

# The SAVINGS Spark

Cost Control  
Associates, Inc.

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.

March 2020



## BLOG

### Why Businesses Measure Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Reducing GHG emissions isn't just good for the environment; it can have a significant impact on your business. Buildings account for 39 percent of CO2 emissions in the U.S. Therefore many larger commercial and residential buildings are required to reduce their output. [Learn more about GHG reporting and how it can improve your business....](#)

### Covid-19 and CCA

During these unprecedented times, we want you to know that Cost Control Associates is here to support your business. We have taken the necessary steps to keep our employees safe while continuing our work to support both current clients and future clients.

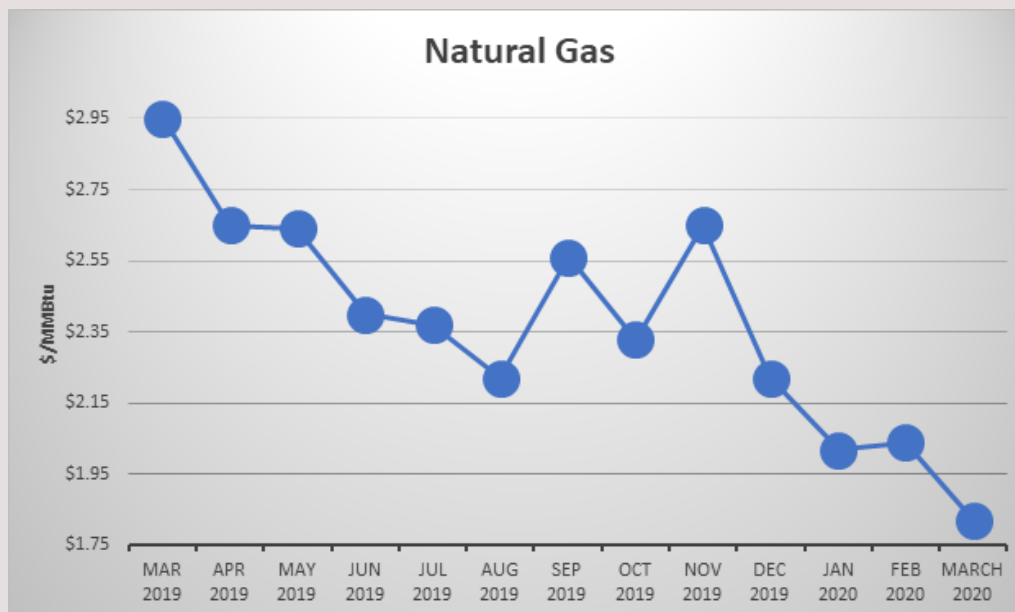
Because every day brings new news, we strive to stay flexible as we meet and respond to your needs. Our phones are still answered by a live person, and our customer service response times will continue to be within 24 hours (usually much less). Rest assured that we are here when you need us.

### Energy Procurement Report

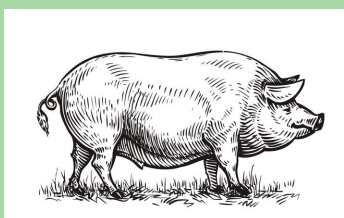
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**Natural gas futures:** With coronavirus anxiety still hanging over the economy, natural gas futures continue to fall. The April Nymex contract was down 1.4 cents to \$1.645/MMBtu as of March 26, 2020.

**U.S. storage levels:** As of March 26, the EIA reported a 29 Bcf weekly withdrawal from U.S. natural gas storage, which is more than what was expected. However, there was a 39 Bcf withdrawal recorded at this time in 2019, and the five-year average is 40 Bcf. Despite the larger withdrawal than expected, prices continue to decline due to concerns over the economy. The following graph shows pricing over the past year:



- **Nuclear energy use increasing:** Nuclear power plants consistently provide about 20% of the total annual electricity generation in the U.S. There are 30 states with operating nuclear power plants. According to the EIA, 12 of those states generated more than 30% of their electricity from nuclear power in 2019.
- **U.S. coal exports:** According to the EIA Annual Coal Report, U.S. coal exports in 2019 declined to 93 million short tons (MMst), a 20% decrease from the previous year. This can be attributed to the increase in renewable energy such as wind and solar. About 5% of the total existing U.S. coal-fired capacity was retired in 2019.
- **Natural gas used in electricity generation:** Natural gas continues to account for the largest share of electricity generation. The EIA reports natural gas accounted for 38% of total electricity generation in 2019, followed by 23% for coal and 20% for nuclear.



## ENERGY

### Methane, Manure and a Net-zero Pledge

Dominion Energy made big news last month with its pledge to go net-zero by 2050. It is one of the largest utilities to make this sort of pledge to date and is part of a wave in the utility sector. However, Dominion is different because it operates in 18 states and is the second-largest gas supplier in the nation. [Can they do it?](#)

## WASTE

### Plastic or Aluminum?

Since Ball Corp launched its aluminum-cup pilot in September, the company has swapped hundreds of thousands of landfill-bound plastic cups for aluminum alternatives at events across the U.S. The new kind of cup is marketed as "a sustainability game-changer," but is it better for the planet? [Read the pros and cons.](#)



## GOOD WILL

### Toilet Paper Kindness: "Share a Square"

In addition to donating \$1 million and one million rolls of toilet paper to the United Way Covid fund, Cottonelle calls on Americans to #ShareASquare to alleviate toilet paper stress. The social media initiative celebrates acts of generosity in our local communities and inspires further acts of kindness. [Learn how you can #ShareASquare.](#)

## Get the Industry Expertise You Need

Cost Control Associates is an independent consultant that helps businesses and organizations pay less and understand more about their utility expenses. We've been doing it almost 30 years, and our experience shows. Your interests are our top priority!

[CostControlAssociates.com](http://CostControlAssociates.com)

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