RMI
ENERGY. TRANSFORMED.

Practical Pathways and Tools for State Permitting Reform

April 29, 2026

AGENDA

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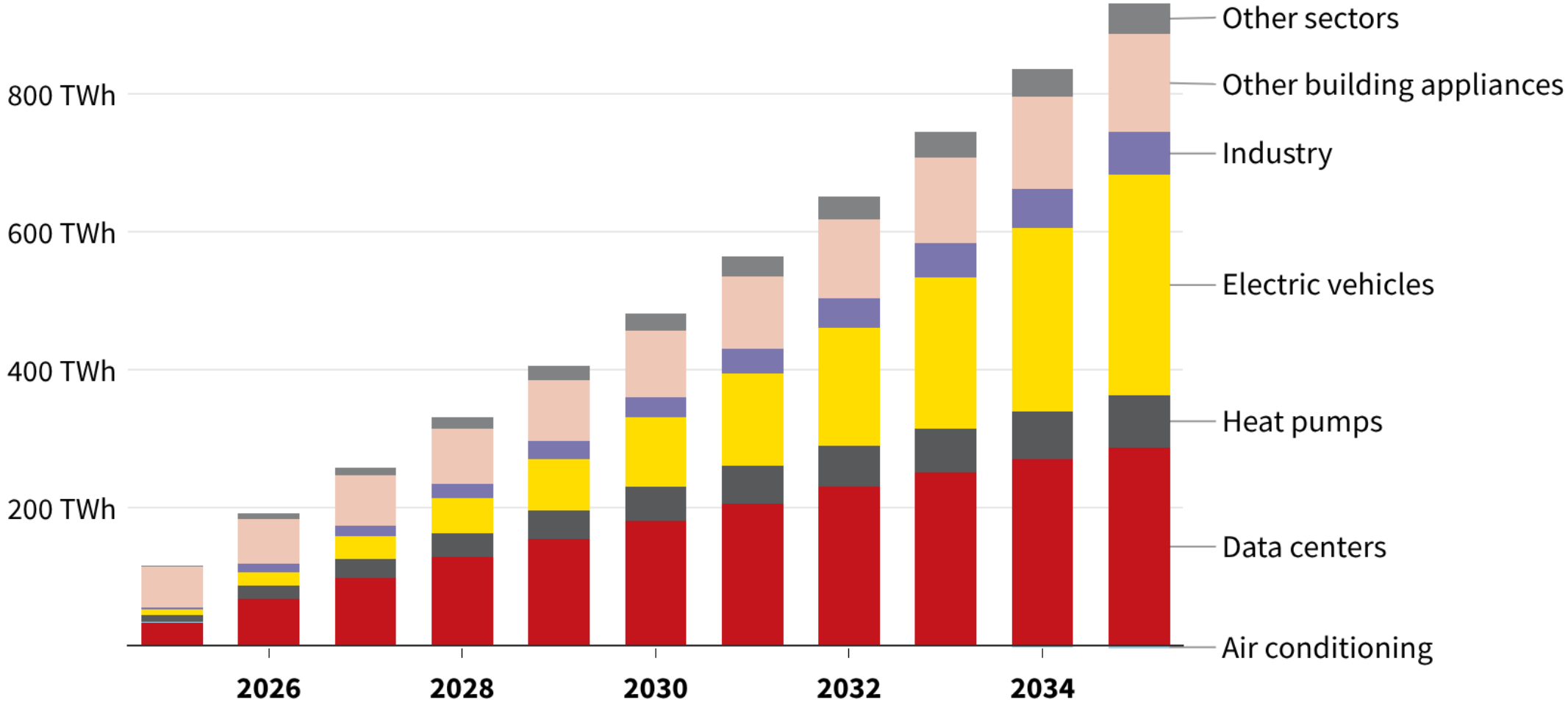
Build Faster with Permitting Reform: RMI's Tailored Solutions for States

RMI is a global, independent nonprofit organization of over 600 diverse experts working to accelerate the clean energy transition. We are transforming the global energy system to secure a clean, prosperous, zero-carbon future for all.

