



TVA. The third and largest phase (75-megawatt) will provide energy to Mississippi Power once it goes online later this year.

## **2019 National Solar Tour: See Local Renewable Energy in Action!**

The [American Solar Energy Society](#) (ASES) and [Solar United Neighbors](#) (SUN) announce the largest annual grassroots solar event will take place in neighborhoods nationwide the weekend of October 5th-6th, and surrounding weekends. Check out [the national Solar Tour map](#) to see locations and dates for site around the country. The 24th Annual [National Solar Tour](#) empowers people all across the country to learn from their neighbors about solar technology, sustainability and the process of becoming more energy efficient.

Solar open houses are a chance to visit homes and businesses that use solar energy, green building design, energy efficiency, electric vehicles, and other innovative or proven technologies plus sustainable efforts. Four homes and businesses in Mississippi registered to serve as a host site. These Mississippi locations include:

Northwood Hills Animal Hospital, Gulfport: <https://www.nationalsolartour.org/open-houses/1867/>  
Residential Home, Saucier: <https://www.nationalsolartour.org/open-houses/1878/>  
Residential Home, Gulfport: <https://www.nationalsolartour.org/open-houses/2214/>  
Residential Home, Bay St. Louis: <https://www.nationalsolartour.org/open-houses/1881/>

## **Mississippi Farmers Reap Savings from Solar on their Chicken Houses**

Even small poultry farms with only four chicken houses can have power bills ranging from \$20,000 to \$25,000 per year. Adding solar can help chicken growers [greatly reduce that annual electricity bill](#) by \$7,000 to \$8,000 per year. It takes about five years to pay for a system. Then for the next 20 or so years, a farmer can generate his own electricity at little to no cost. To help reduce the costs of a solar system, USDA has a grant program (Rural Energy for America Program) that covers up to 25 percent of the cost. Then there is a 30 percent federal tax credit. You can reasonably get 55 percent of your costs back in the first year. Confined livestock operations, irrigation and water wells, rural businesses, schools, etc. are great candidates for solar.

USDA is inviting applications for loan guarantees and grants for renewable energy systems; to make energy efficiency improvements, conduct energy audits and provide development assistance. The funding is provided through [USDA's Rural Energy for America Program \(REAP\)](#). The deadlines to apply for renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement grants are Oct. 31, 2019, and March 31, 2020. Applications for loan guarantees are accepted year-round. The deadline to apply for energy audit and development assistance grants is Jan. 31, 2020.

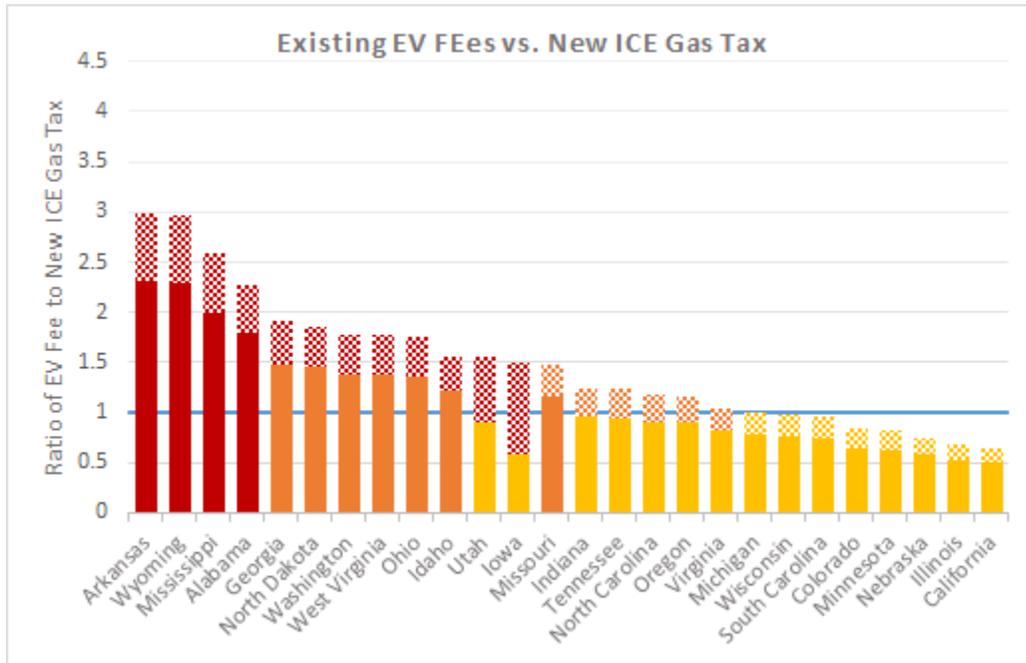
## **Seraphim Solar Target of Lawsuits**

Seraphim Solar originally said it was shutting down its Jackson plant to retool and expand its manufacturing line to triple production. But nearly a year later, [the plant has sat idle](#) with no activity at the site and the phone disconnected. In addition, at least [three solar panel installers have sued Seraphim](#) Solar Manufacturing USA for failing to fulfill contracts or reimburse prepayments.

