

Combatting Climate Change Through Regulatory Relief

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The problem



November 20, 2019

Emissions from electricity generation lead to disproportionate number of premature deaths for some racial groups

[Sarah McQuate](#)

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The solution: rapid renewable energy deployment



<https://www.blm.gov/programs/energy-and-minerals/renewable-energy/laws/solar-and-wind-energy-rule>



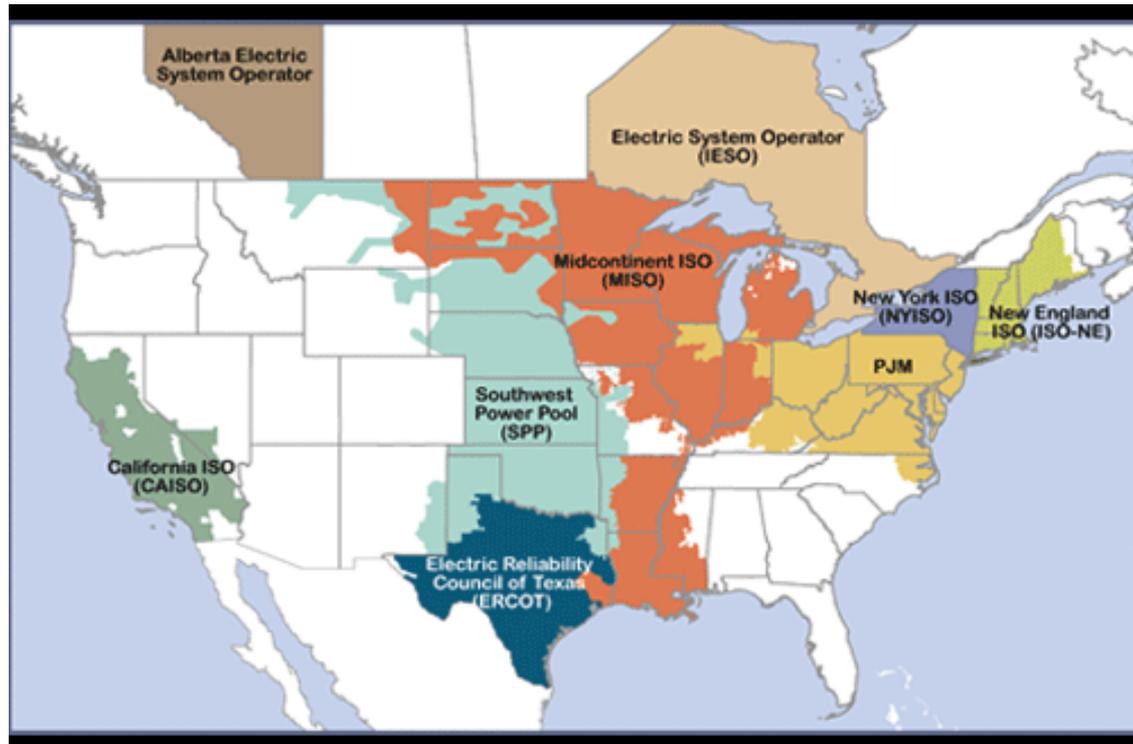
<https://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/article/when-will-electric-cars-go-mainstream/>

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/energy-and-minerals/renewable-energy/solar-energy>



Barriers to the solution

Traditional electric utility regulation and balkanized grids



“Deregulated” (restructured) wholesale energy markets on regional grids have been a key driver of renewable energy development.



<https://rtoinsider.com/spp-renewable-penetration-145294/>

Barriers to the solution

**Community and
NGO opposition**



**Non-climate
environmental impacts**

<https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/es/lesserPrairieChicken.php>



<https://www.ledgertranscript.com/First-Antrim-Wind-turbines-go-up-26835518>

Community impacts

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After years of debate, Antrim W X +

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After years of debate, Antrim Wind project now visible



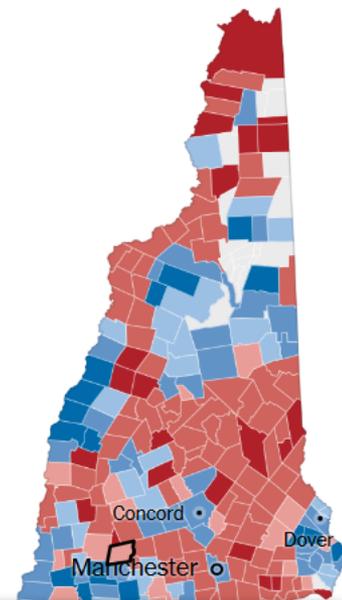
The view from the Antrim Town Beach shows turbines for the Antrim Wind project going up. Courtesy

CANDIDATE	PARTY	VOTES	PCT.	E.V.
 ✓ Hillary Clinton	Democrat	348,526	46.8%	4
 Donald J. Trump	Republican	345,790	46.5	—
 Gary Johnson	Libertarian	30,777	4.1	—
Others	Independent	12,029	1.6	—
▼ Others		7,174	1.0	—

100% reporting (300 of 300 precincts)

[President Map »](#)

Race Preview: New Hampshire is a competitive state that leans Democratic in presidential elections. Mrs. Clinton has a slight advantage to pick up its four electoral votes. [Barack Obama won New Hampshire in 2012](#) by 5.6 percentage points.



