LA COUNTY PLANNING

Renewable Energy Generation in LA County

Renewable Energy Ordinance Update

May 13, 2025

Welcome / Introductions

County Project Team

- Mark Herwick, Supervising Regional Planner
- Katie Lample, Regional Planner
- Lorraine Acuña, Regional Planner

Agenda

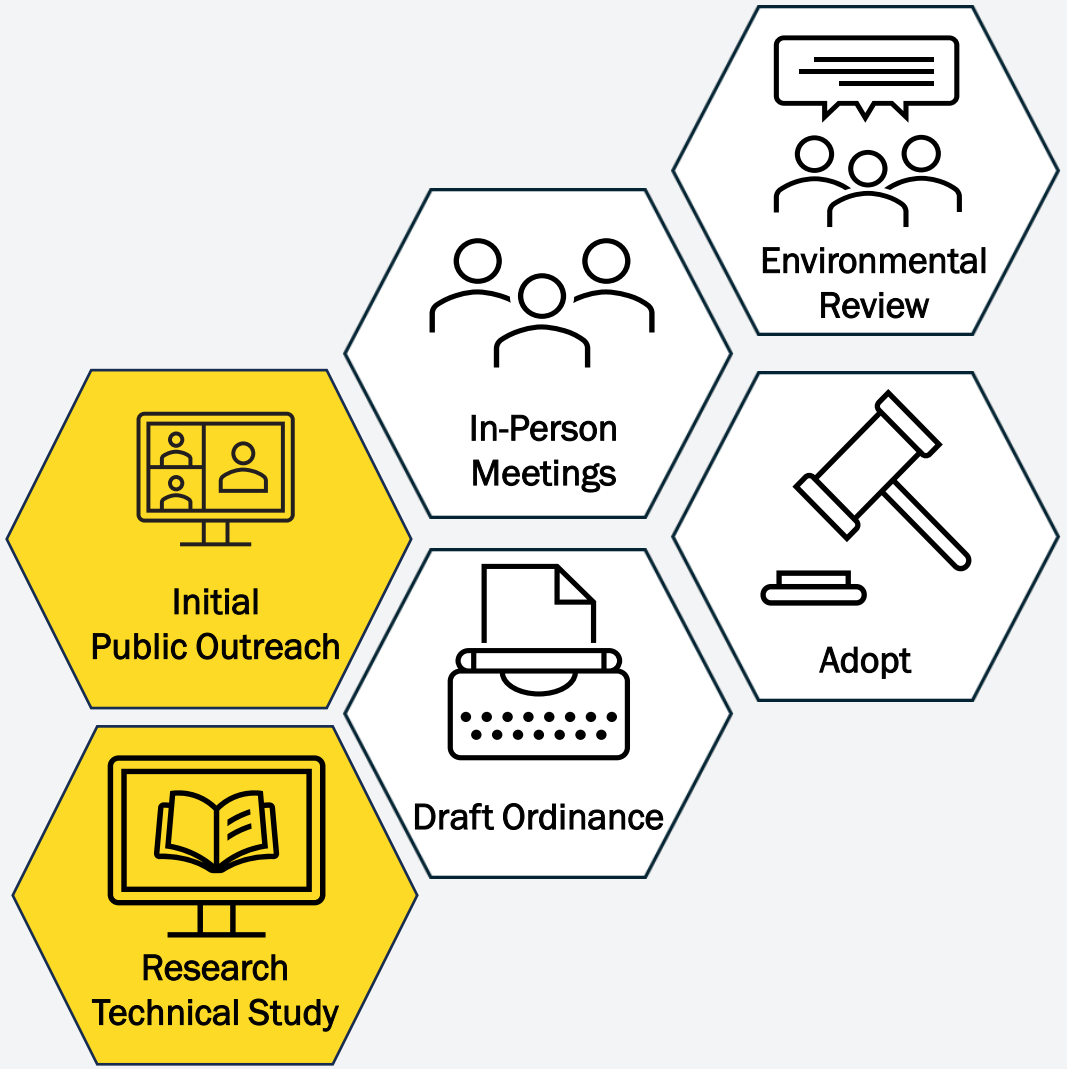
- Project Overview
- Existing Renewable Energy Generation in LA County and changes to consider
- Discussion