## **Fees on EVs and Hybrids Likely Impact Consumer Adoption**

Drivers of electric vehicles are being unfairly singled out by states trying to replenish eroding funds for highway repairs, according to a new analysis from Consumer Reports. The report, [Rising Trend of Punitive Fees on Electric Vehicles Won't Dent State Highway Funding Shortfalls but Will Hurt Consumers](#), compares existing and proposed EV fees with the gas taxes paid by the average new gasoline vehicle to

determine whether fees are placing an [additional tax burden on EV owners](#) compared to non-EV owners. Overall, 26 states have either enacted or are contemplating fees on EVs — generally charged annually and on top of registration fees also paid by gas-car drivers. In some cases, the EV fees rise over time such as in **Mississippi**. The report considered fees that went into effect in eight states this year. The report finds that as fuel economy improves, EV only fees will become much more punitive. **Mississippi** currently has the third most punitive EV fees in the nation. A Mississippi EV owner will pay a \$150 annual fee to pay for road and bridge use. Meanwhile the average gas-powered vehicle owner will pay an average of \$83.57 annually for road and bridge use. Does something seem off here?



Ratio of existing fees to the maximum justifiable fee (MJF). MJF = 1 (blue line). Solid sections of the bar represent ratio in 2020. The checkered sections represent the increase in the ratio by 2025. Yellow = non-punitive; Orange = punitive; Red = extremely punitive

### Four LEED Projects Certified in Mississippi in September

Four projects have gained LEED Certification in the month of September. Three of the buildings are dormitories on the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. The other is a dining facility at the Naval Air Station in Meridian.

Project	Rating	Sq. Feet	Registered	Level	Certified
USM Century Park A	LEED-NC v2009	255,122	7/27/2015	Gold	9/9/2019
USM Century Park B	LEED-NC v2009	255,122	7/27/2015	Gold	9/9/2019
USM Century Park C	LEED-NC v2009	255,122	7/27/2015	Gold	9/9/2019
NAS Meridian Dining	LEED-NC v2009	21,473	3/24/2014	Silver	9/10/2019

The [NAS Meridian Dining Facility](#) is a modern state-of-the-art and energy efficient 21,500 square foot, low-rise facility with concrete footings, concrete masonry walls with brick veneer and insulated standing seam metal roof. Employees in the facility serve nearly 1100 meals a day to Navy and Marine Corps. In addition to LEED Silver certification, the building also complies with the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

## Review of MPSC Regular Meeting – September 10

On September 10, the MPSC held its [regular docket meeting](#). The Commission took action on the following:

**Mississippi Power Co., Ad Valorem Tax Adjustment Rider, Docket No. 2019-UN-57:** The Ad Valorem Tax Adjustment Rider recovers or refunds any difference between the property taxes included in the Company's base rates and those actually paid. MS Power had an under-recovery of \$2.3 million in 2018. The proposed rider results in an increase of approximately \$4 million in the annual revenue requirement and will increase an average 1,000 kWh residential customer's bill by approximately \$0.49 per month. The Commission approved the increase.

**Entergy Mississippi, Market Valued Demand Response (MVDR) Rider, Docket No. 2019-UA-82:** Entergy MS proposes to define the parameters under which Entergy's customers can participate in MISO's demand response markets as well as how Aggregators of Retail Customers should operate in those same MISO demand response markets if they wish to engage with Mississippi customers. The proposed MVDR Rider outlines which customers are eligible to participate in the tariff, defines technical terms, and describes how the tariff will work for participants. Entergy will act as the sole Market Participant for the Demand Response Resource ensuring that proper Commission jurisdiction is maintained. The Commission approved the creation of the MVDR Rider.

