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**

- Incorporate the definition and concept of "export capacity" and identify acceptable export control methods, including certified Power Control Systems.

- Adopt a simplified review process for inverter-based generators with export capacity of 25 kW or higher.

- Adopt a defined initial review process with specified screens, including a penetration screen based on 100% of minimum load (cont.)

**Interconnection Policies**

- **Rule Applicability**
  Facility types and system sizes eligible to interconnect

- **Streamlined Review**
  Use of simplified and expedited screening processes

- **Modifications**
  Facility and distribution system modifications

- **Timelines & Efficiency**
  Timelines specified for review and other processes

- **Interconnection Costs & Requirements**
  Fees and other requirements for interconnection

- **Updated Standards & Export Provisions**
  Incorporation of IEEE 1547-2018 and export provisions

- **Initial Review Screens**
  Technical screens used as part of expedited review

- **Supplemental Review Screens**
  Technical screens used in supplemental review

- **Data Sharing & Reporting**
  Provision of queue, timeline, cost, and site-specific data

- **Dispute Resolution**
  Interconnection-specific processes for resolving disputes

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*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'.
ENERGY STORAGE
Awarded to states that have included energy storage as an eligible technology in their interconnection rules, incorporated the concept of export capacity, and identified acceptable export control methods.

TRANSPARENCY
Awarded to states that 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 the interconnection process steps.

IEEE 1547-2018
Awarded to states that have incorporated the IEEE 1547-2018 Standard and identified or referenced performance categories as well as voltage and frequency settings.

NOTEWORTHY BEST PRACTICES

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