PROJECT OVERVIEW

BOARD DIRECTION- RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

- Update the Renewable Energy Ordinance, with a focus on accelerating development of utility-scale renewable energy
  - Renewable energy development 'areas'
  - Size threshold for ministerial/discretionary project approvals
  - Community benefits
  - Evaluate ban on utility-scale wind
- Reassess transmission line undergrounding requirement

PROCESS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In-Person Meetings
Adopt
Initial Public Outreach
Draft Ordinance
Research Technical Study

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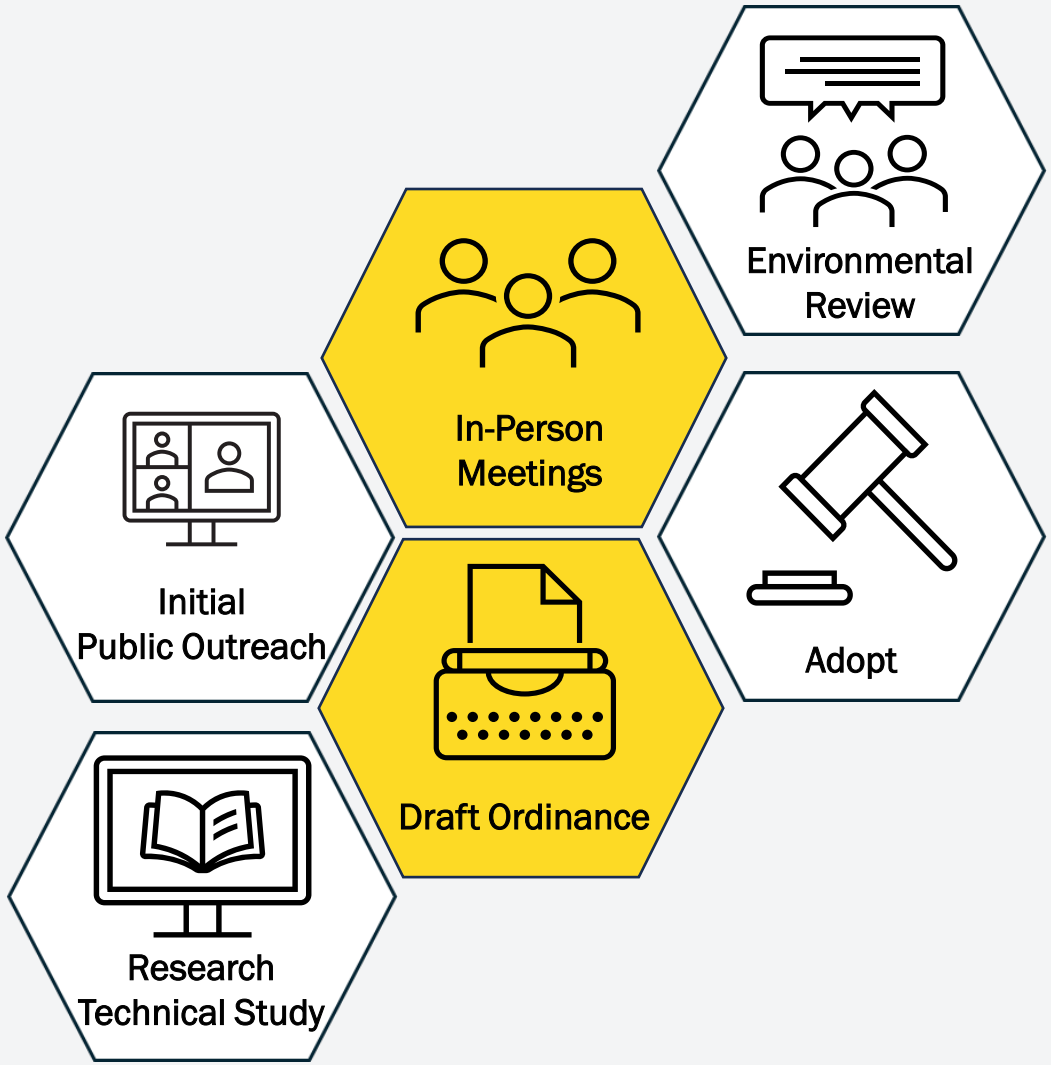
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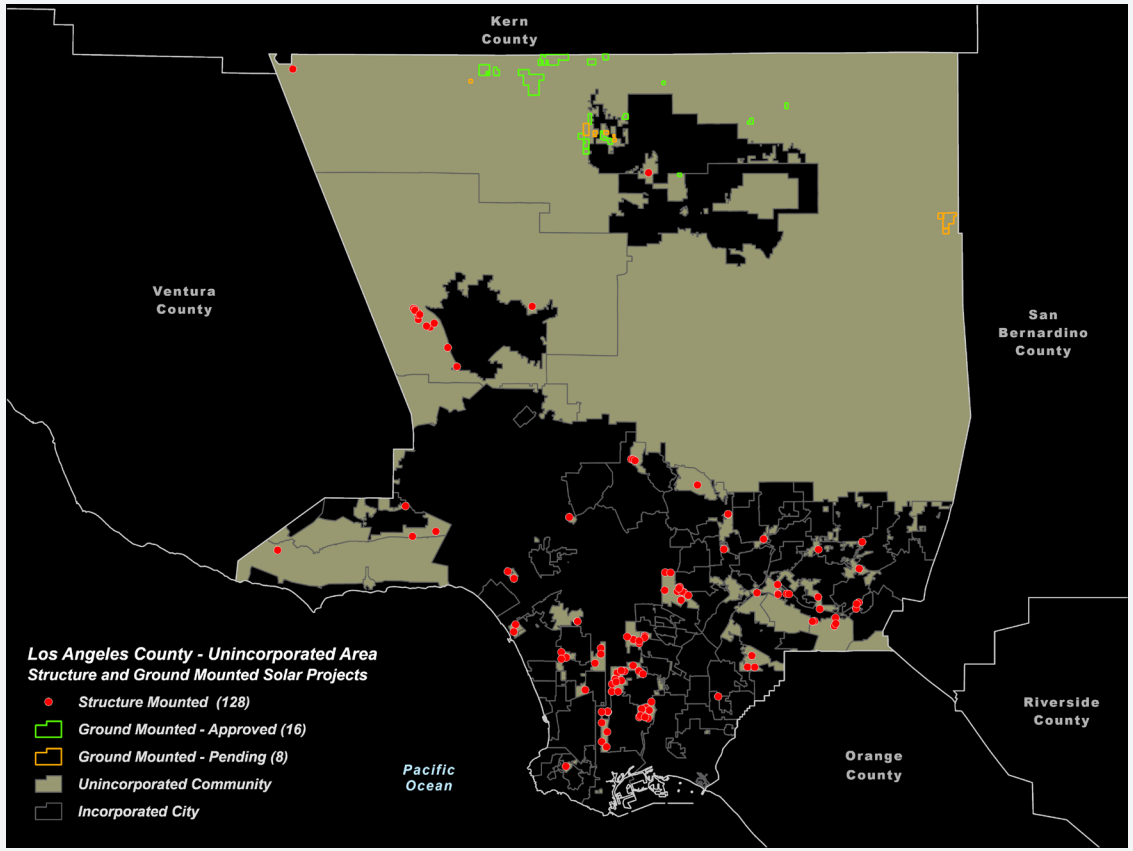
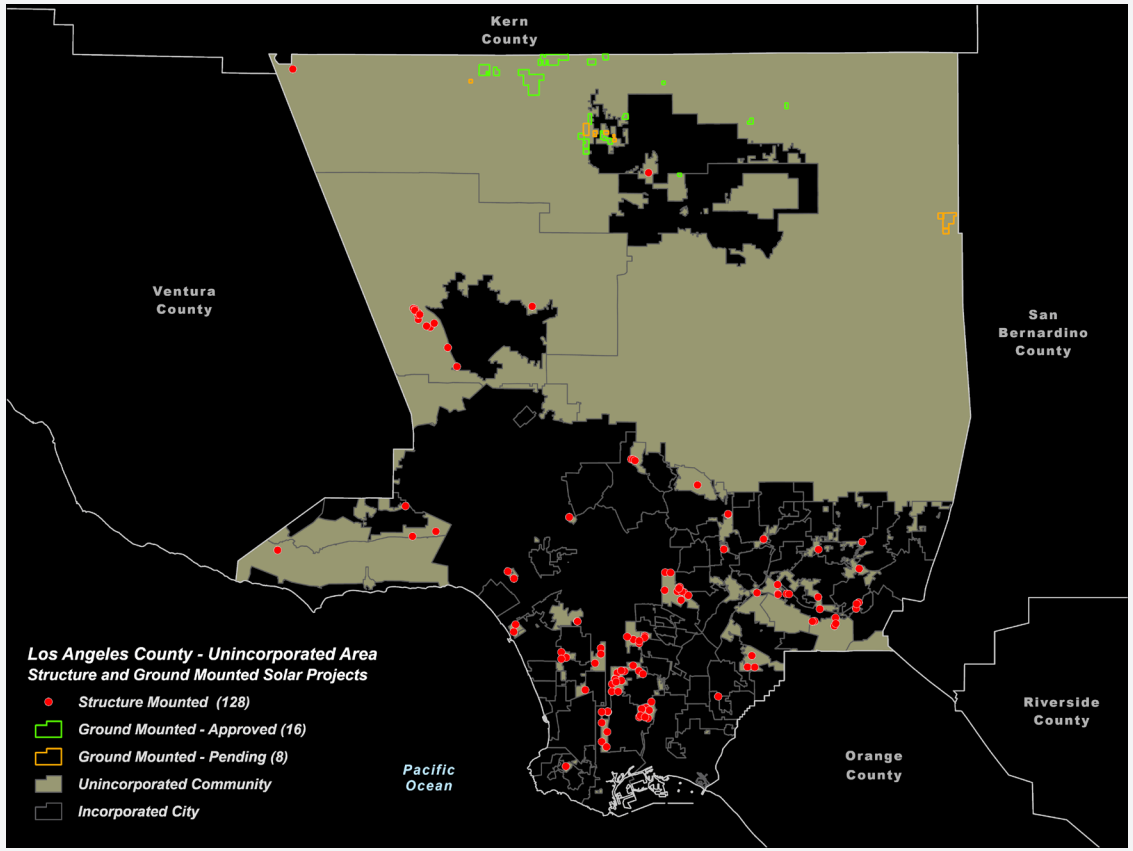
EXISTING CONDITIONS & DISCUSSION