### Other actions:

- Numerous matters were referred to individual commissioners or Commission staff for action.
- Four Show Cause Order actions were taken against telemarketers who were found to have violated the MS No- Call Law.
- Chad Reynolds' last day at the MPUS was recognized with a resolution recognizing his work.
- The Hire Mississippi Rule continues to keep contracts and expenditures in Mississippi. Mississippi-based contractor participation increased by 13% in last year. Atmos Energy has awarded every contract to a Mississippi company.

## Review of MPSC Special Meeting – September 20

On September 20, the MPSC held a [Special Meeting](#). The Commission took action on the following:

The Commission considered action regarding the **2020 Universal Service Fund (USF) Utilization Plans** filed by numerous eligible telecommunication utilities. USF funding is to help provide services to high-cost areas and the Utilization Plans outline anticipated projects and expenditures. It is anticipated that \$135 M will be expended in Mississippi in 2020. Despite concerns in how USF expenditures are used to upgrade existing services vs extend infrastructure to unserved areas, the Commission voted to approve the Utilization Plans.

The Commission took action to put forth a resolution supporting a new robocall blocking technology called SHAKEN (Secure Handling of Asserted information using toKENs) and STIR (Secure Telephone Identity Revisited). SHAKEN/STIR are protocols created to combat bad actors who use caller ID spoofing to increase the chances of speaking to a phone owner. AT&T, Cspire and others can use the tech to verify that the incoming caller is legit and combats illegal and unwanted robocalls.

Nearly 50 billion robocalls hit consumers each year in the U.S. The MS Attorneys General of all 50 states and 12 major telecom companies will be working together to resolve the robocall problem. The MPSC

can help put pressure on telecomm companies to ensure they are doing everything they can to stop robocalls. Robocalls are a major issue with consumers. Intrusive at home and work. The MPSC has a staff of seven (7) enforcing the No-Call Law. 120 companies have registered to abide by the law.

## Review of MPSC Regular Meeting – October 1

On October 1, the MPSC held its [regular docket meeting](#). The Commission took action on the following:

**Purchased Natural Gas Adjustment Audits for Atmos Energy, CenterPoint Energy, Spire MS, Docket No. 2008-AD-270:** Staff found audits to be complete and Commission approved.

**Energy MS LLC, Petition for CPCN for Substation and Transmission in Madison County, MS, Docket No. 2019-UA-69:** EML proposes a 230 kv substation at Catlett Road with over 14 miles of new transmission lines to enhance supply, increase reliability and avoid interruptions in services. Project supported by MISO. Alternatives were considered, but this was determined to be most prudent route. Project anticipated to cost \$57.7 million and be in service by Dec. 2022. Project will increase an average 1,000 kWh residential customer's bill by approximately \$0.61 per month. The Commission approved the project.

**MS Power Co., Regulatory Tax Recovery Assessment Rider, Docket No. 2019-UN-135:** Proposed rider adjustment will increase an average 1,000 kWh residential customer's bill by approximately \$0.01 per month beginning Nov. 2019. The Commission approved the adjustment.

### Other actions:

- Numerous matters were referred to individual commissioners or Commission staff for action.
- Of particular interest was the identification of a new proposed utility-scale solar project in North MS. [Delta's Edge Solar, LLC](#) ("Delta's Edge") will be a 100 MW (AC) solar generating facility located in Carroll County, Mississippi, to be constructed on approximately 930 acres of land. The solar array will cover approximately 693 of those acres. The estimated construction cost of the project is \$109,900,000 with construction to start 1Q 2021 and completed December 2021. The entire electricity output of the Facility will be sold to Cooperative Energy under a 15-year Power Purchase Agreement.

## Review of MPSC Hearing

**Energy MS, Proposed Acquisition of Choctaw Generation Station in Choctaw County, MS, Docket No. 2018-UA-204:** The Choctaw Facility is an approximately 810 MW natural gas-fired, combined-cycle gas turbine ("CCGT") generating plant located near the town of French Camp. It consists of three General Electric Frame 7FB.04 combustion turbine generators, three Alstom heat recovery steam generators, one General Electric D-11 condensing steam turbine generator, and other auxiliary equipment. The Choctaw Facility was initially developed and constructed by Reliant Energy and went into commercial operation in July 2003. The Choctaw Facility has 500kV transmission lines interconnected with EML and TVA systems and existing interconnection agreements with EML and TVA.