Projected Electricity Demand Growth in the United States

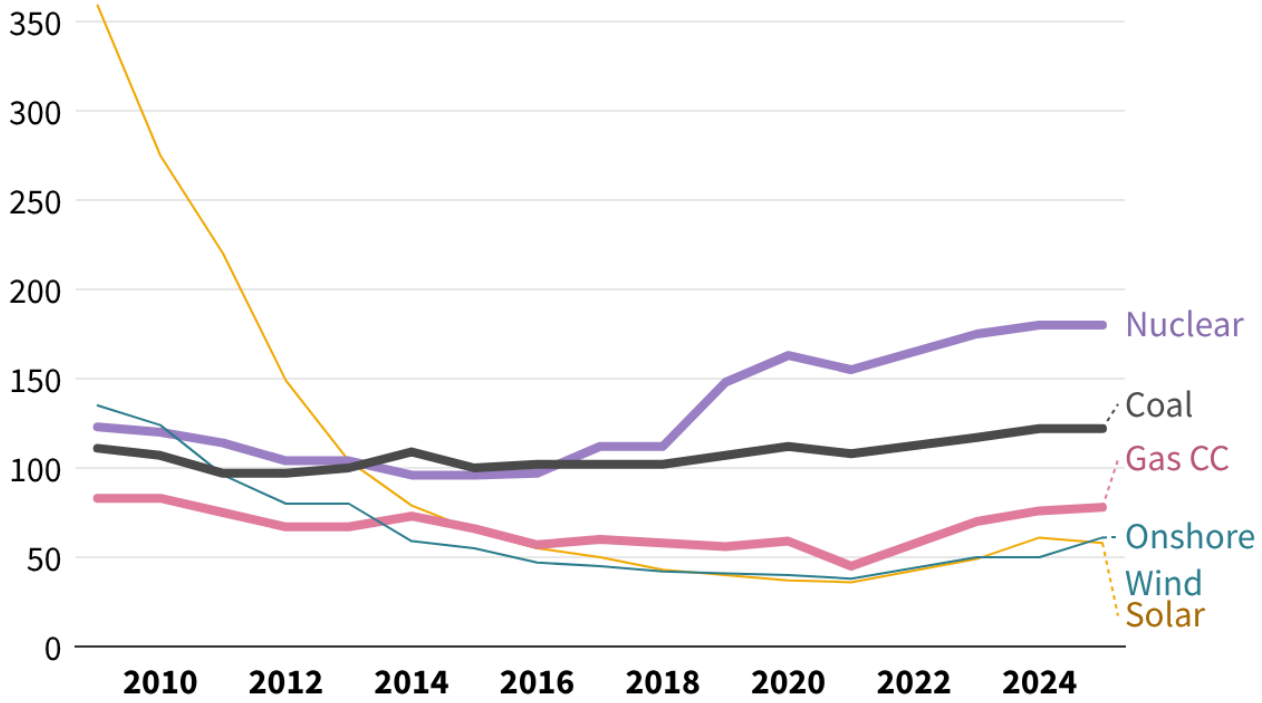


Source data is current to April 2025.

Source: BloombergNEF, Economic Transition Scenario

The Declining Costs of Renewables vs. Traditional Power Sources

Mean unsubsidized LCOE by technology, US$/MWh



Mean unsubsidized LCOE in current US$/MWh by Lazard LCOE version (v3.0–v18.0, 2009–2025). No Lazard report was published in 2022. Values primarily reflect the North American energy landscape. Solar declined 84%, wind 55%; nuclear rose 47%, coal 10%.

