

The SAVINGS Spark



Cost Control Associates helps your organization reduce and better manage your energy, waste removal and telecom expenses. This monthly newsletter shares industry-related news, tips and updates.

May 2021



5 Benefits of Offsite Community Solar for Your Business

Offsite community solar is increasing its presence across the U.S. and quickly growing in popularity. These solar projects deliver an excellent solution for organizations that don't have adequate space or sunshine for their own installation but want to expand their energy portfolio to include clean, renewable solar energy.

[Learn more about Offsite Community Solar](#)

Energy Procurement Report: May 2021

Electricity

EIA forecasts U.S. electricity consumption to increase by 2.2% in 2021 and 1.0% in 2022. The rise is fueled by an increase in economic activity and lower than expected temperatures so far this year.

Because natural gas prices are on the rise, the share of electricity generated from coal is expected to increase over the new few years, up to 23% in 2022. However, as more solar and wind capacity come on line in the U.S., the share of renewable generating capacity is expected to rise as much as 22% in 2022.

Natural Gas Pricing

Natural gas prices at Henry Hub averaged \$2.66 per MMBtu in April, up from \$2.62 in March. The EIA predicts prices will average \$3.05 for all of 2021. This is up significantly from 2020 when the average price was \$2.03. Looking ahead, the EIA predicts that prices will fall to an average of \$3.02 in 2022.

The graph shows natural gas pricing over the past year.

Natural Gas



Natural Gas Storage Levels

EIA reported natural gas inventories ended April 2021 at about 2.0 Tcf, 3% lower than the five-year average. We expect this trend to continue through injection season. Towards the end of October, stocks should end up about 3% lower than the five-year average.

Economy

Easing of COVID-19-related restrictions around the country is contributing to increased economic activity. This in turn causes a significant increase in energy use. According to [IHS Markit](#), U.S. GDP declined by 3.5% in 2020 but is expected to grow by 6.2% in 2021 and 4.3% in 2022.

Starbucks Commissions Community Solar Projects for NYS



Read about a new community solar project in the state of New York. The first six of up to 23 community solar projects commissioned by Starbucks Coffee Company are now up and running.

They represent some of the first such community solar projects in the state. The solar projects will provide more than 119,885 MWhs of energy annually to Starbucks New York stores as well as the surrounding community.

[Read more....](#)

7 Tips for Negotiating a Telecom Contract



Telecom providers operate in a competitive marketplace, and this can give businesses an edge in negotiating pricing and services. But telecom contracts are complicated. There are many variable elements and contract clauses that are important to consider in your negotiations.

It's important to do your homework. Unless you are careful and knowledgeable, it's easy to miss critical items when negotiating. While terms vary widely, there are several key characteristics you should watch for. [The analysts at Cost Control Associates suggest these 7 tips to make it easier to negotiate your telecom contract.](#)

[Read 7 tips to get you started](#)

Get the Competitive Edge

Cost Control Associates has the industry expertise you need to get ahead. Our independence from suppliers and installers helps your business or organization pay less and understand more about its utility and other overhead expenses including energy, water/sewer, waste removal, telecom and [so much more](#). We've been doing it 30 years, and our experience shows. Client satisfaction is our top priority!

For more information on any of our services, please get in touch with [Brandon Sisson](#) at 770-307-7413

or complete the [contact form](#) on our website.



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