The cost of constructing a new, comparably-sized CCGT with a 30-year life is approximately \$950 million. The Commission finds that Energy Mississippi's total investment to acquire and improve the Choctaw Facility, including the acquisition adjustment and transaction and other costs, estimated to be \$401.4 million is [reasonable](#). It is estimated that a typical residential customer using 1,000 kWh per month would initially see an increase in rates of approximately \$5.32 per month. The Commission [approved](#)

the project acquisition and the [Joint Stipulation](#) and found the Choctaw Facility is a prudent, long-term acquisition that will further modernize Entergy Mississippi's generation portfolio. 25x'25 was an [intervener](#) in the proceedings.

## Other Relevant Docket Actions at the MPSC

**Development and Implementation of Integrated Resource Planning Rule, Docket No. 2018-AD-64:** The Commission has determined it is in the best interest of Mississippi ratepayers and utilities to proceed with the development of a comprehensive Integrated Resource Planning Rule, and to establish reporting requirements both for long term electric planning and for annual energy delivery planning by regulated gas and electric utilities. The Commission sought comments from all persons concerning a [new Proposed Rule 29](#). Comments were due on or before August 1, 2019. On July 25, 2019, the Commission temporarily suspended the comment deadline in order to conduct an economic impact study of the proposed rule and amendment. On August 27, the MPSC [announced it has completed the economic impact study](#) and set October 1, 2019 as the deadline for filing written comments.

25x'25 submitted its third set of [comprehensive comments](#) prior to the deadline on October 1. While 25x'25 supports the Commission's efforts as outlined in their original [Order](#) dated May 8, 2018, we find that the utility-inspired Proposed IRP Rule continues to fall woefully short in stakeholder participation, transparency, and resource comparison and evaluation. Furthermore, the Proposed IRP Rule includes unprecedented subsidies for transmission and distribution right-of-way management, charitable contributions for scholarships and early childhood education, "grid enhancement" activities, and broadband communications.

25x'25 also submitted a [proposed redlined version](#) of the rule that seeks to incorporate many known and recognized best practices currently omitted from the Proposed IRP Rule. The Commission must now review and reconcile comments with the Proposed IRP Rule.

**Entergy MS, LLC Sunflower Solar Facility, Docket No. 2018-UA-267:** The MPSC [established a procedural schedule](#) for intervenors to submit data requests (June 13) and file testimony (July 10) in regards to the proposed solar project. Because 25x'25 submission of questions and receipt of answers to data requests required my acceptance of a non-disclosure agreement, I cannot share that information with stakeholders. However, I have provided initial [comments](#) and intervenor [testimony](#) in regards to the proposed project.

In addition, the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff retained the Bates White Consulting firm to provide an [independent assessment](#) of the Sunflower County Solar Facility based on the Petition submitted by Entergy Mississippi LLC (EML) and Sunflower County Solar Project LLC (Sunflower). The report evaluated 1) current solar market in MS, 2) EML solicitation process, 3) Sunflower project design, warranties and terms, and 4) economic impact and risk to ratepayers.

In brief, the MPUS assessment found, among others, that 1) the project will likely result in a net increase in costs to ratepayers, 2) project net benefits are underestimated, 3) the solicitation process did not conform to best practices, 4) specific details regarding project design and materials are not specified, 5) the project imposes risks on Mississippi ratepayers that they would not bear under a typical solar PPA arrangement.

EML has since filed rebuttal testimony in response to the Bates White assessment as well as 25x'25's comments. A [Public Hearing](#) was set for September 10 at 1:30 pm in the Commission Hearing Room. However, due to the findings of the independent assessment report and Staff's need for more time to

review the project details, the Commission [Ordered](#) that the hearing be cancelled. No new date has been set for the hearing.

The [November meeting](#) of the MPSC will take place on November 7, 2019, at 10 am in the Woolfolk Building.

## **Volkswagen Trust Beneficiary Mitigation Plan Update**

Volkswagen (VW) and associated companies were found to have installed emission detection defeat devices in certain model year 2009–2016 vehicles. To settle the charges, VW was required to establish a \$2.9 billion trust to fulfill VW's environmental mitigation obligations. The State of Mississippi was allocated \$9,874,413.91 under the trust. Mississippi has finalized and submitted its [Beneficiary Mitigation Plan](#) for utilizing the funds to the trust manager. The Application Package is currently being developed and it is expected to be released soon.

## **Regional Issues**

### **Struggling Farmers See Bright Spot in Solar**

Farmers are embracing another means of [turning sunlight into revenue](#) during a sharp downturn in crop prices: solar power. Solar panels are being installed across the Farm Belt for personal and external use on land where growers are struggling to make ends meet. The trade war has depressed commodity futures while the record spring rainfall left many farmers no time to plant a decent crop. Some farmers are now entering into long-term leases on their land to host solar farms to be built and financed by a third-party.