Chart: RMI • **Source:** Lazard LCOE v3.0–v18.0 (2009–2025) via WNISR 2025

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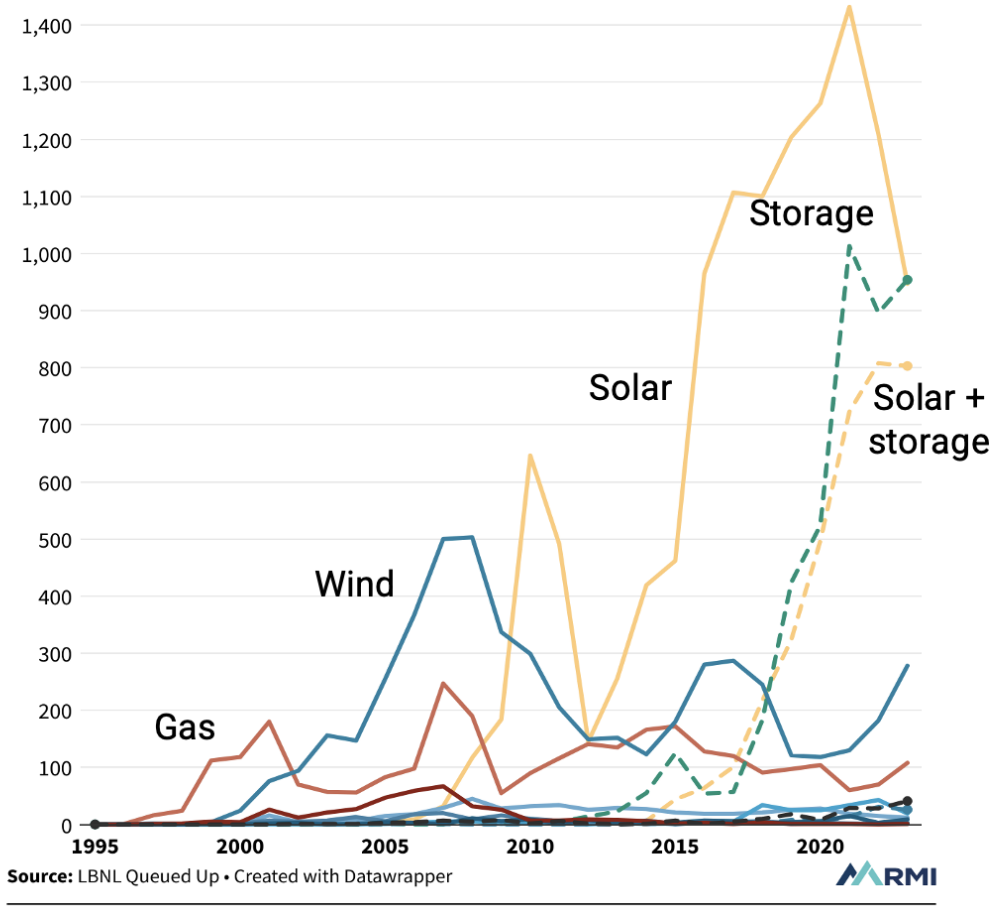
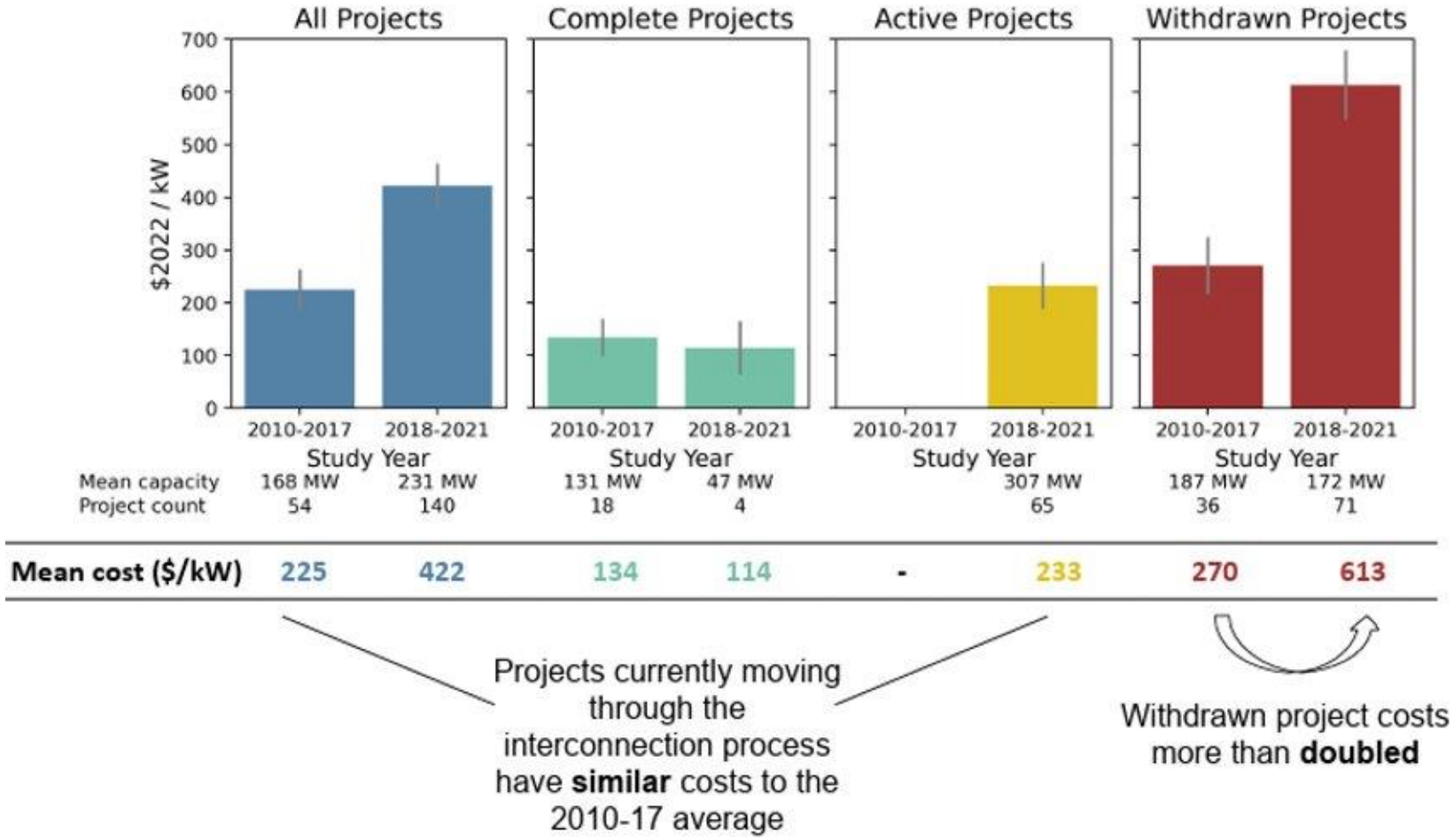
The cost to build and operate clean energy projects continues to fall globally.

