



“Listen to Politics”: Community Opposition to Mitigation Policies

Aseem Prakash
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Legal Challenges Continue for SunZia Transmission Line

Southern Arizona tribes and San Pedro Valley residents continue their legal challenges to halt construction of the largest renewable energy project in U.S. history.



By Wyatt Myskow
May 8, 2024



A gigantic green energy transmission project will cut through Indigenous lands in the Southwest

After a federal court rejected their lawsuit, tribes are turning to the U.N. for help.



Indigenous advocates at the UN say the green transition is neither clean nor just

Their message isn't new, but it is gaining urgency as funding for green energy projects grows.



Sámi youth enlist the king of Norway's help to fight an illegal wind farm

Indigenous organizers and environmental advocates have been fighting to remove a green energy project for years. So far, authorities haven't helped.



Wildlife habitat and tribal cultures threatened by Washington's largest wind farm

The newly approved renewable energy project is planned across an eco-corridor and ceremonial sites.

B. 'Toastie' Oaster April 26, 2024



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Environmentalists Face Off Against Environmentalists Over Offshore Wind Projects

Supporters insist that, when done properly, projects can avoid harming marine species



Theory of change

- Model 1: Climate Change is a Scientific Problem
- Model 2: Climate Change is a Moral Problem
- Model 3: Climate Change is an Economic Problem
- Model 4: Climate Change is a Technological Problem
- Model 5: Climate Change is a Political Problem

How To Reboot Climate Policy After COP27: Five Models Of Policy Making

Nives Dolsak and Aseem Prakash Contributor @

We write on environmental issues, climate politics and NGOs.

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Dec 4, 2022, 11:33pm EST

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SHARM EL-SHEIKH, EGYPT - NOVEMBER 07: A sign stands illuminated in the plenary hall at the

Climate injustice drives community opposition

- Uneven exposure to climate change impacts
- Uneven distribution of benefits of climate action
- Uneven distribution of costs of climate action



California's residential solar rules overhauled after highly charged debate



BY JULIE CART
DECEMBER 15, 2022



Los Angeles Times

CALIFORNIA

As California beaches reopen, seawall construction becomes legislative battleground



ELSEVIER

Energy Policy

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Distributional concerns and public opinion: EV subsidies in the U.S. and Japan

Sijeong Lim^a , Nives Dolsak^b , Aseem Prakash^c , Seiki Tanaka^d

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Few Oregonians will benefit from clean energy rebates