### **Hot Springs Predicts \$30M in Savings with Solar Arrays**

Generating renewable energy for the electrical grid is [expected to offset most or all](#) of Hot Springs, Arkansas' electrical costs. The 12.75-megawatt DC solar plant will be built across five city-owned properties and will be the state's largest solar municipal project. The city will pay Scenic Hill Solar of North Little Rock 5.90 cents per kilowatt hour generated by solar arrays. The city currently pays Entergy 8.88 cents per kilowatt hour on average. The agreement will save \$200,000 next year and more than \$30 million over the 28-year term of the agreement.

### **Fayetteville to Save with Integrated Solar and Battery Storage**

Fayetteville, Arkansas, is now home to one of the first large-scale solar-plus-storage systems in the mid-South, a joint project between the city, Ozarks Electric Cooperative, and Today's Power Inc. (TPI). The project is a [demonstration for how integrated solar and batteries](#) can together deliver dispatchable electricity into the grid when it is needed. With a capacity of 10 MW of solar and 24 MWh of energy storage, the \$23 million installation will save the city approximately \$180,000 per year. City officials aim to have 100% clean, cost-efficient power by 2030.

### **Solar Saving Energy and Raising Teachers' Pay**

Batesville School District has had solar at their school for one year. This month alone with their solar array they have generated \$13,000 worth of energy on-site, taking their normally \$17,000 electric bill down to \$4,000. According to Superintendent Michael Hester, their drive for the solar plant was to create revenue to find a way to [attract and retain teachers](#) in a very competitive market.

## America's Largest Solar Panel Plant Opens in Georgia

South Korean company Hanwha Q Cells says its new Dalton, Georgia, solar panel manufacturing plant [is the largest in North America](#). At the plant's grand opening, President Trump, Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, and company executives [tout solar tariffs](#) as the reason for its construction while solar industry experts warn they have reduced demand. The plant represents a nearly \$200 million investment with 650 employees. The plant will have an annual module production capacity of 1.7 gigawatts and is designed to serve the U.S. solar market. The United States is second only to China as a market for new solar power generation. Solar is gaining favor as its costs decline and power output increases.

## Alabama Power Plans to Increase Solar Capacity

Alabama Power announces plans to [build a new natural gas-fired power plant and increase solar capacity](#) by 400 MW to meet winter demand and increase grid reliability. The company plans to build 400 megawatts of solar-derived electricity from five new solar farms to be built in Calhoun, Chambers, Dallas, Houston and Talladega Counties, according to its [filing to the APSC](#). Each solar project comprises a nominal 80 MW photovoltaic facility and a nominal battery energy storage system. Alabama Power's plan also includes 200MW of demand side management, 726MW of a new build combined cycle plant, and to acquire an 890MW combined cycle plant (Central Alabama Generating station).

## Louisiana PSC Votes to Roll Back Net Metering

The Louisiana Public Service Commission [in a 3-2 vote](#) on Sept. 11 approved staff recommended changes to net metering policies for solar customers over the objection of consumers and industry stakeholders. [Under the approved changes](#), new rooftop solar customers will no longer receive the retail rate for energy sent back to the grid and will instead only be compensated at the "avoided cost" of the utilities. The 18,308 Louisiana homeowners with solar panels and those who install panels before Dec. 31 would continue selling their electricity at the higher retail rate for the next 15 years under the new rules. Just those who install solar panels starting on Jan. 1 would be paid at the avoided cost.

## Report: TVA Pushing for Long-Term All-Requirements Contracts

The Tennessee Valley Authority is trying to [rewrite contracts with local power companies](#) to maintain control and keep them in one-sided agreements, a clean energy advocate writes. TVA is a federal agency that generates and transmits electricity to 154 local power companies (LPCs) under contracts that many times prohibit the LPCs from buying electricity from anyone other than TVA. That prohibition is causing new tensions as options to generate their own energy or buy from other sources are becoming cheaper than TVA's rates.