RENEWABLE TECHNOLOGIES

Utility and Commercial-Scale Solar



Utility and Commercial Scale Solar



Structure-Mounted aka 'Commercial Scale' Solar

Utility and Commercial-Scale Solar

Current Ordinance

- Structure-mounted **commercial-scale** solar allowed in all zones except for open space and water.
- Ground-mounted **utility-scale** solar facilities are allowed with a CUP in Zones:
  - Agricultural (A-2)
  - Commercial (C-H, C-1, C-2, C-3, C-M, C-R, C-MJ, C-RU,
  - Industrial (M-1, M-1.5, M-2, R-R, MXD-RU, MXD, and IT)

Utility-Scale Siting Considerations

- Resource potential.
- Projects require flat terrain.
- Parcel size.
- May require grading or other interventions to prevent stormwater runoff.
- Interconnection.

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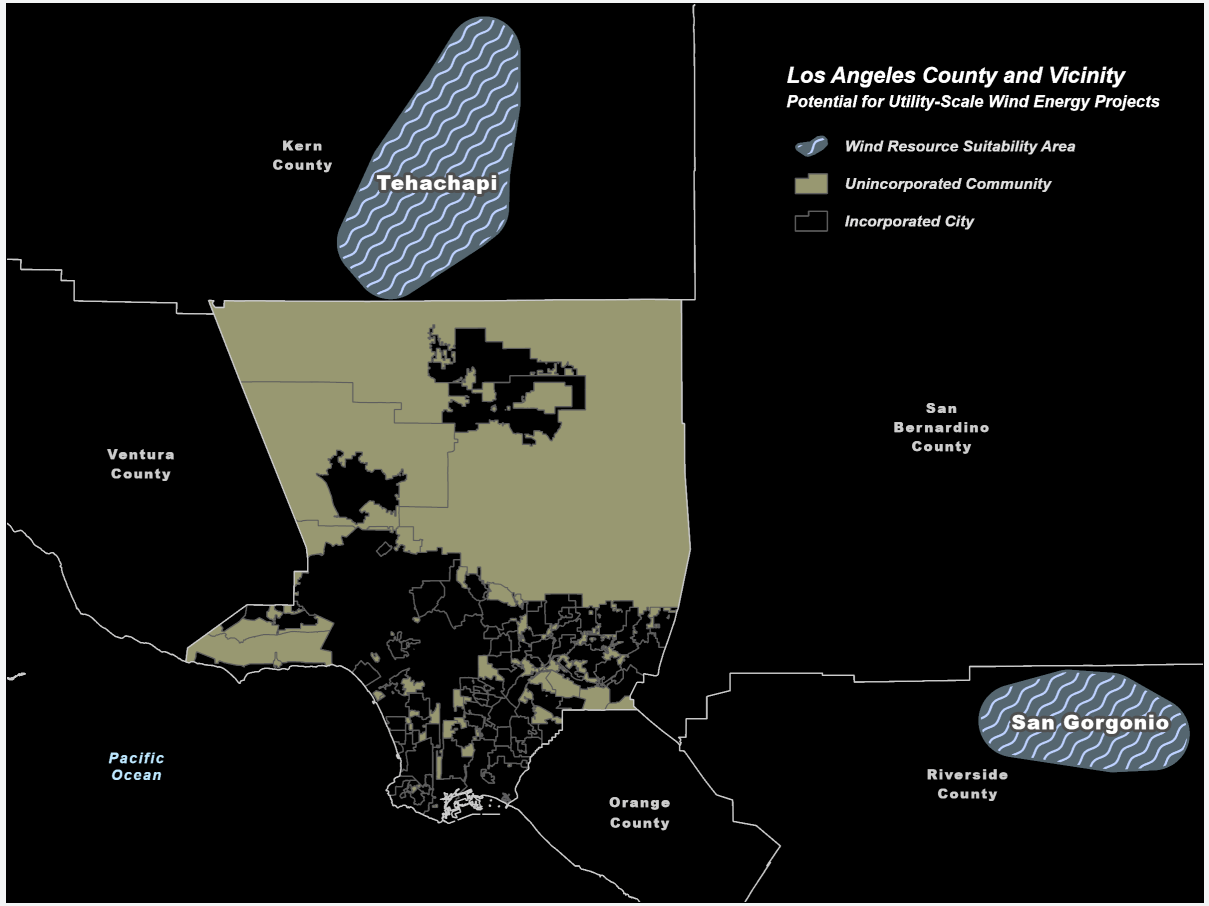
Utility-Scale Wind



