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Community-wide Benefits via Property Taxes

Sarah Mills

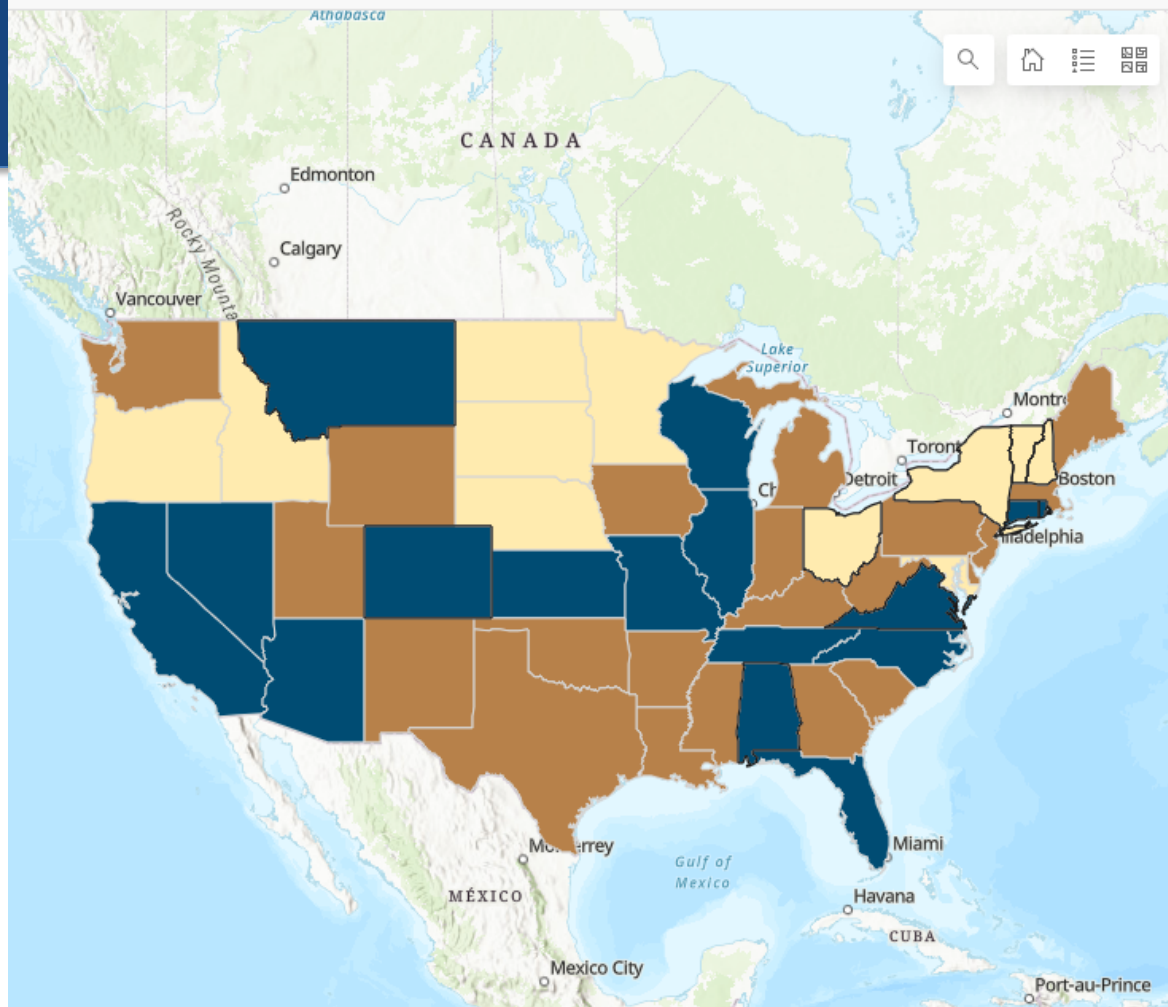
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planet blue
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Tax Treatments for Solar Energy Development in the United States

By Olivia Hintz, Eli Gold, Emma Uebelhor / Date of Last Update: June 10th, 2021



Involvement of Local Government

Local Control



State Solar Policy

Type of Tax Treatment

-  Exemption and Replacement
-  Abatement or Exemption
-  No Special Treatment

Exemption and Replacement: legislation exempts property taxes and replaces those taxes with a regularized payment, such as payment in lieu of property taxes, or solar production tax. An ultimate outcome of this form of taxation varies by state; some states replace an irregular set of property assessed values with a more regular