Climate Clashes With Labor: UAW Strike Reveals ESG Problems

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Sep 18, 2023, 12:33am EDT



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The long read

Nitrogen wars: the Dutch farmers' revolt that turned a nation upside-down

Trudeau's halt on carbon tax could undo years of his tentpole climate policy

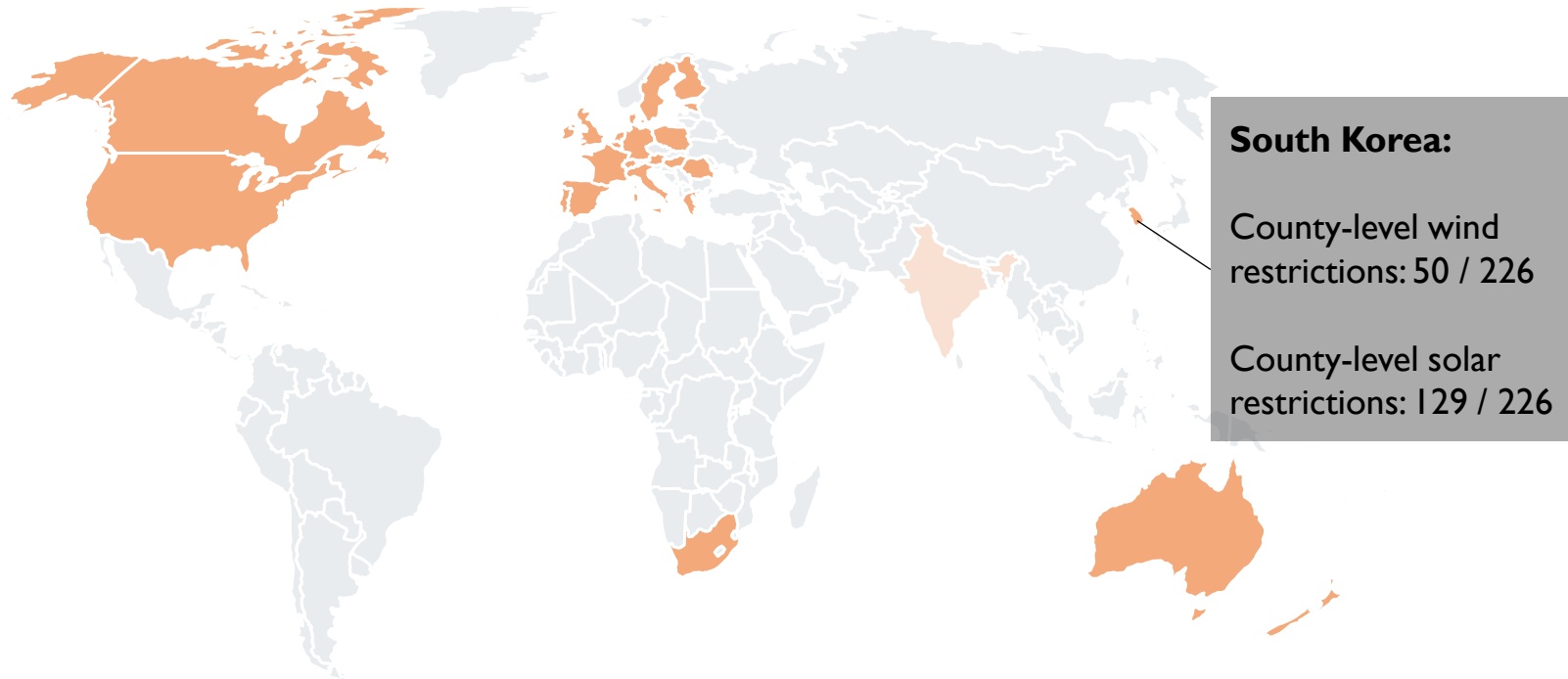
Leyland Cecco
in Toronto

Decision to pause levy on home heating oil in Atlantic Canada has experts concerned about efforts to combat climate crisis



Community opposition to renewable energy infrastructure (generation and transmission) and critical mineral mining

