Require utilities to publish a queue that allows for tracking of process timelines
- Adopt more efficient timelines for initial review (for Levels 3-5), supplemental review, and the study process (cont.)

1. **Rule Applicability**
   Facility types and system sizes eligible to interconnect

2. **Streamlined Review**
   Use of simplified and expedited screening processes

3. **Modifications**
   Facility and distribution system modifications

4. **Timelines & Efficiency**
   Timelines specified for review and other processes

5. **Interconnection Costs & Requirements**
   Fees and other requirements for interconnection

**Freeing the Grid** grades states on key statewide policies that impact clean energy growth, helping them identify best practices and benchmark their existing policies against other states'.

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*I Freeing the Grid grades states on key statewide policies that impact clean energy growth, helping them identify best practices and benchmark their existing policies against other states’.*
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