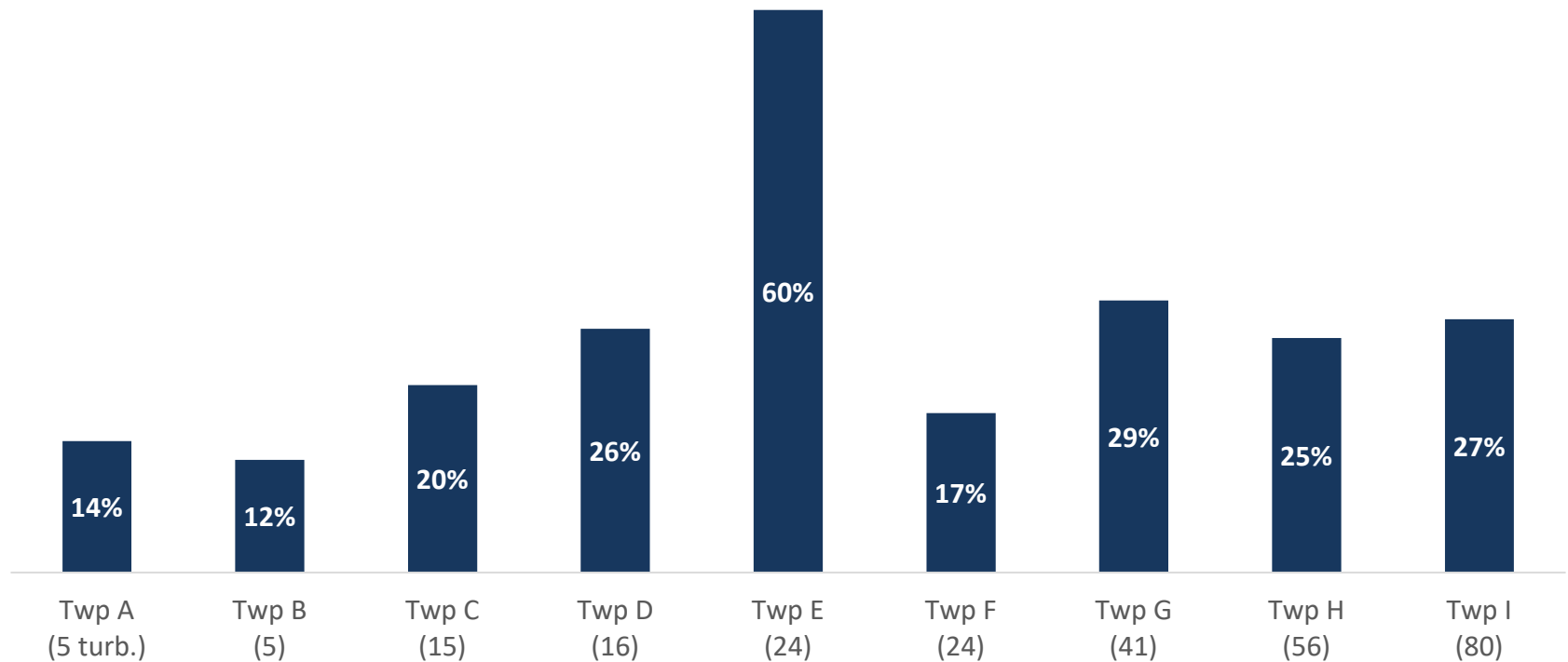
Abatement or Exemption: some or all of the property taxes on solar development are either reduced or eliminated. The total effective property tax reduction varies by state. Some states may have eligibility requirements or time

<https://closup.umich.edu/research/working-papers/inventory-state-wind-property-tax-treatments>

<https://closup.umich.edu/research/working-papers/inventory-state-solar-property-tax-treatments>