Utility-Scale Wind

Current Ordinance

- Prohibited in all zones

Siting Considerations

- Size: Large turbines (greater than ~1MW)
- Resource potential: large wind turbines require an average annual wind speed of 15 mph at 240 feet in height.
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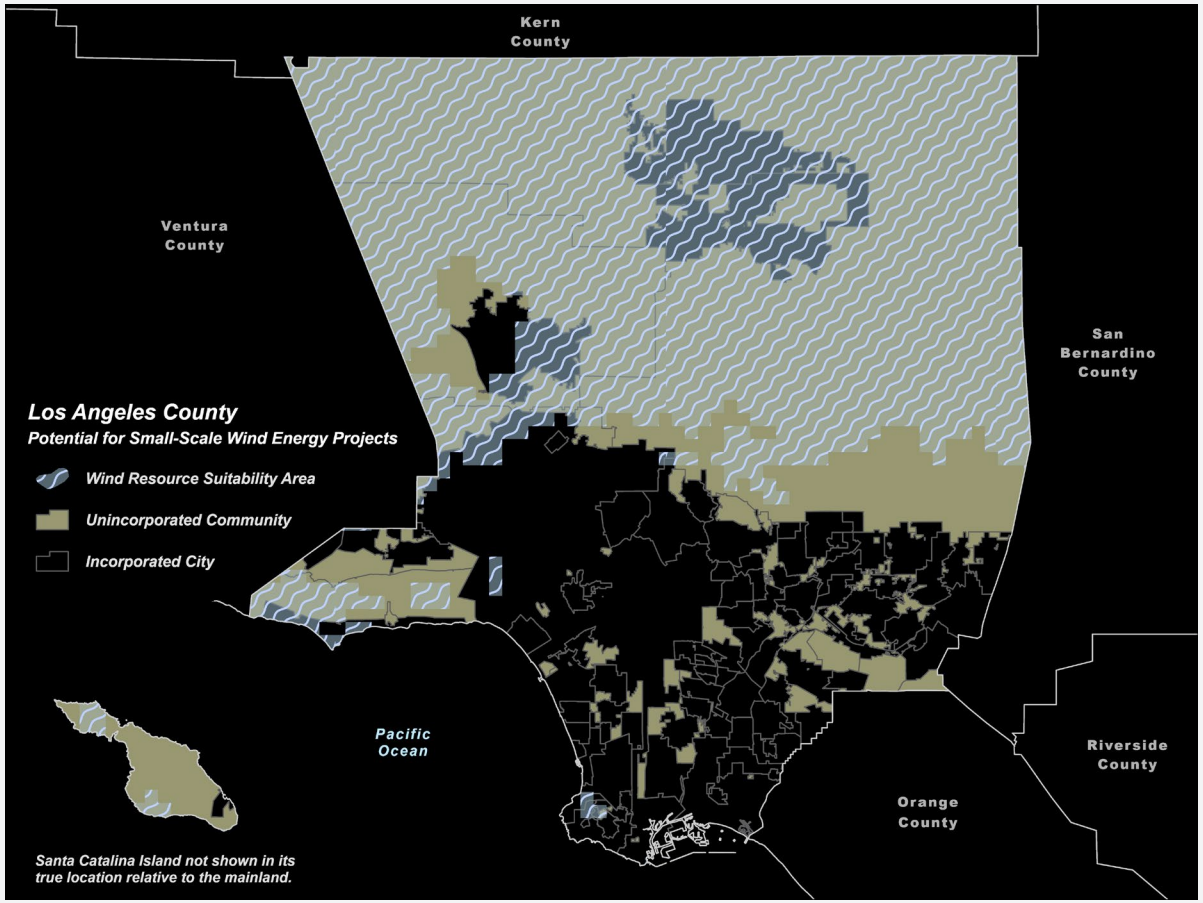

