



Institute for
Policy Integrity
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

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Contact: Derek Sylvan | (614) 638-8282 | derek.sylvan@nyu.edu

NEW REPORT CALCULATES ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCES NATIONWIDE

A [report released today by the Institute for Policy Integrity at NYU School of Law](#) offers a new set of values to more accurately estimate the environmental and public health benefits of distributed energy resources (DERs), like rooftop solar and battery storage. The model used to calculate these values provides granular information that reflects key variations in the electric grid and energy generation/consumption.

DERs have the potential to generate significant social benefits by displacing pollution-emitting electricity generators. Compensating DER owners appropriately, however, can be difficult. Without a detailed model of the electric power sector—taking into account variations in location, time of day, and season—DERs tend to be under-compensated, and therefore deployed less than what is optimal.

The new report, “[Making the Most of Distributed Energy Resources: Subregional Estimates of the Environmental Value of Distributed Energy Resources in the United States](#),” provides estimates of the environmental and public health benefits of DERs—often called “E-Values”—for the entire United States, broken down into 19 subregions. It also discusses novel insights. For instance, the E-Value of DERs can be larger than commonly suggested—potentially greater than the benefits of avoided electricity production costs.

The report also discusses specific policy implications based on the results. Policymakers can use the model’s E-Values and insights to create effective DER policies and programs that deliver social benefits in their jurisdictions.

The report is available at: <https://policyintegrity.org/publications/detail/making-the-most-of-distributed-energy-resources>

The authors are available for interviews on these issues.

The Institute for Policy Integrity regularly engages in research and advocacy on distributed energy resources, electricity policy, and energy economics. Some of our recent work includes:

- [A report detailing the “value stacking” method](#) for compensating DERs

- A report on [how to measure and monetize resilience in the electric grid](#)
- [Comments to the Department of Energy](#) on the effective deployment of energy storage systems

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***The Institute for Policy Integrity** at New York University School of Law is a non-partisan think tank dedicated to improving the quality of government decisionmaking. The institute produces original scholarly research in the fields of economics, law, and regulatory policy; and advocates for reform before courts, legislatures, and executive agencies.*