Property Tax Benefits Largely Invisible to Most Residents

% who said Township Services Improved
from Wind Development

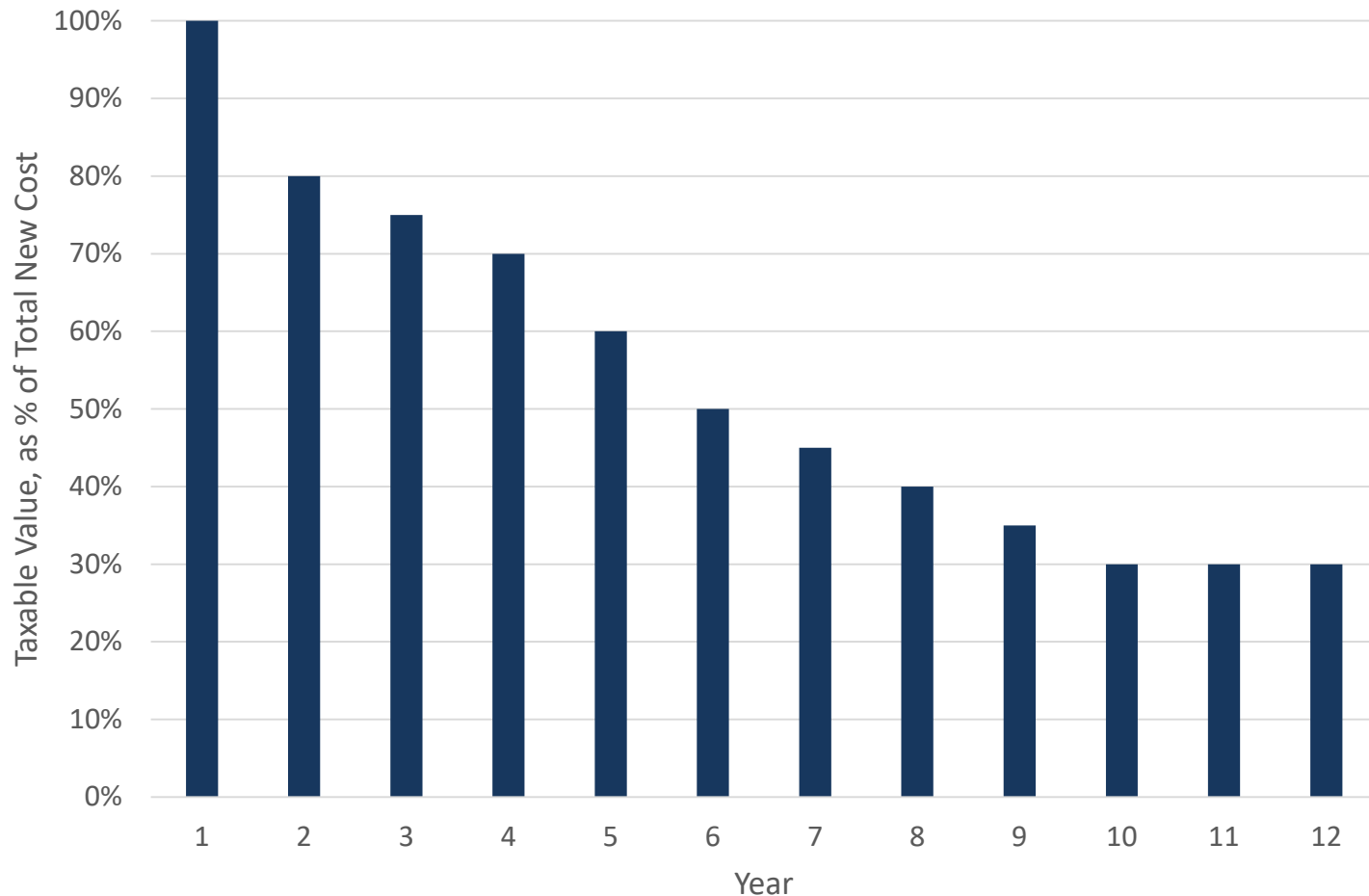


N = 1,534



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Michigan's Wind Property Tax Multiplier Table



Previous State Tax Commission Solar guidance

3500 (Rev. 01-11)



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

ANDY DILLON
STATE TREASURER

DATE: June 11, 2013
TO: Assessors and Equalization Directors
FROM: State Tax Commission
SUBJECT: Solar Panels

The State Tax Commission at their meeting on May 13, 2013, and affirmed again at their meeting on June 11, 2013, have determined that solar panels are to be considered industrial personal property and are to be reported on Table B – Machinery and Equipment on the personal property statement. This determination of the State Tax Commission supersedes any prior determinations.



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Key principles in designing taxes

- Don't cut all taxes
 - Especially not to local units, especially if they have siting authority
- Predictable, stable revenue stream beneficial for all
- Need to discuss / make tangible the community-wide benefits
- Solar & transmission, plus new tech (storage!)