VOTE SHA
Dem.

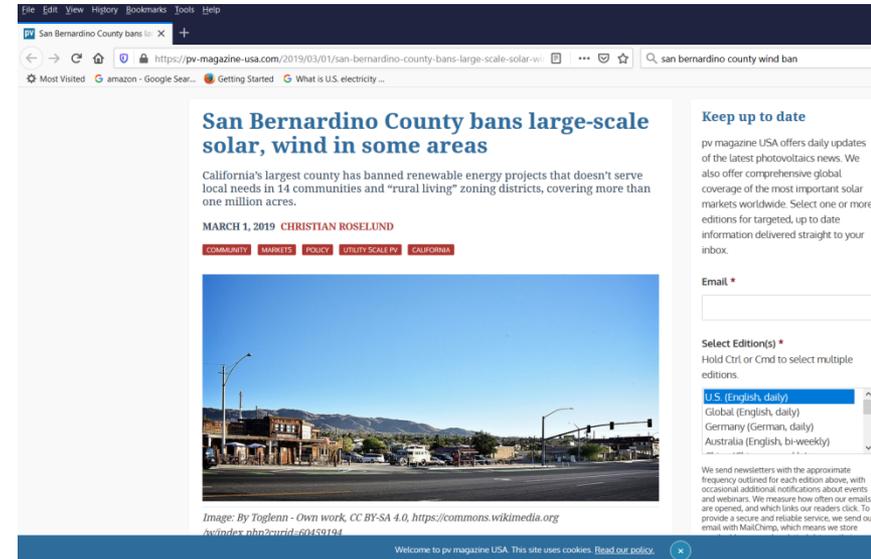
Antrim
1 of 1 precinct reporting

CANDIDATE	PARTY	VOTES	PCT.
Donald J. Trump	Rep.	748	49.5%
Hillary Clinton	Dem.	668	44.2
Gary Johnson	Lib.	71	4.7

Manchester	24,941	21,554
Nashua	22,690	17,476
Concord	12,984	7,812
Dover	10,118	6,015
Derry	6,825	9,237
Salem	6,068	9,312

Local bans, moratoria, permit denials

- San Bernardino County, California
- Linn County, Kansas
- Perquimans County, North Carolina
- Woodland, North Carolina
- Lewiston, New York



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://pv-magazine-usa.com/2019/03/01/san-bernardino-county-bans-large-scale-solar-wi>. The article title is "San Bernardino County bans large-scale solar, wind in some areas". The text below the title states: "California's largest county has banned renewable energy projects that doesn't serve local needs in 14 communities and 'rural living' zoning districts, covering more than one million acres." The author is listed as "MARCH 1, 2019 CHRISTIAN ROSELUND". There are several category tags: "COMMUNITY", "MARKETS", "POLICY", "UTILITY SCALE PV", and "CALIFORNIA". Below the text is a photograph of a street scene with buildings and mountains in the background. The caption for the image reads: "Image: By Toglenn - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=60459194>". On the right side of the page, there is a "Keep up to date" section with an email sign-up form and a "Select Edition(s)" dropdown menu. The dropdown menu is currently set to "U.S. (English, daily)". At the bottom of the page, there is a cookie notice: "Welcome to pv magazine USA. This site uses cookies. [Read our policy.](#)"

Barriers to the solution

Federal and state regulation, litigation

Cape Wind proposed 2002.

Review by Army Corps of Engineers, Coast Guard, Air Force, DOD Missile Defense Agency, Federal Aviation Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Minerals Management Service (now Bureau of Ocean Energy Management), Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, among other agencies.

Project abandoned 2017.

De-regulation and regulatory streamlining

Exemption and preemption

See, e.g., oil and gas:

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

Safe Drinking Water Act

Extensive local preemption



Pre-selection and review of sites

“Smart from the Start” on federal lands

Proposed in New York: “Build-ready” projects; sites competitively auctioned

California’s Natural Community Conservation Planning



Agency collaboration or consolidation

BLM and Oregon Wind MOU

New York's proposed Office of Renewable Energy Permitting

California's Renewable Energy Action Team

Time limits for regulatory determinations

Applicant support from agency officials or ombudsmen

Streamlining must be done cautiously

Environmental justice and just transitions—need for *new* regulations

Potential for entrenching suboptimal infrastructure