Photo from Southwest Windpower, NREL 14936

Small-Scale Wind

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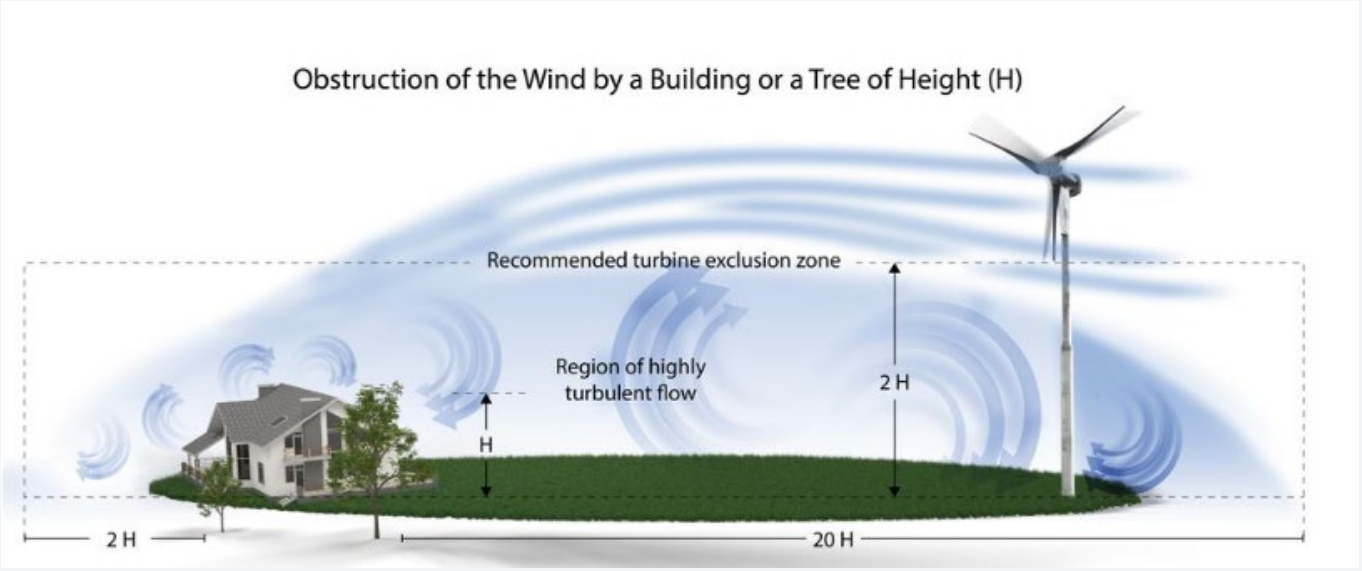
- Small-scale wind facilities are allowed with a minor CUP in Zones:
  - Residential (R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5, R-A)
  - Agricultural (A-1, A-2) and
  - Open Space (O-S)
- Max. tower height:
  - 35’ (lots less than 1 acre)
  - 65’ (1-2 acres)
  - 85’ (2+ acres)
- Min. Distance from property line/road:
  - Equal to height of the wind system



Source: WindExchange Small Wind Guidebook

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Siting Considerations

- Size:
  - Small turbines (less than 100 kW) Average height is 160 feet.
  - Midsize turbines (101 kW to 1 MW) Average height is 250 feet.
- Resource Potential: small wind turbines require an average annual wind speed of 9 mph around 130 feet in height.
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Green Hydrogen

Source: https://www.sbec.com/About/Company-News/--SB-Completes-Green-Hydrogen-Plant-/

Photo of a green hydrogen production facility in Woodbine, Georgia

(15,000 kg/day of liquid hydrogen)

- Electrolysis: the splitting of hydrogen and oxygen from water molecules
- When the electricity to operate electrolysis is renewable, the hydrogen is considered 'green'

Green Hydrogen

Current Ordinance

- Not included.

Siting Considerations

- Project needs 100 + acres.
- Likely involves hydrogen storage in tanks ranging from 1,500 to 25,000 gallons.
- Electrolysis is water intensive .
- Requires transportation and storage of hazardous materials .

