

RURAL LAND USE COUNCIL

*An Essential Opportunity to Build Trust and Relationships in
Indiana's Rural Energy Future*

The Landscape Has Changed—Your Approach Must, Too. Rural energy development in Indiana is at a turning point. With all energy and infrastructure siting becoming increasingly complex at the **local level**, the most critical decisions now rest in the hands of rural landowners, farmers, and local officials. Successfully navigating this landscape requires **real relationships, trust, and ongoing engagement** with the people who steward the land.

The **Rural Land Use Council** is a groundbreaking initiative designed to enable meaningful progress between energy developers, local economic and community officials, and rural stakeholders. As a supporter and participant in the **Rural Land Use Council**, you gain direct access to the conversations that will shape the future of energy in Indiana. A balance must be struck between growth, meeting energy demands, agricultural production, and rural landscape identity. Leaders that plan to pave the way will accomplish this for Indiana and as a model for every state. The challenge is momentous and imperative and this collaboration only exists here.

The Four Essential Stakeholders Invited to Participate:

- Developers for energy projects
- Local elected officials
- Rural landowners and farmers
- Agriculture and energy trade groups, companies, and government agencies

What Makes This Opportunity Essential?

1. Direct Access to Rural Landowners & Community Leaders. Rather than waiting until project siting becomes contentious, this initiative provides an **off-site, sales-free environment** for developers, rural landowners, and elected leaders to engage openly. Through structured conversations, you'll gain insights into the real concerns, challenges, and priorities of the very people who determine project success.

2. A Proactive Approach to Advocacy & Trust-Building

Many rural landowners support renewable energy, but their voices are often muted by misinformation and opposition. This council provides a **platform for constructive, fact-based discussions** that foster long-term support. When the time comes for project discussions, you will have already built the foundation of trust needed for progress.

3. A Proven Process for Grassroots Engagement

The Rural Land Use Council is powered by AgVocacy Coalitions, a leader in rural engagement with a proven five-step process for moving grassroots issues from awareness to adaptation. This process ensures that your investment leads to measurable, long-term impact. You'll recognize the AgVocacy Coalitions team from our work on IN-CLIMATE Indiana and the Summit. This Council is supported by the Indiana Farm Bureau (INFB) and their team will share policy priorities as well as discuss how grassroots policy is informed and created. Our first session, November 13, 2025 will be held at INFB headquarters.

AgVocacy's Proven Five-Step Process

To successfully engage rural communities and drive meaningful advocacy, AgVocacy Coalitions employs a structured five-step approach:

1. **Awareness** – Identifying key issues and ensuring stakeholders have accurate, relevant information.
2. **Education** – Providing fact-based resources to deepen understanding and dispel misinformation.
3. **Engagement** – Creating direct interactions between industry stakeholders and rural communities.
4. **Empowerment** – Equipping our stakeholders with the knowledge and confidence to voice their perspectives.
5. **Adoption** – Transforming awareness and advocacy into policy shifts and project approvals.

How Does it Work and What Happens in the Forums?

The Rural Land Use Council will include:

- I. *Four day-long forums each year:*
 1. November 13, 2025 8:30-4:30 at INFB
 2. Winter 2026 held in Indianapolis
 3. Summer 2026 held outside of Indianapolis
 4. November 2026 held outside of Indianapolis

5. 2027 Forum locations and schedule developed with participants

- II. Agenda will include two to three focused topic panels each session, followed by lunch and the facilitated roundtable forum discussion
- III. Group will not be open to the public-no town hall style sessions! Only vested stakeholders and supporters who seek progress and balance will come together for results.
- IV. Limited size of 60-75 each session will ensure productive, effective, and valuable use of time resources. Supporters can bring multiple team and invite relevant guests; it is not a conference, so participation is first-come, first served.
- V. Sessions are in-person only and will not be recorded.
- VI. Action-items will come out of these events and progress will be tracked over the two-year period.
- VII. Developed working groups may be built to further study and bring back ideas for progress to the larger group.

The Need for the Rural Land Use Council

Indiana has seen an increasing number of stalled renewable energy projects due to **local opposition and policy challenges**. Recent reports indicate that **over 30% of proposed solar and wind projects in the state face delays or cancellations** because of community pushback, misinformation, and lack of trust.

By participating in the **Rural Land Use Council**, **your dollars power the council and make this opportunity possible. Your team becomes** part of the solution—creating an avenue for open, fact-based discussions that help move projects forward **while addressing the legitimate concerns of rural residents. Our team delivers a forum for real progress, action items, and relationships** to transform our state, *with the right balance*, to meet energy demands while respecting the legacy and identity of landowners and rural areas.

It is possible, but not without the dedicated, regular work of the essential stakeholders. This program creates that environment and ensures regular meetings are on the calendar and facilitated.

Program Details & Investment

- **Two-Year Program (2025-2027)**

- **Four Private Roundtables Per Year**

- o Personally invited rural landowners, farmers, and key community stakeholders in collaboration with the Indiana Farm Bureau team
- o Expertly facilitated by AgVocacy Coalitions team
- o One-on-One Introductions & Relationship Building · End-of-Year Impact Evaluation & Strategy Recommendations

Investment

Investment: \$5,000 annually, payable by check to Agvocacy Coalitions. Online payment is also available, with applicable service and processing fees.

Why AgVocacy Coalitions as the Facilitator?

With a track record of success in agricultural and rural advocacy, **AgVocacy Coalitions** provides the structure, credibility, and relationships necessary to create real, lasting impact. Our connections run deep in Indiana's farming communities, making us the ideal partner for energy developers and stakeholders who recognize that the path to progress starts with **understanding and trust**.

This is your opportunity to be at the forefront of a **new model for rural energy development**—one built on collaboration, transparency, and respect. **Join us today.**

Learn more: agvocacycoalitions@gmail.com, contact Sarah Beth Aubrey