Local-level restrictions on RE facilities across the World



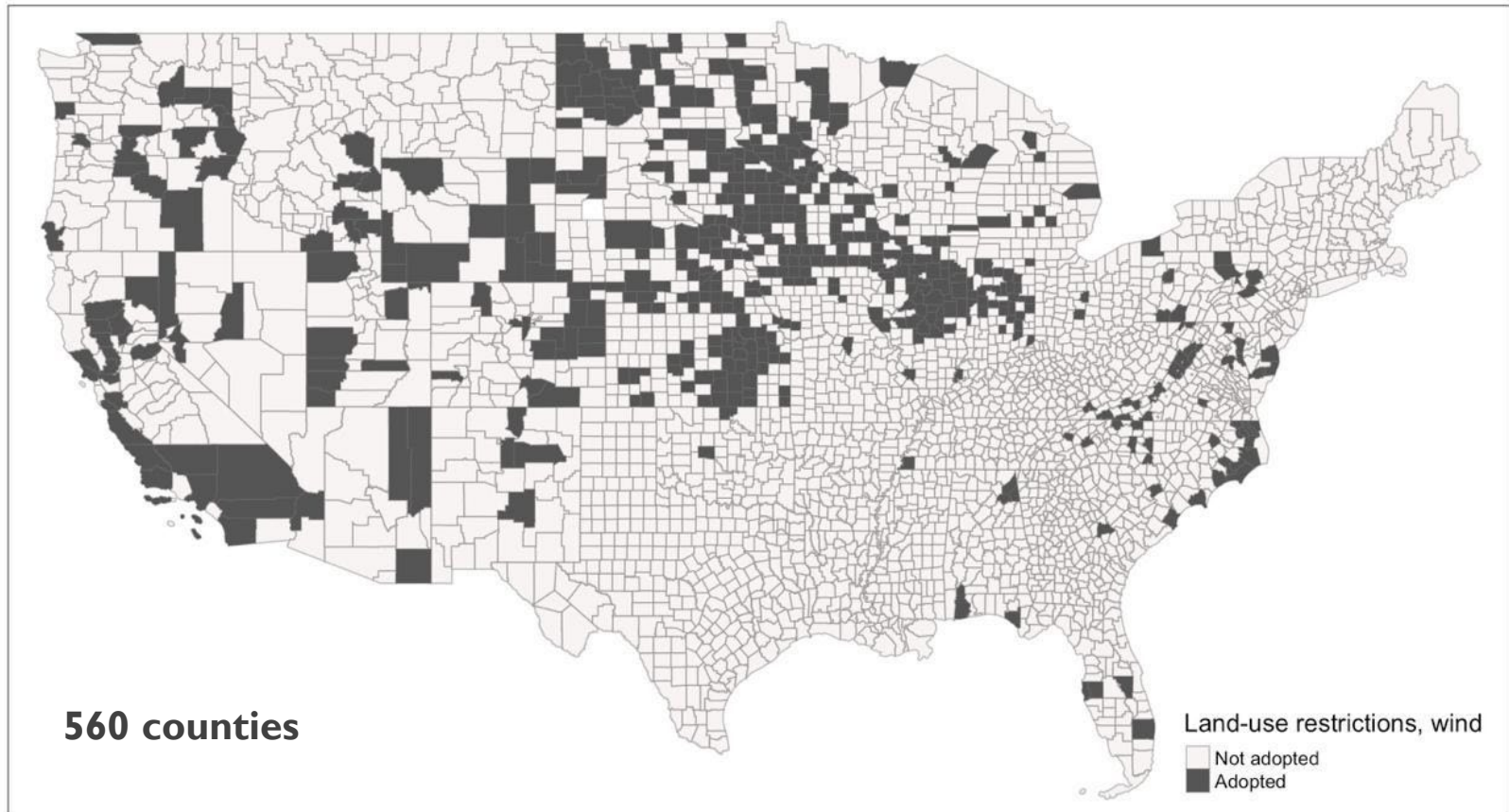
27 countries with local-level RE restrictions (including India which has a guideline)