Number of Ix queue requests by technology



The US interconnection queue is overwhelmed by solar, storage, and wind requests.

Source: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. (2023). *Queued Up: Characteristics of Power Plants Seeking Transmission Interconnection*. Berkeley Lab Electricity Markets & Policy Group. https://emp.lbl.gov/queues



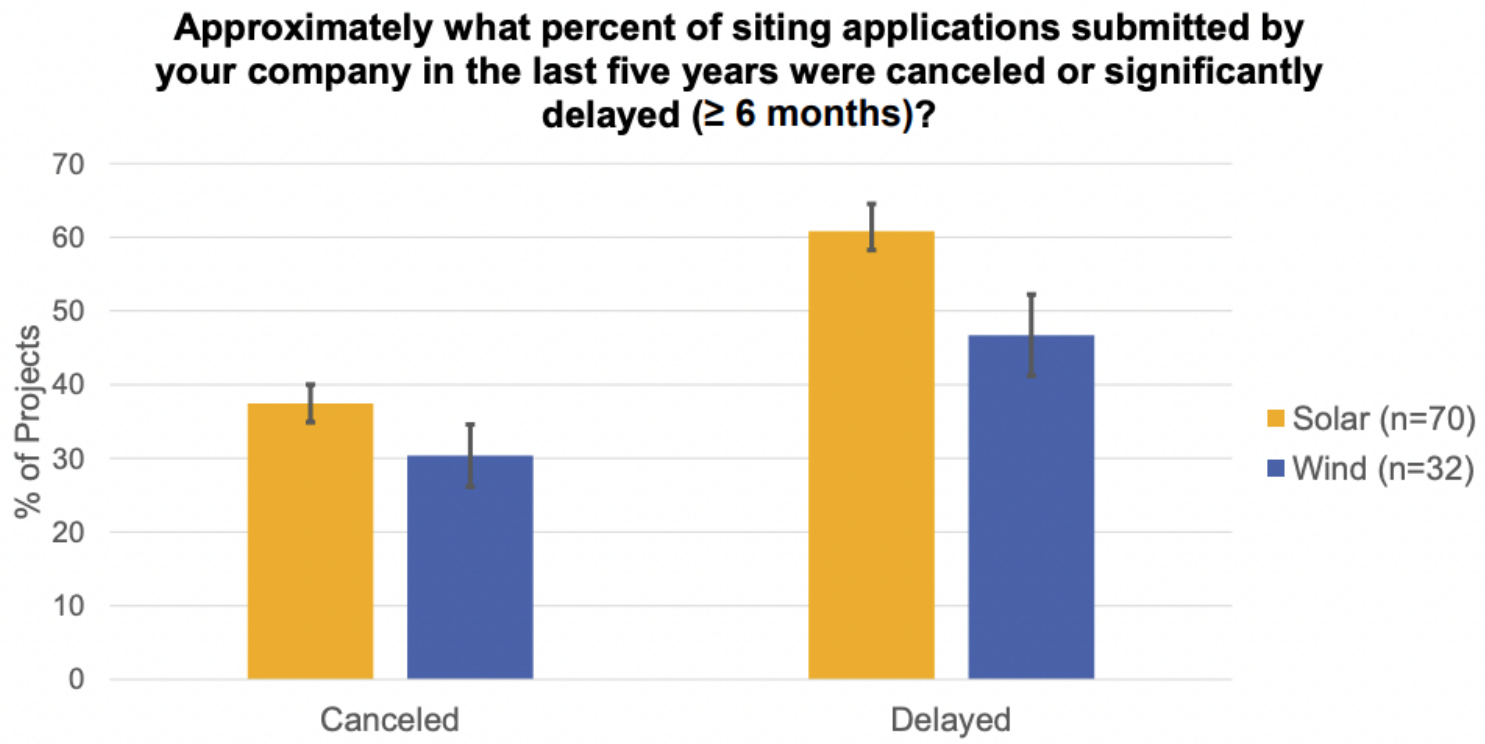
However, most projects ultimately withdraw from the queue, and those with interconnection agreements are taking longer on average to reach operation.

Source: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. (2023). *Queued Up: Characteristics of Power Plants Seeking Transmission Interconnection*. Berkeley Lab Electricity Markets & Policy Group. https://emp.lbl.gov/queues

The 2024 LBNL survey of utility-scale wind and solar developers highlighted common themes in project delays and cancelations.

