

Mississippi Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Update

Mississippi Issues

25,000 Customers are Saving Energy (and Money) via Entergy READI Program

25,000 Mississippi homeowners have [installed energy-saving items](#) through the Entergy MS [Residential Energy Audit and Direct Install \(READI\) Program](#). A READI auditor installs LED bulbs and other energy-efficient products, provides tips, and inspects other home features that initiate new energy-efficient habits. After the audit, you will receive a report on findings and opportunities to reduce your energy costs. To participate, schedule an audit at entergysolutionsms.com/READI or call 844-523-9980.

Entergy MS Files Proposal for Community Solar Program and Special Rate Tariff (Docket No. 2018-UN-268)

Last month, Entergy Mississippi, LLC [proposed a community solar offering](#) for its customers. In [testimony](#) provided by Aaron E Hill, Entergy Mississippi, LLC “proposes to use the Bright Future Solar Project sites to support the community solar offering.” The Bright Future Solar Project consists of three existing 500 kW pilot project sites. 25x’25 has concerns regarding the use of these sites to support a community solar program. Therefore, 25x’25 filed a [Motion to Intervene](#) and was accepted. We plan to file additional comments on this matter in the coming weeks.

MPSC Regular Meeting – March 5

Next Meeting of the MPSC will take place on March 5, 2019, at 10 am in the Woolfolk Building.

MDEQ Releases Volkswagen Settlement Beneficiary Mitigation Plan for Diesel Emission Reductions; Public Feedback Invited

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) [released](#) the Volkswagen Settlement Beneficiary Mitigation Plan for public review and comment. The Beneficiary Mitigation Plan describes Mississippi’s goals and strategies in spending its portion of funds (\$9,874,414) to support mitigation projects to replace older diesel emission sources with cleaner technology to reduce excess nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions and improve air quality in the state. A copy of the proposed plan is available at <https://www.mdeq.ms.gov/air/vw-mitigation-trust/>. You can submit comments in writing to Elliott Bickerstaff, MDEQ, P.O. Box 2261, Jackson, MS 39225. The comment period begins February 15 and ends March 26, 2019.

Three public hearings have been scheduled to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the Mitigation Plan. The public hearings are scheduled for:

- March 18 — 1:30 p.m. in MDEQ’s Commission Hearing Room located at 515 East Amite Street, Jackson, 39201.
- March 21 — 1:30 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room of the Bolton State Office Building, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, 39530.
- March 26 — 1:30 p.m. at the Batesville Public Library, 206 Highway 51 North, Batesville, 38606.

TVA Energyright Solutions to Host Industrial Energy Efficiency Workshops

[TVA Energyright Solutions](#) is providing an opportunity for managers to learn more about tools, programs and services available that could benefit your company and help it to be more profitable and efficient. The [Industrial and Commercial Forum](#) will be held April 2 in Tupelo, MS.

The second day will be [Compressed Air Challenge Training](#) on April 3. This is a great course to help you learn how to better manage your compressed air system. There **is no cost to anyone served in the TVA footprint for this training.** Lunch will be provided both days. Follow the links above to register.

What will be the Issues Important to Clean Energy in the 2019 Legislature?

The Mississippi Legislature gavelled in on January 8 for the final session of this four-year term. It will be interesting to watch how legislation that aims to establish or alter energy policy fares during the session. Legislation of interest:

[HB 44](#) and [HB 441](#): Feasibility of Windmills in Sunflower County – **Died in Committee**

[HB 51](#), [HB 459](#), [HB 475](#), [HB 604](#), [HB 697](#), [HB 832](#), [HB 882](#), [HB 907](#), [SB 2002](#), [SB 2265](#): Repeal of Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Tax – **All Died in Committee** (no tax cut for EV and hybrid vehicle owners!)

[HB 366](#): Mississippi Broadband Enabling Act – **Passed House; Passed Senate; Signed by Gov**

[SB 2020](#): Reconfigure Size and Staff of MPSC – **Died in Committee**

[SB 2087](#): Authorize State Tax Credit for Installation of Solar and Energy Efficiency Equipment – **Died in Committee**

[SB 2393](#): Revise Powers and Duties of Public Utilities Staff – **Died in Committee**

[HB 1641](#): FY 2020 Appropriation; Public Service Commission – **Passed House**; Referred to Senate Appropriations

[HB 1642](#): FY 2020 Appropriation; Public Utilities Staff – **Passed House**; Referred to Senate Appropriations