## TVA Implodes Widow Creek Station – Watch the Video

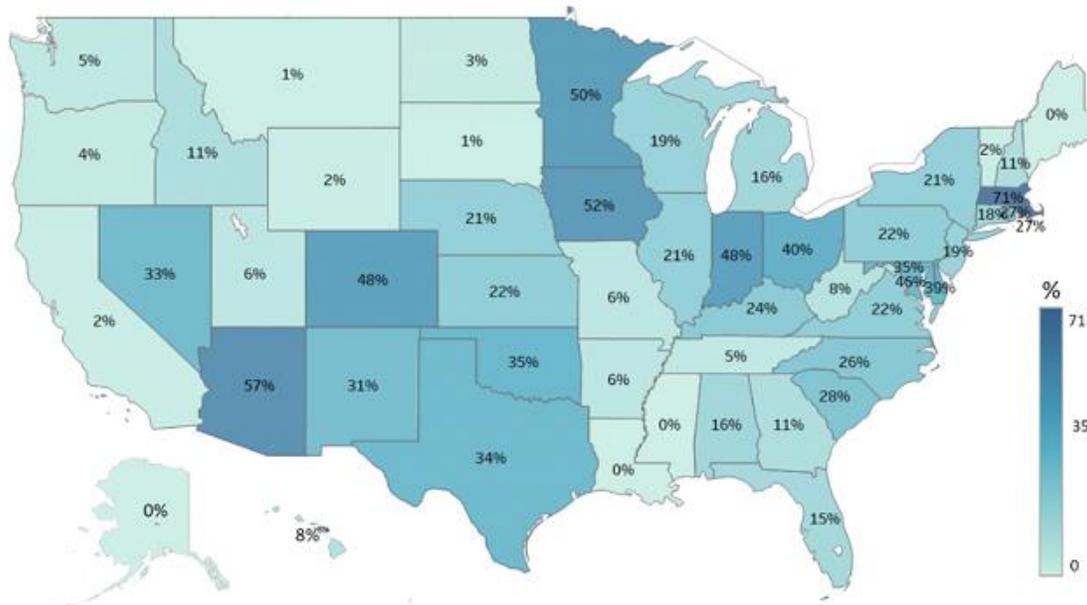
The Tennessee Valley Authority recently [demolished a coal plant](#) in Alabama that ceased operations in 2015, and the utility is preparing the site for economic development. Check out the video and turn up the volume. Aerial and remotely controlled cameras capture footage of the 500-foot stacks and boilers at the retired Widows Creek Fossil Plant that were safely imploded. More: <http://tva.me/hRs750wtBVs> Event video and photos are available on TVA [social media](#).

## Understanding the HERS Index

The Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Index is the industry standard by which a home's energy efficiency is measured. The HERS Index Score will tell you how well the home performs energy-wise. It's also the nationally recognized system for inspecting and calculating a home's energy performance. An

energy efficient home can help you save anywhere from 5% to 30% on energy bills. There are many reasons to get a HERS score for your home. But many states don't encourage the use of this tool. **Mississippi** is tied for last in the use of the HERS Index tool.

The below map contains the percentage of new single-family homes HERS rated in 2018:



## National Issues

### **Energy Department Moves to Roll Back Light-Bulb Standards**

The Department of Energy [moved to roll back energy-efficiency standards](#) that would have limited the sale of certain kinds of light bulbs as soon as next year. The DOE seeks to preempt rules that will subject four additional types of light bulbs to higher efficiency standards and argues that setting new standards for the standard household bulb is not feasible. The standards, scheduled to take effect in January 2020, would require most everyday light bulbs to achieve LED levels of energy efficiency and would save consumers billions of dollars.

### **October is Energy Awareness Month; Energy Efficiency Day was October 2**

President Trump recently [signed a proclamation](#) recognizing October as [Energy Awareness Month](#). Governor Bryant is set to also issue a proclamation. This month offers a chance to talk about our country's abundant energy, energy security and its clean energy future. There are numerous opportunities for learning about and joining in this national effort, including weatherizing homes, purchasing energy efficient appliances and investing in renewable energy solutions.

The fourth annual [Energy Efficiency Day](#) was observed on October 2 to extol efficiency's multiple benefits: jobs, cost savings, cleaner air, advanced technologies. More than 525 organizations, government agencies, companies, universities, and utilities officially recognized #EEDay2019. The US

Senate and at least two dozen cities, counties, and states issued [official proclamations](#) recognizing October 2, 2019 as Energy Efficiency Day.