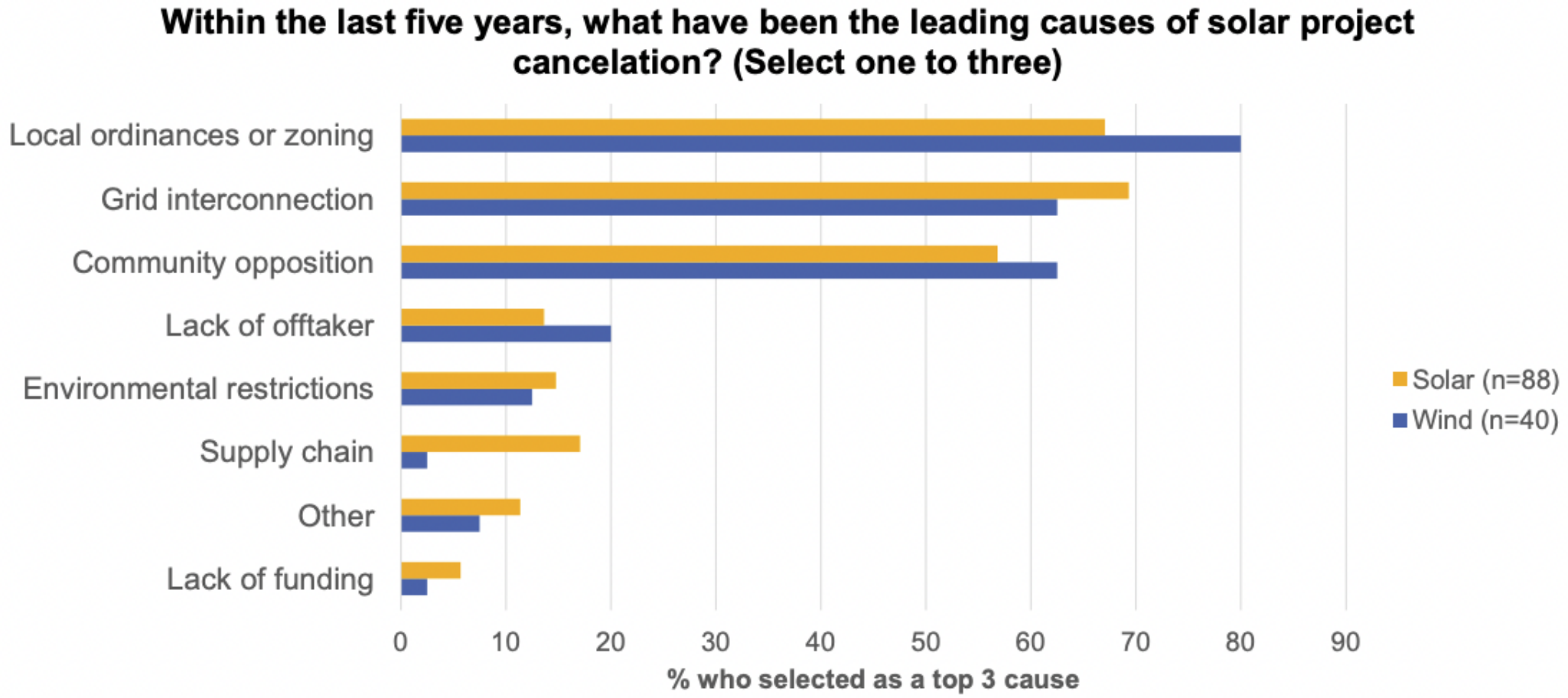
The survey included 123 respondents across 62 unique companies, split approximately 2:1 between solar and wind developers respectively

Over 30% of projects are canceled and 40-60% of solar and wind projects are significantly delayed



