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:*

**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’**.

**Washington | Interconnection Grade**

### Recommendations

- Incorporate energy storage as an eligible technology within the definition of "generating facility"
- Incorporate the definition of "export capacity" in the rules and identify acceptable export control methods, including certified Power Control Systems
- Increase the system size limit for Tier 2 review and utilize export capacity to determine eligibility (cont.)

### 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 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