## **Energy Efficiency Can Cut Energy Use and GHG Emissions in Half by 2050**

According to a new report from ACEEE, energy efficiency can slash US energy use and greenhouse gas emissions by about 50% by 2050, getting us halfway to our national climate goals. We can achieve almost all these savings, worth more than \$700 billion in 2050, by dramatically scaling up government policies and programs. This report examines 11 packages of efficiency opportunities in every economic sector and the policies that could unlock each of them. We find the greatest savings from efficient and electric vehicles, industrial efficiency and decarbonization, transportation system efficiency, upgrades to existing buildings and homes, zero energy new buildings and homes, and appliance and equipment efficiency. For more detail, check out ACEEE's [fact sheet](#) and [full report](#).

## **Utility-Scale Solar Construction Costs Continue to Decrease**

[Construction costs for utility-scale solar photovoltaic systems continued to fall](#) as costs for onshore wind turbines and natural gas generators rose in 2017, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). These three-generation technologies accounted for more than 97% of total capacity added to the grid in the United States in 2017. Since 2013, average costs for solar photovoltaic generators have fallen 37%, wind by 13%, and natural gas by 4.7%. Total investment in U.S. electric generating capacity in 2017 fell 27% from 2016.

## **FERC Proposal Would Change PURPA**

Federal energy regulators [propose major changes to the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act \(PURPA\)](#), which could affect Southeast states that qualified for solar development under the act. The filing [[Docket Nos. RM19-15-000 and AD16-16-000](#)] proposes to do away with a requirement for utilities to offer long-term fixed prices for qualifying facilities (QFs), even if they can produce electricity at less than the utility's avoided cost of generation. Some states have already undermined the federal policy with changes in avoided costs calculations, reduction in project size eligibility and shortened contract lengths.

## **U.S. Renewables Portfolio Standards: 2019 Annual Status Update**

[Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory has released its annual report reviewing key trends in state renewables portfolio standards](#) (RPS). The report, U.S. Renewables Portfolio Standards: 2019 Annual Status Report, covers recent legislative revisions, key RPS policy design features, state RPSs' compliance with interim targets, past and projected impacts on renewables development, and compliance costs.

## **EPA Honors 2019 Green Power Leaders**

The annual Green Power Leadership Awards recognize companies, institutions and cities for their efforts in advancing the nation's voluntary green power market. The overall Green Power Partner of the Year is Google Inc., which increased green power use by 3.5 billion kilowatt hours (kWh) in 2018. See the full list of winners at <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-honors-2019-green-power-leaders>.

## **2019 IREC Model Interconnection Procedures Released**

The Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) released its nationally applicable IREC Model Interconnection Procedures, [2019 Edition](#). The model procedures reflect the latest evolution in

best practices to facilitate higher penetrations of distributed energy resources (DERs) on the grid, integrating new technologies while maintaining grid safety and reliability.

The model procedures help state utility regulators, energy industry professionals, utilities, policymakers and other energy DER stakeholders as they develop and/or refine the rules of the road for grid access, known as interconnection. Included are important refinements that come from the use of these procedures across the country. It also takes the first steps toward defining a clear interconnection process for energy storage systems.

## **EIA Launches Biodiesel Production Capacity Report**

The new report includes the total biodiesel production capacity for all operating plants in both million gallons per year (gal/y) and barrels per day (b/d) as of January 1, 2019. The [2019 U.S. Biodiesel Plant Production Capacity Report](#) shows 102 operating biodiesel plants with 2.6 billion gal/year in biodiesel production capacity, or 167,000 b/d. More than half of the nation's biodiesel production capacity is in the Midwest. U.S. production of biodiesel reached 1.8 billion gallons (119,000 b/d) in 2018, implying a 72% utilization rate.