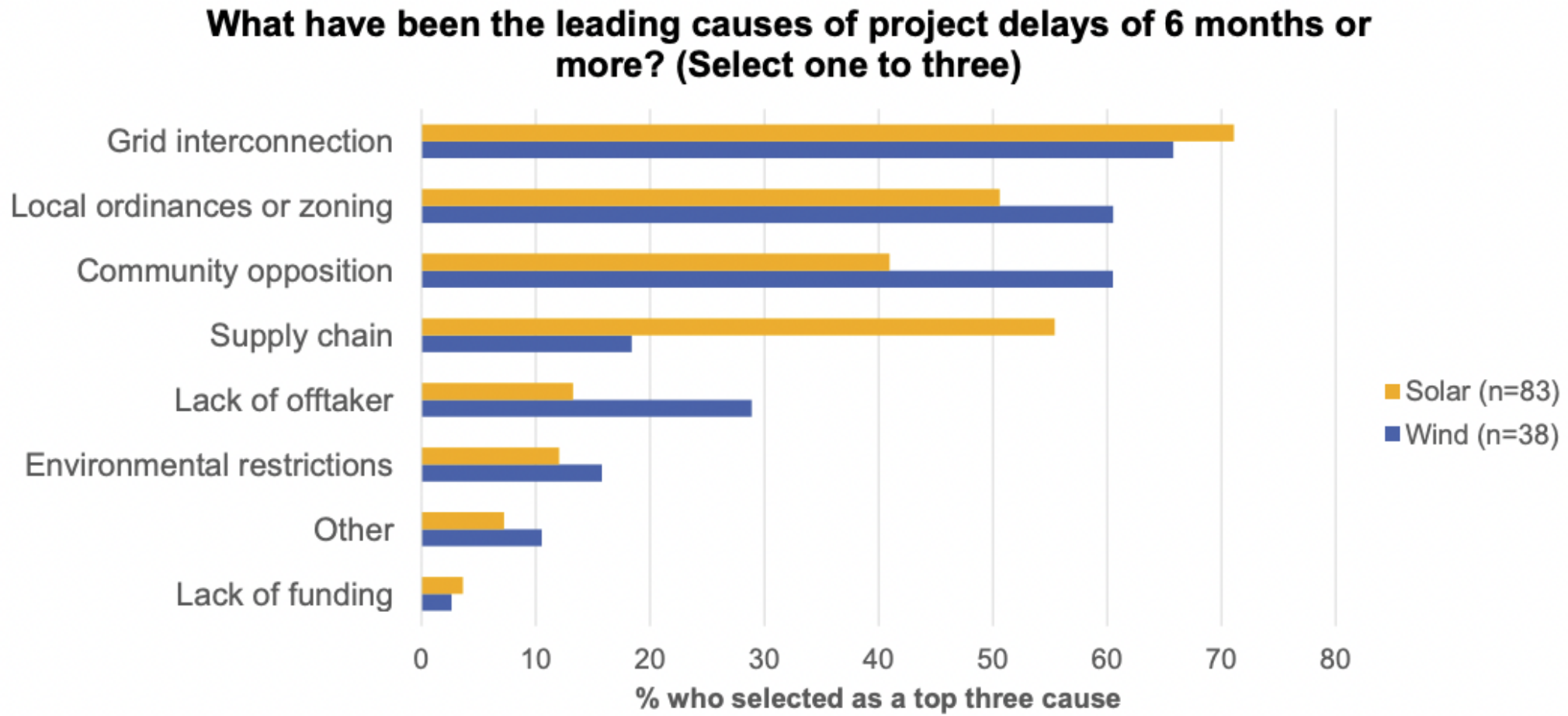
Data Source: LBNL 2024

At a high-level, LBNL found that local policies, interconnection, and community opposition were the leading reasons solar and wind projects were canceled.



Data Source: LBNL 2024

Similar factors drove project delays of over 6 months or more.



Data Source: LBNL 2024

Why did we create the State Permitting Power Tool?

We boiled down the state-level barriers into four primary buckets…

Complexity

Challenges marked by uncertainty, inconsistency, or lack of clarity in permitting rules or processes, making requirements hard to interpret and outcomes difficult to predict.

Delayed Timelines

Challenges that primarily cause slow or extended timelines, increasing time to approval and delaying project development even when requirements are understood.

Political Hurdles + Bias

Challenges driven mainly by opposition, discretion, or political dynamics, rather than technical review, often resulting in contested or unpredictable permitting outcomes.

Financial Hurdles

Challenges that increase project costs or financial risk, undermining economic viability or discouraging investment.

…and identified dozens of policy strategies to address those barriers

1000+
pages of research and playbooks read

98
total policy solutions identified

12
reform categories established

22
state-level example applications

What's Next

State-specific guidance and technical support to better understand barriers

Identifying and communicating benefits for communities

Developing better insights into "good" permit policy

Thank You!

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