

Energy Talk

Your Monthly Energy News Digest

January 2025





TOP STORY

EEI Congratulates House for Passing the Fix Our Forests Act

Last Friday, EEI interim President and CEO Pat Vincent-Collawn congratulated the House of Representatives for again passing the Fix Our Forests Act. "We applaud House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Bruce Westerman and Congressman Scott Peters for reintroducing this important legislation, which will enable better land management to help prevent wildfires before they happen and will protect communities from long-term costs.

"Wildfires are a growing challenge, affecting more communities across the United States each year. We need common-sense legislation to protect more homes and communities and to create a more reliable and resilient energy grid, while helping keep costs to customers as low as possible. We urge the Senate to follow the House's lead and pass the Fix Our Forests Act."



NEW ADMINISTRATION

EEI Congratulates New Trump Administration Officials

EEI is closely tracking the nominations of key leaders to serve in President Trump's Cabinet. Following their confirmations, EEI issued statements congratulating <u>Treasury</u> <u>Secretary Scott Bessent</u>, <u>Interior Secretary Doug Burgum</u>, <u>Transportation</u> <u>Secretary Sean Duffy</u>, <u>Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem</u>, and <u>Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin</u>.

EEI also <u>congratulated Mark Christie on being appointed chairman of the Federal</u> <u>Energy Regulatory Commission</u>. "Through his experience at the Commission and previously as a state regulator, Chairman Christie understands how essential stakeholder engagement is to building the infrastructure needed to enhance, strengthen, and secure the energy grid," said EEI interim President and CEO Pat Vincent-Collawn.



PUBLIC POLICY

Leading the Way to a Reliable, Secure Energy Future

Electricity demand is growing at the fastest pace in decades, and America's investorowned electric companies are positioned to meet this demand, safely and reliably, while continuing to deliver the energy that powers our economy and our daily lives.

Working with the new Administration, Congress, and regulators and legislators across the country, we are focused on advancing policies that ensure America is home to the industries, technologies, and jobs of tomorrow, while giving Americans access to opportunities never before possible.

Learn about <u>EEI's public policy platform</u> to support electric companies in delivering the energy future that customers want and expect.



RECORD-SETTING

Record Year for U.S. Electric Output in 2024

In 2024, the U.S. electric power industry set an all-time annual record for electric output at 4,181,671 gigawatt-hours of electricity, according to data compiled by EEI for the Weekly Electric Output (WEO) report. WEO measures output as the total amount of electricity generated from power plants and other generating facilities.

This output is a 2.6-percent increase from 2023 levels and a 1-percent increase from 2022 levels. The 2024 output also marks the third time in four years that electric output has increased more than 2.5 percent over the previous year's output level.

Eight of the nine WEO regions also experienced electric output increases in 2024 compared to 2023, with the Rocky Mountain and South Central regions both experiencing all-time annual output records. Both regions also had the largest percentage increases in output compared to 2023 levels—the Rocky Mountain region saw a 3.7-percent increase, and the South Central region saw a 3.5-percent increase.



INTERCONNECTIONS

Meeting Demand and Ensuring Resource Adequacy

"Expanding and upgrading America's critical energy infrastructure—while ensuring reliability and affordability for customers—has never been more important for our industry," writes EEI Executive Vice President, Business Operations Group and Regulatory Affairs, Phil Moeller for *Electric Perspectives*. In his column, Moeller outlines the findings of the latest Critical Consumer Issues Forum report on cost-based rate design.

"Innovative rate design structures can help ensure affordability for customers while allowing America's investor-owned electric companies to make the most of the grid of today while proactively building and preparing for the grid of tomorrow," he continues.

Read his full column in Electric Perspectives.



REGISTER NOW

Take Advantage of Lower Rates for EEI 2025

Registration is now open for EEI 2025! Our premier annual conference and thought leadership forum will take place June 2-4 at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans, located blocks from the iconic French Quarter.

With energy issues front and center, this year's conference will feature timely and dynamic keynote discussions with leading policymakers, industry and technology company CEOs, innovators, and influencers. Thought-provoking breakouts will address critical industry issues and priorities, and one-of-a-kind networking opportunities will help you make powerful connections.

Demand for electricity is growing at the fastest pace in decades, and America's electric companies are leading the way to a reliable, secure energy future. Don't miss your chance to be where the energy industry's present and future converge!

<u>Register now</u> before rates increase on February 1. We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans!



L to *R*: *Kwame* Canty, *Managing* Director of External Affairs, EEI; Alexis Sulentic, Director of External Affairs, EEI; Sunny Radcliffe, Former Director of Government Affairs, Portland General Electric; Kristine Telford, Executive Director of External Affairs, EEI.

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Portland General Electric Wins Inaugural EEI Corporate Citizenship Award

EEI announced Portland General Electric (PGE) as the winner of the inaugural EEI Corporate Citizenship Award for its Project Zero initiative. Selected by a panel of executives, the award recognizes EEI member companies for their innovative programs that support the growth and development of the communities they serve.

Project Zero is PGE's commitment to expanding learning pathways that inspire the next generation to learn, solve, and act on clean energy challenges and solutions. PGE partners with community-based organizations to address gaps in clean energy education through hands-on classroom activities, out-of-school experiences, and internship opportunities. Since its launch in 2020, Project Zero has reached more than 175,000 students with learning and engagement opportunities related to climate, sustainability, and clean energy.

Read more about the program in EEI's press release.



LESSONS OF LEADERSHIP

Building a Culture of Perserverance

Recently in *Electric Perspectives*, Steve Young, former executive vice president and chief commercial officer for Duke Energy, shared his thoughts on the evolution of the electric power industry, attracting and retaining a skilled workforce, and more. Young retired in June 2024 after serving in a variety of leadership positions during his 44 years at Duke Energy.

"A lot of young employees ask me for words of advice, and I always say, 'Be a good teammate.' I've never done anything alone."



TUNE IN

Electric Perspectives: The Podcast

The *Electric Perspectives* podcast discusses the latest trends and issues shaping the electric power industry.

On a recent episode, Arizona Public Service Chairman and CEO Jeff Guldner and BrightNight CEO Martin Hermann discuss how artificial intelligence (AI) is helping to accelerate the deployment of clean energy, the ways in which electric companies are integrating AI into their operations, the efforts underway to lead a cultural shift on AI adoption in the workplace, and more. This episode was sponsored by BrightNight.

On another recent episode, EEI Managing Director of Cyber and Infrastructure Security David Batz and EEI Senior Director of Cyber and Infrastructure Security Kaitlin Brennan highlight EEI's Culture of Security Initiative, which helps electric companies identify and share best practices through a comprehensive peer review program.

Listen to the episodes here or wherever you get your podcasts.



SAFETY FIRST

EEI Shares Winter Safety Tips

As the weather remains cold in many parts of the United States, EEI and our member companies are committed to helping you and your family stay safe. Use these winter tips to stay safe and prepared:

- Prepare now for potential winter storms by making sure your Emergency Outage Kit is stocked with food, water, medication, batteries, and other necessary items. It also is important that your family's contact information is current with your local electric company. This will help you receive updated information should a power outage occur during a winter storm.
- Keep space heaters away from flammable objects and curtains, and always turn them off before leaving your home.
- Be careful on snowy or icy walkways and be sure to check on elderly or handicapped neighbors.

Read more winter safety tips.

GET SOCIAL

Los Angeles Wildfire Response Continues



We have thousands of SCE, contract and mutual assistance personnel actively working together in our communities to repair damage and prioritize the hardest-hit areas.

Watch as these crews replace damaged wooden poles with new, fireresilient fiberglass equipment.



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