Construction Begins on Lauderdale County Solar Projects

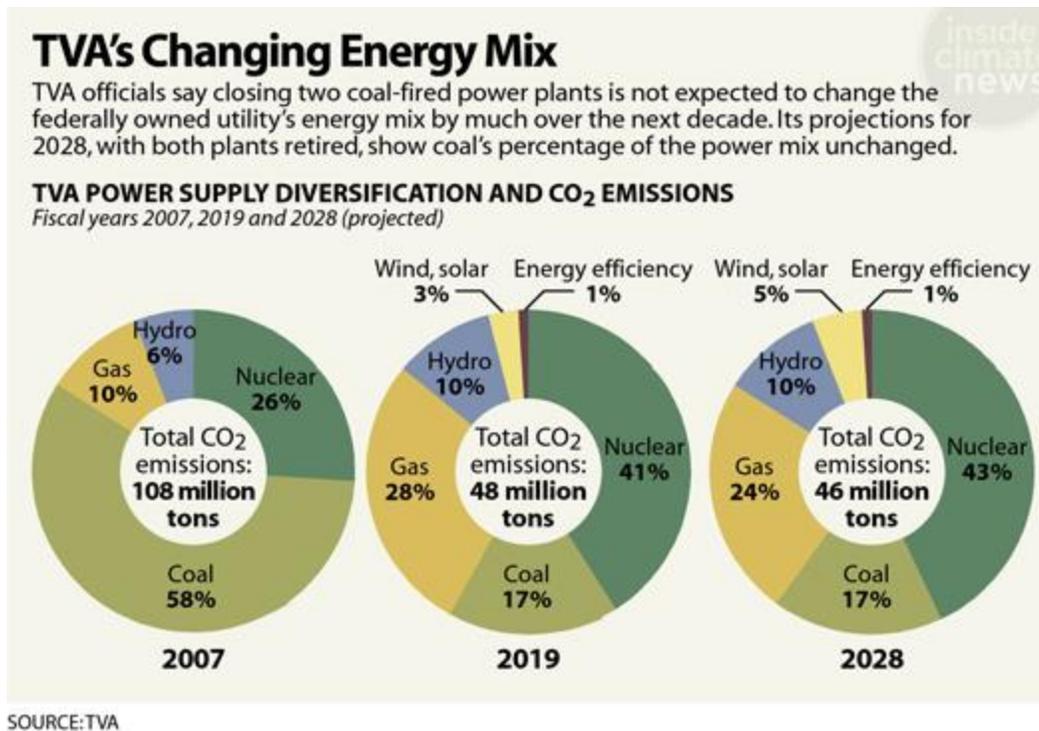
McCarthy Building Cos. Inc. recently [began construction on three solar projects in Lauderdale County](#), just outside of Meridian. Meridian I and II encompass a 6 MW solar facility located on 38 acres of the Naval Air Station (NAS). Meridian III is a 75 MW solar project on approximately 650 acres in Lauderdale County, located just outside of the Navy base. Silicon Ranch is funding the installations and will own and operate the arrays long-term. Meridian I and II will provide power to the Tennessee Valley Authority, and Meridian III will deliver wholesale energy to Mississippi Power. Meridian I and II are scheduled to be complete in May, and Meridian III is scheduled for completion before the end of the year.

Regional Issues

TVA Releases Draft Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) For Public Review and Comment

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) has released its [draft 2019 Integrated Resource Plan](#) (IRP) and [Environmental Impact Statement](#) (EIS) and is inviting the public to review the draft documents and provide comments. TVA is accepting comments through April 8, 2019.

The 2019 IRP provides direction on how TVA can best deliver clean, reliable and low-cost energy in the Valley over the next 20 years. As part of the study, TVA prepared a programmatic EIS to assess the natural, cultural and socioeconomic impacts associated with the IRP. Of note, TVA staff qualified that no new solar resources would be added until 2023 in the various capacity scenarios modeled in the draft IRP. Furthermore, the draft IRP reduces emphasis on energy efficiency programs. [Visit TVA's IRP website](#) to learn more about the IRP and EIS, read the draft, and offer your comments.



TVA Cancels Green Power Providers Solar Program

(TVA) has announced that the Generation Partners/[Green Power Providers](#) (GP/GPP) program will stop accepting applications on January 1, 2020. The utility states that the program no longer meets market needs. A new program to replace GP/GPP has been mentioned, but details have not been made available. Furthermore, the Distributed Solar Solutions (DSS) program continues to be delayed and uncertainty beyond 2019 for solar opportunities in the TVA service area remains for potential solar owners.

