

The State of Siting: 2026 Legislative Round-Up

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2026 was an active year for renewable energy siting, and it unfolded against a backdrop of surging electricity demand, putting more pressure on states to address the barriers to building more energy generation. In the short legislative year, lawmakers across the country still introduced a wave of bills to reshape the rules around where and how large-scale wind, solar, and battery projects are sited and built.

2026 Regular Session Activity by Siting Bills Introduced

0 bills

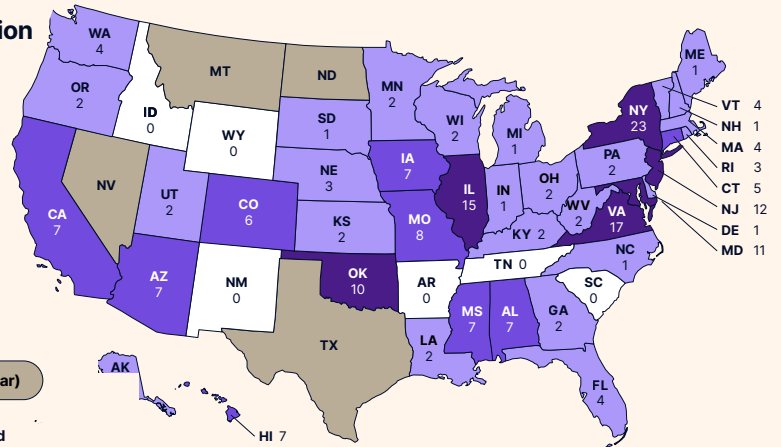
1-4 bills

5-9 bills

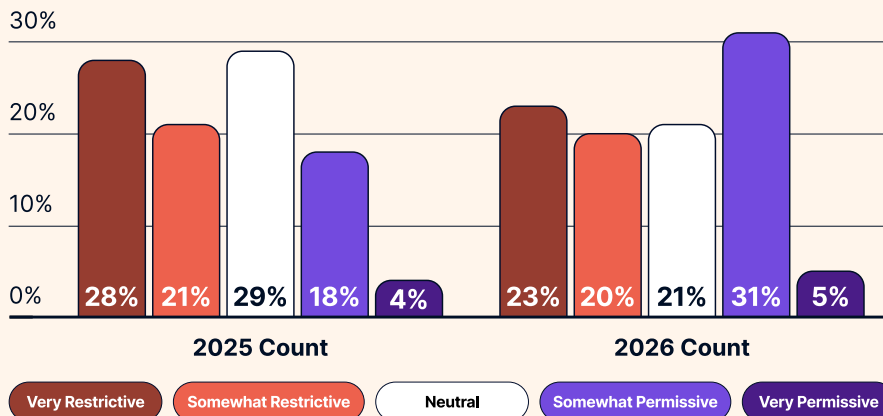
10+ bills

No regular session (even-year)

Number = siting bills introduced



Deployment Impact Distribution – Introduced Bills by Legislative Year



The Siting Solutions Project tracked 201 bills across 40 states, analyzing policies that regulated setback distances, decommissioning and financial-assurance requirements, local zoning authority, moratoriums, and more.

Grounded in our expertise on state policy approaches to renewable siting, this report summarizes those efforts and what they mean for clean energy deployment. The picture that emerges is more balanced—and more encouraging—than the surge in restrictive siting bills that defined 2025 legislative agendas.

Like last year, most of the introduced bills attempted to make it harder to build clean energy through aggressive policies like statewide moratoriums, statewide standards as de facto bans, and strengthening local permitting authorities. These attempts largely failed, with most proposals never advancing out of committee and coordinated defensive campaigns successfully defeating those that did. What became law broke decisively for permissive policy in both red and blue states, though most of the legislation involved minor improvements to the status quo rather than comprehensive siting reform.

Looking ahead to 2027

The Siting Solutions Project expects siting to remain a contested issue as data center-driven demand increases the need for more generation and exacerbates rural communities' large-infrastructure development fatigue. Defensive campaigns in **Texas** and **Iowa** are expected as lawmakers continue efforts to restrict deployment, and permissive reforms are expected to be introduced in **Pennsylvania**, **Virginia**, and **Indiana**.