

The N.I.X.S.C.O. ACT

(Neighborhood Infrastructure for eXtended Sustainable Community Operations) Act

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Indiana Code Concerning Energy, Utilities, and Sustainable Community Development

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the N.I.X.S.C.O. Act.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.

The General Assembly finds that:

1. Indiana residents face rising energy costs, aging infrastructure, and limited access to distributed renewable-energy systems.
2. Home-scale renewable energy — including solar, wind, and methane digestion — strengthens grid resilience, reduces emissions, and increases household energy independence.
3. The elimination of net metering has discouraged residential renewable-energy adoption and reduced long-term consumer savings.
4. Monopolistic utility structures limit competition, restrict innovation, and create profit incentives misaligned with public interest.
5. Utility bills have become increasingly complex, containing fees unrelated to actual energy consumption, creating financial burdens for households.
6. A modern regulatory framework is required to ensure utilities operate as public-benefit entities, prioritizing affordability, transparency, and sustainability.
7. Indiana’s workforce and engineering capacity are sufficient to support large-scale renewable-energy deployment when jobs are guaranteed to Indiana residents.
8. State policy should empower individuals, households, and communities to generate their own power and participate directly in the energy economy.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.As used in this Act:

“Distributed energy system” means any home-scale or community-scale system generating electricity or renewable gas, including solar panels, wind turbines, and methane digesters.

“Home methane digester” means a small-scale anaerobic digestion system designed to convert household organic waste into usable methane for heating or electricity generation.

“Net metering” means crediting customers at retail rate for electricity supplied to the grid.

“Public-benefit utility” means a utility regulated under IC 8-1 whose profit margins are capped and whose operations prioritize affordability, reliability, and sustainability.

“Indiana-resident workforce requirement” means that all jobs created under this Act must be filled by individuals who are legal residents of Indiana.

ARTICLE I — INDIVIDUAL ENERGY GENERATION INCENTIVESSECTION

4. HOME ENERGY GENERATION CREDITS.(a) The Indiana Department of Energy Development (IDED) shall establish a Home Energy Generation Credit Program providing financial incentives for individuals who install distributed energy systems.

(b) Eligible systems include:

- solar photovoltaic panels;
- residential wind turbines;
- home methane digesters;
- battery storage systems.

(c) Incentives shall include:

- tax credits up to 40% of installation cost;
- rebates up to \$7,500 per household;
- low-interest financing for renewable-energy upgrades.

(d) Credits may be stacked with federal incentives.

SECTION 5. HOME METHANE DIGESTER ASSISTANCE.

(a) IDED shall establish a Residential Methane Assistance Program to support installation of home-scale digesters.

(b) Assistance may include:

- engineering assessments;
- safety inspections;
- grants up to \$10,000 for digester installation;
- technical support for gas-quality upgrading.

(c) Home methane digesters meeting safety standards shall be eligible for net-metering credit when used for electricity generation.

ARTICLE II — NET METERING REINSTATEMENTSECTION

6. REENACTMENT OF NET METERING.

(a) IC 8-1-40 is amended to reinstate full retail-rate net metering for all distributed-energy customers.

(b) Utilities shall credit customers at the full retail rate for electricity supplied to the grid.

(c) Net-metering credits shall roll over monthly and expire annually.

(d) Utilities may not impose discriminatory fees, standby charges, or interconnection delays on net-metered customers.

ARTICLE III — UTILITY BILL SIMPLIFICATION & GRID FUNDINGSECTION

7. SINGLE-LINE UTILITY BILL REQUIREMENT.

(a) A utility regulated under IC 8-1 shall issue bills containing only one charge:the retail rate multiplied by the customer's measured energy consumption.

- (b) Utilities may not impose:
 - fixed monthly fees; service charges;
 - delivery charges;
 - riders;
 - miscellaneous fees;
 - minimum-usage charges;
 - infrastructure-recovery charges.
- (c) Bills must clearly state:
 - the regulated retail rate;
 - the total kilowatt-hours or therms consumed;
 - the total amount due.
- (d) Any charge not directly tied to consumption is prohibited.

SECTION 8. GRID UPGRADE FUNDING.

- (a) All grid modernization, maintenance, and expansion projects shall be funded through the Indiana General Fund.
- (b) Utilities may not recover grid-upgrade costs through customer billing.
- (c) Utilities shall submit annual infrastructure plans to the IURC for approval and funding allocation.

SECTION 9. RETURN OF UTILITY PROFITS TO THE GENERAL FUND.

- (a) All profits earned by public-benefit utilities shall be transferred to the Indiana General Fund.
- (b) Profit transfers shall occur quarterly.
- (c) Funds shall be used to support:
 - renewable-energy incentives;
 - grid modernization;
 - low-income energy-assistance programs.

ARTICLE IV — UTILITY PROFIT CAPS & IURC RESTRUCTURING

SECTION 10. UTILITY PROFIT CAP.

- (a) All investor-owned utilities operating in Indiana shall be reclassified as public-benefit utilities.
- (b) Annual profit margins shall be capped at 4%.
- (c) Excess revenue shall be transferred to the General Fund under Section 9.

SECTION 11. RESTRUCTURING OF THE IURC.

- (a) The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) is restructured to prioritize:
 - consumer protection;
 - renewable-energy expansion;
 - distributed-generation integration;
 - utility transparency.

- (b) The Commission shall include:
 - one renewable-energy engineer;
 - one consumer-advocate representative;
 - one distributed-generation specialist;
 - two public members.
- (c) The Commission's authority is expanded to:
 - enforce profit caps;
 - mandate renewable-energy adoption targets;
 - audit utility financials annually;
 - impose penalties for unreasonable delays in interconnection;
 - approve and oversee grid-upgrade funding requests.

ARTICLE V — INDIANA WORKFORCE REQUIREMENTS

SECTION 12. INDIANA-RESIDENT JOB REQUIREMENT.

- (a) All jobs created through programs funded under this Act must be filled by Indiana residents.
- (b) Eligible job categories include:
 - renewable-energy installation;
 - engineering and design;
 - manufacturing of solar, wind, and digester components;
 - maintenance and inspection;
 - grid-integration services.
- (c) Utilities and contractors must certify compliance annually.

ARTICLE VI — REPORTING, TRANSPARENCY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

SECTION 13. DATA REPORTING.

- (a) Utilities and distributed-energy participants shall report annually:
 - total distributed-energy capacity installed;
 - net-metering credits issued;
 - methane-digester installations;
 - renewable-energy job creation;
 - compliance with profit caps;
 - grid-upgrade expenditures from the General Fund.
- (b) Reports shall be publicly available.

SECTION 14. RULEMAKING.

- (a) IDED and IURC shall adopt rules necessary to implement this Act within 12 months.

SECTION 15. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act takes effect July 1 of the year in which it is enacted.