Renewable energy projects

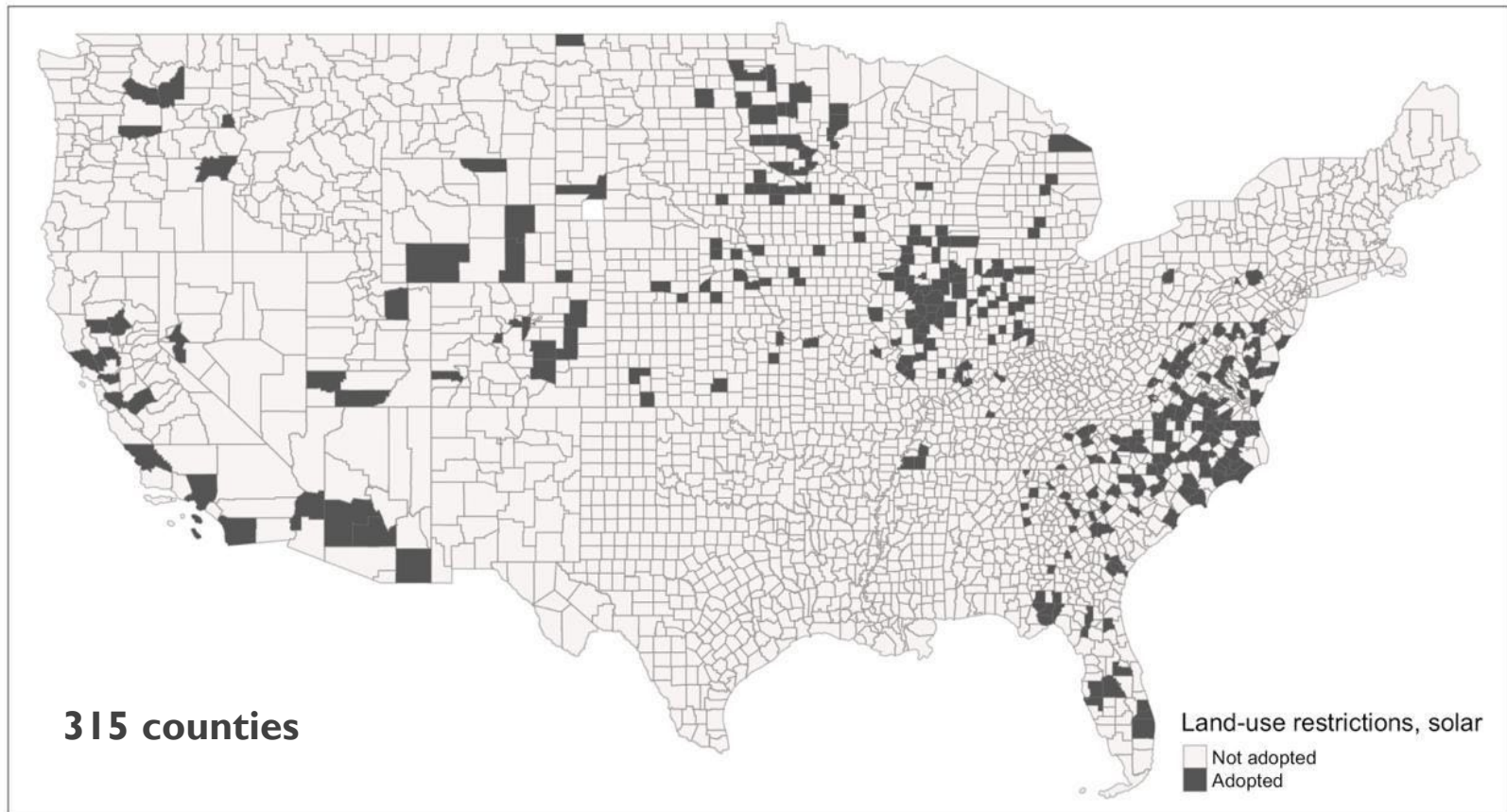
- Over **23%** of U.S. counties have enacted land-use restrictions on wind and solar energy facilities as of 2022
- And this is not a Red County-Blue County problem



U.S. county-level restrictions on wind energy facilities, 2022



U.S. county-level restrictions on solar energy facilities, 2022



Restrictions limit the available land for RE projects or delay their timelines

Land-use restrictions on RE facilities

Local governments as the final authority to issue permits for any development activities

RE facilities require land-use development

- 1) Setback regulations
- 2) Noise
- 3) Limits in size and number
- 4) Total ban (moratorium)

RE Facilities' Impact on Rural Landscape



Key variables of interest

1. The level of ruralness

- The more rural a county is, the larger the visual impact of RE facilities on its landscape
- Index of relative rurality (IRR)

2. Problem visibility

- The visual impact of wind is higher than that of solar energy facilities
- Public policy responds to issues with higher problem visibility

Alternative explanations

Potential capacity of wind and solar

Installed capacity of wind and solar

County-level partisanship

Unemployment

Per capita income

Migration

Median age

Coal-producing county

Contiguous counties' restrictions

State-level regulations

Model

Event history analysis to examine what factors influence the timing of restrictions

Cox proportional hazard model

N= 3,143

T= 12 (2010-2022); one-year lag of independent variables

Rurality matters for wind restrictions but not solar

Problem visibility influences public policy: Wind energy facilities being new “smokestacks”

Rural RE opposition ≠ climate policy opposition

“I’m not against renewable energy, I’m just against losing this beauty.”

- “Save Our Mesa” member, speaking of Battle Born Solar Project

Reflects the desire to protect the integrity and quality of their landscape and rural life

Community opposition to climate transition projects

- No climate denial, policy illiteracy, or false consciousness
- Distributional conflicts (local costs versus global benefits)
- Cultural and religious aspects (sacred versus secular)
- Environmental protection versus climate change
- NIMBYism