Is Everything Bigger in Texas? Solar Going BIG

Check this out. Enel Green Power North America has revealed a 497MW solar project underway in Texas. The 252 MW phase one of its Roadrunner project is due on line later this year with the remaining 245 MW set for completion in 2020. Texas has less than 3000 MW of solar installed today, compared to 25,000 MW of wind. But the solar installations are expected to exceed 1000 MW of annual solar installations per year.

Even the Batteries are Bigger in Texas

Oil and gas drilling in the Permian Basin has recently pushed the state's power grid to the brim, driving drilling operations to seek out alternative power sources. A 495 MW battery proposed by IP Juno for completion in 2021 will be used to store the energy harnessed by a neighboring solar farm. The largest battery project in Texas is currently 10 MW.

Two Southeast States in Top 10 for LEED Buildings; TX at #5; VA at #8

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) released its annual list of Top 10 States for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), the world's most widely used green building rating system. Buildings that are LEED-certified create healthier spaces for people, as well as use less energy and water, reduce carbon emissions and save money. In 2018: Texas had 88,404,993 square feet and 277 projects

certified; Virginia had 25,348,631 square feet and 136 projects certified. There are currently more than 96,275 registered and certified LEED projects in 167 countries and regions. [See the LEED infographic.](#)

Within the top 10 states for LEED® in 2018, there were: 1,826 total projects and 468.85 million GSF certified. USA TOTALS: 2,886 total projects and 615.27 million GSF certified.

New Orleans City Council Fines Entergy, Clears Way for Power Plant Project

Entergy New Orleans will pay a \$5 million penalty in the wake of a scandal over the use of paid, phony supporters for a new \$210 million gas fired power plant. The City Council said the company “[knew or should have known](#)” that one of its subcontractors was paying actors to support its proposed power plant at council meetings. In addition to the fine, after nearly three hours of public comment, the Council voted to allow Entergy N.O. to go ahead with construction of the \$211 million 226 MW natural gas power plant, but with certain conditions. It will be composed of seven natural gas combustion turbines that will support the grid when power demand is high.

Entergy Louisiana Executes 50 MW PPA for Solar

Entergy Louisiana will [buy solar power](#) from a 50 MW solar farm slated for West Baton Rouge Parish, and is expected to save the utility's customers \$29 million over the 20-year contract. Eagle Solar Group is set to begin construction in mid-2019 and finish in 2020. It is being built on 560 acres near Port Allen.

Program Makes Energy Efficiency Affordable for Cooperative Customers

At Roanoke Electric Cooperative in North Carolina, innovative [energy efficiency](#) programs creates opportunities for more customers. High electric rates often aren't to blame for high bills. It's often the poor condition of the homes themselves that are the problem and cause customers to use much more energy than they should have to. But with an innovative financing mechanism, electric utilities like the Roanoke Electric Cooperative are using their borrowing power to finance energy efficiency upgrades in homes at no upfront cost to their customers. Even with the on-bill tariff to reimburse the costs of the upgrades, consumers bills are always lower than before the upgrade.

NC PUC Takes Duke 'to the woodshed' Over Smart Meter Customer Programs

The N.C. Public Utilities Commission (NC PUC) had sharp questions for Duke Energy Carolinas on how long it will take the company to design programs to help customers save energy and money. Duke Energy had to [account for failing to meet an explicit deadline for new rate programs](#) to benefit customers using data generated from smart meters. The NC PUC had ordered Duke Energy to develop new programs by Dec. 21, 2018. Instead, Duke responded 3 months later with a plan that put off programs until 2022. Needless to say, the NC PUC did NOT appreciate Duke's response.

Ouachita Electric's Mark Cayce: A Champion for Demand Side Management Programs

As CEO of Ouachita Electric Cooperative Corp. in Camden, Mark Cayce has made solar power a cornerstone of innovative programs along with energy efficiency and innovative finance. OECC's HelpPays program — Pay As You Save — lets co-op members finance home weatherization, efficiency improvements and soon solar rooftop systems on their electric bills at no upfront cost. These measures reduce peak load and the savings lowers the overall cost of power to all customers. [Arkansas Business highlight OECC's and Mark's work in this field.](#)

Mickey Mouse Soaks Up the Florida Sun

The Walt Disney World Resort announced that it has put its [new 270-acre solar facility online](#), which eventually will generate enough electricity to power the equivalent of two of the resort's four theme parks. Disney previously installed a 22-acre solar facility in the familiar Mickey Mouse shape that got a lot of attention for that design. The Walt Disney Company has set a goal to halve its 2012 corporate emissions level by next year.