## **Largest Anaerobic Digester East of the Mississippi Breaks Ground**

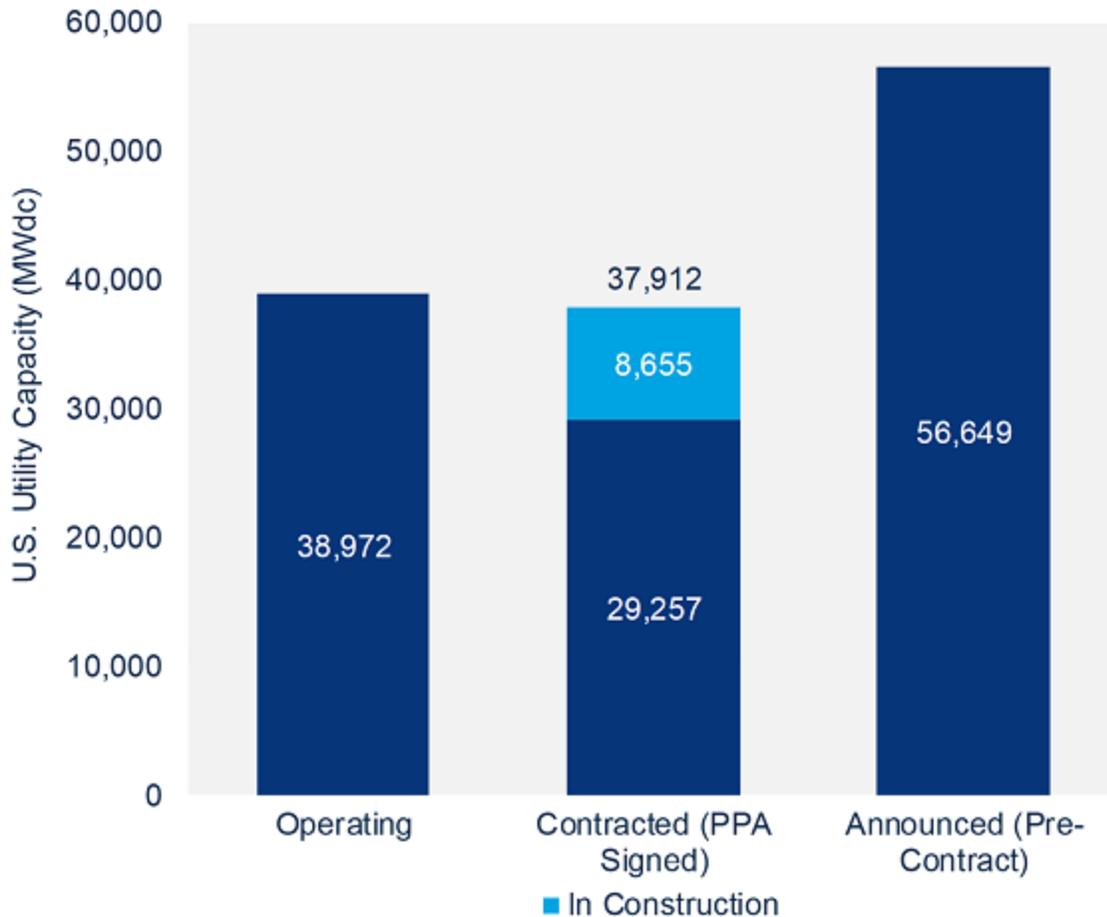
In Vermont, representatives from Vanguard Renewables, Middlebury College, Vermont Gas, Goodrich Farm, and the State of Vermont were on hand to celebrate the official groundbreaking for the largest anaerobic digester east of the Mississippi, with Middlebury College as the primary consumer of the renewable natural gas produced at the dairy farm.

## **Coal-Fired Electricity Generation Continues to Decline**

[New data](#) from the U.S. Energy Information Administration illustrates the rapid decline of coal-fired electricity, showing a more-than 13% decline in generation from the fuel in the first half of 2019. According to EIA's Electric Power Monthly, utility-scale coal facilities generated 470,131,000 MWh from January through June, compared to 541,676,000 MWh in the same period last year. Solar generation grew 10.5%, while gas grew 6.1% and nuclear generation remained stable. EIA expects coal to make up [less than a quarter of U.S. generation](#) this year, compared with about half just a decade ago. Moody's Investors Services has predicted coal-fired power could decline to [11% of U.S. electricity by 2030](#).

## **US Utility-Scale Solar Pipeline Soars to 37.9 GW; A New Record**

The U.S. solar industry now has the largest construction pipeline of utility-scale solar projects in history, signaling promising future prospects for solar energy development. According to the latest [U.S. Solar Market Insight Report](#), the contracted pipeline has ballooned to a record 37.9 gigawatts (GW). This follows record-high procurement of 15 GW in 2018. U.S. solar energy capacity could double in just a couple of years.



### Future Potential Supply of Natural Gas in the US at its Highest Level Ever

According to a new assessment of US gas resources from the Potential Gas Committee, [Potential Supply of Natural Gas in the United States](#), identifies that the US possesses a total mean technically recoverable resource base of 3,374 Tcf as of year-end 2018, an increase of 20 percent over the previous evaluation. The Committee's report provides the highest resource assessment and largest two-year increase in absolute resources in the Committee's 54-year history. Total shale gas resources evaluated for year-end 2018 accounts for approximately 62 percent of the country's total potential resources.