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COMMUNITY BENEFITS

BOARD DIRECTION-
RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

Develop an approach to ensuring community benefits for renewable energy projects that promotes community resiliency in impacted areas.

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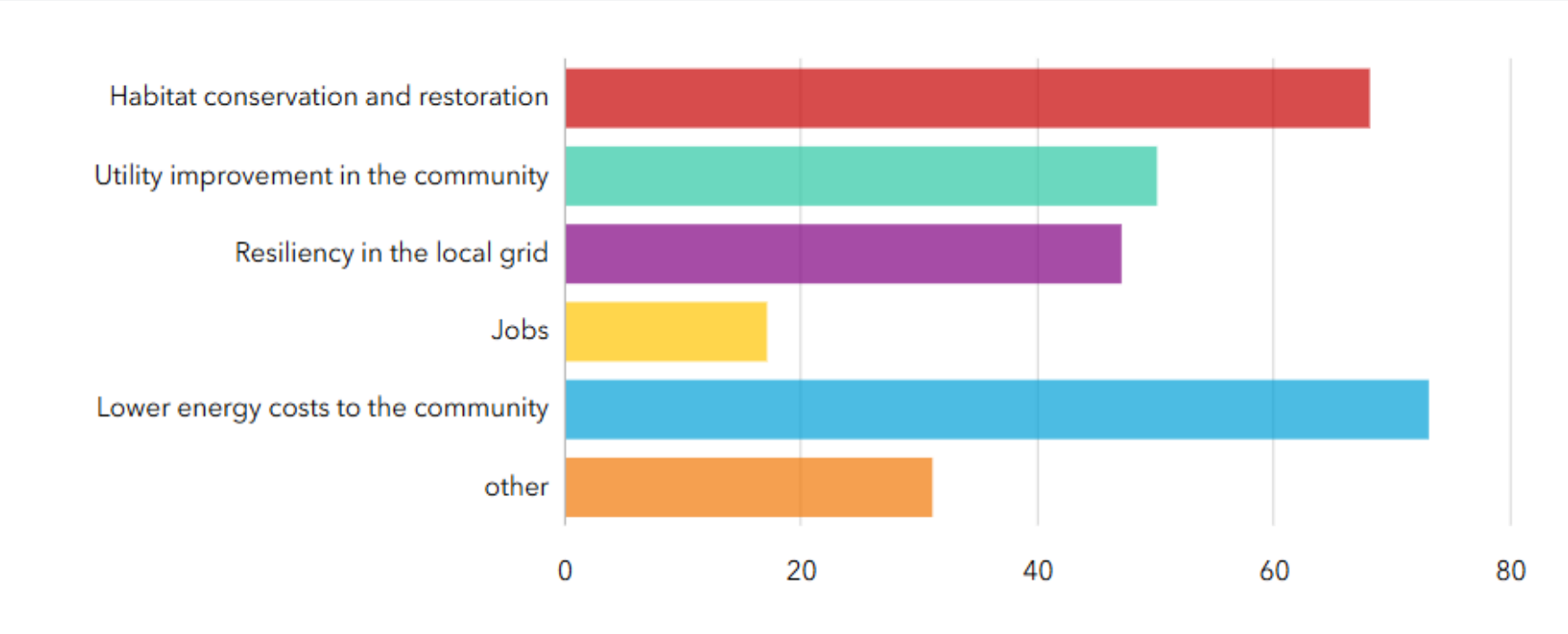
Examples from other jurisdictions:

- Infrastructure improvements
- Job creation
- Community services
- Economic development
- Enhancement to quality of life in neighboring communities

BOARD DIRECTION-
RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

What are some community benefits/investments that you would like to see in your community?



Final Questions?

Next Steps

Workshop Meetings

- Battery Energy Storage Systems (June 17th)

Stay Involved

- Survey
- Listening Sessions
- Mailing List

CONTACT US

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Fill out our Survey

https://arcg.is/0TCbjT0

LA COUNTY PLANNING

SHAPING TOMORROW