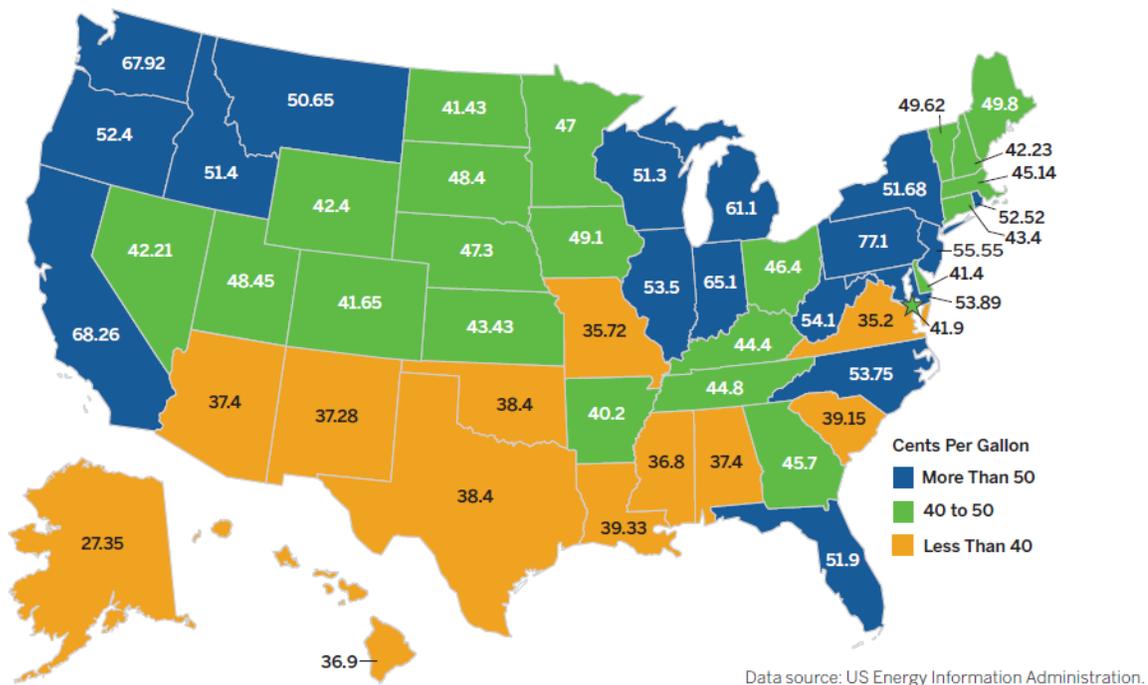
Tallahassee, FL Commits To 100% Clean Energy

The City of Tallahassee, Fla., [has established a goal to transition to 100% clean, renewable energy](#) across the community by 2050. The unanimously approved resolution establishes a goal of powering municipal operations entirely with renewable sources by 2035 and community-wide by 2050. Tallahassee becomes the seventh city in Florida – and the 108th municipality in the nation – to commit to powering itself with 100% clean, renewable energy.

Fuel Taxes – Revisited

The debate to raise fuel taxes to fund road and bridge construction and maintenance or to find other sources of revenue was the hot topic through much of 2018 in Mississippi. As we saw from the Special Session, fuel taxes remained stable while revenues from a future lottery, internet sales taxes and new taxes on electric and hybrid vehicles were directed to road and bridge funds. You may wonder what the current combined state/federal taxes are on gasoline. The Figure 1 below shows Mississippi gasoline taxes and those of other states in the U.S.

Figure 1. Gasoline Taxes: Combined State and Federal



The market for electric vehicles (EVs) is growing rapidly, driven by declining battery costs and improved performance, and utility customer demand for EV charging will likewise continue to grow. EVs can convert 60 percent of the energy they draw from the grid into miles traveled, compared with internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles, which convert only about 20-30 percent of primary energy to the

same purpose. Because of this efficiency, EVs can be significantly less costly to operate and less polluting. Controlled EV charging also can serve as a resource for grid managers.

Perceiving that non-gasoline vehicles don't pay their share, several states are considering or have enacted mechanisms to ensure that EVs also contribute. Understanding how EVs should contribute to the development and maintenance of the transportation system is the purpose of a new report, [Revisiting the Gas Tax](#).

NCSU Creates Sustainable Bioproducts and Bioenergy Program

The [Sustainable Bioproducts and Bioenergy Program](#) (SBBP) will provide undergraduate students with the knowledge, interdisciplinary tools, and hands-on experience necessary to advance America's bioeconomy using plant-based and renewable bioproducts. The students' two-year commitment consists of a series of courses centered on the bioeconomy and bioproducts and participation in a paid summer internship with a bioproducts industry partner.

Solar Panels to be Manufactured in Alabama

LG Electronics [finishes work](#) on an advance solar module assembly plant in Huntsville, AL. The \$28 million plant will create 160 jobs while running two assembly lines of production.

Jinko Solar Opens Manufacturing Plant in Florida

[The plant](#) should ultimately reach 400 megawatts in solar module capacity and employ about 200 people. The Chinese company announced January 2018, roughly a week after the Trump administration unveiled its final tariffs on crystalline silicon solar cells and modules, that it would build the manufacturing facility.

National Issues

Could Solar be Next Money Crop for Farmers?

The [Washington Post](#) takes a look at how some Midwest Farmers are using energy policy, farm economics and other considerations to decide on when and where to diversify operations with a new income resource – solar.

2019 Sustainable Energy in America Factbook Released

The Business Council for Sustainable Energy and Bloomberg New Energy Finance released the [2019 Sustainable Energy in America Factbook](#). Now in its seventh edition, the *Factbook* provides new [information and trends](#) on the U.S. energy economy, with an in-depth look at the energy efficiency, natural gas and renewable energy sectors as well as emerging areas such as battery storage and sustainable transportation.

[Key Factbook Findings](#) include:

- U.S. power continued de-carbonizing thanks to gas and renewables growth, coal retirements.
- Employment grew.
- Energy remained affordable by historical standards to consumers.
- Electric vehicle sales gained traction.

But...

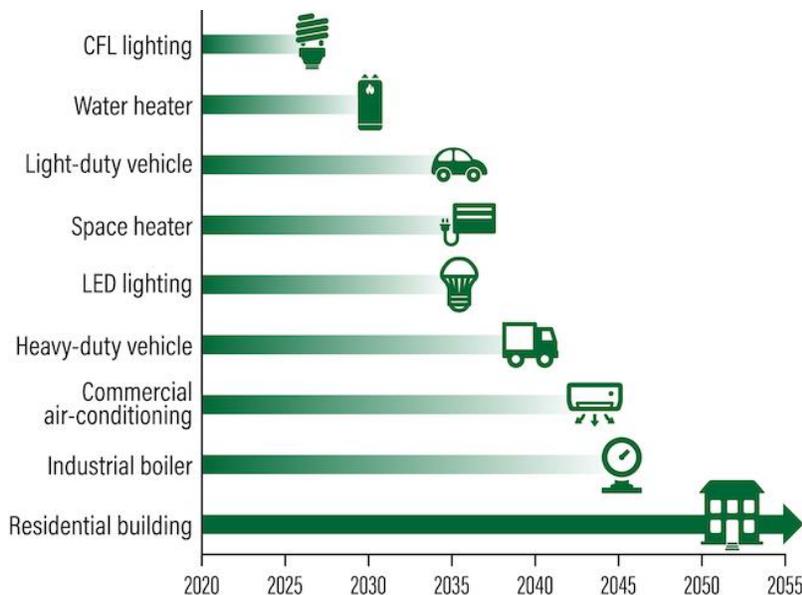
- Energy productivity improvements stalled.
- Energy consumption overall went up.
- CO2 emissions rose.

U.S. electricity generation by fuel type (%)



Energy Efficiency: The Gift that Keeps on Giving

To understand and track the value of energy efficiency over time, decision makers need good estimates of how long measures and programs last. For some measures, savings decline over time if they're not maintained well; for others, savings may grow over time when paired with strong energy-management strategies. That is why it is important to measure the value of energy savings over time, not just within the first year. ACEEE's new report, [Energy Efficiency Over Time: Measuring and Valuing Lifetime Energy Savings in Policy and Planning](#), explores recent efforts to take a longer view to show how energy efficiency can provide value in long-term resource planning and investment decisions.



Typical lifetimes of savings from various measures installed or implemented in 2020.