

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.

April 2021



How an Energy Consultant Cuts Your Business Spend

You may think you and your team are best equipped to manage your company's energy spend, because you know your facilities, operations and costs better than anyone. However, when it comes to saving money on energy expense, [the real value comes in understanding the energy marketplace](#) and applying that knowledge to your company's practices.

Learn how an energy consultant can help you

Energy Procurement Report: April 2021

Electricity

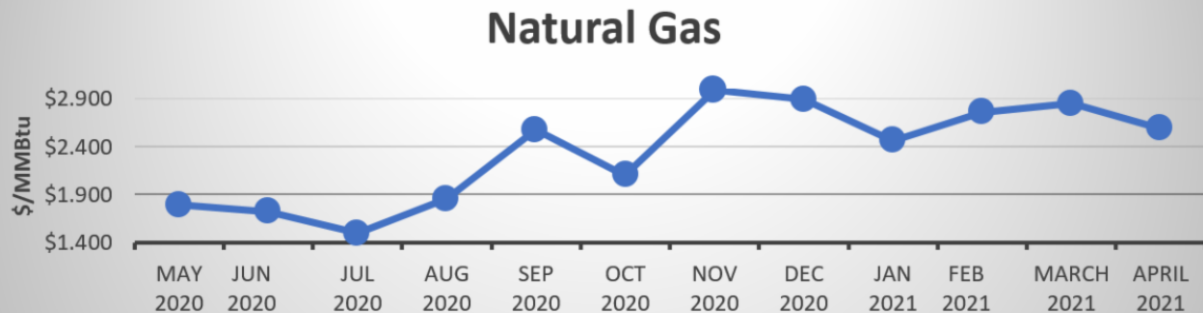
EIA predicts electricity consumption in the U.S. to increase by 2.3% in the residential sector and 0.7% in the commercial sector in 2021 after falling nearly 4% in 2020. One of the factors driving consumption has been the cold weather we've experienced so far in 2021 and economic growth as we come out of the pandemic. Looking ahead to 2022, EIA forecasts electricity consumption to grow by 1.3% overall.

Natural Gas Pricing

Henry Hub natural gas spot prices averaged \$5.35 per MMBtu in February, an increase from \$2.71 per MMBtu in January. This is the highest monthly Henry Hub spot price since February 2014. Again, the sharp rise in prices is largely due to the colder than expected temperatures across the country as well as the drop in natural gas production associated with the freeze-offs in Texas.

Natural gas prices averaged \$2.62 per MMBtu in March. Pricing came down precipitously from the February average. This is mostly due to better weather around the country that contributed to a sharp drop in demand for heating. EIA expects gas prices will average \$3.04 per MMBtu for all of 2021, up from \$2.03 per MMBtu last year.

The graph shows natural gas pricing over the past year.



Natural Gas Storage Levels

The EIA says inventory withdrawals in February were 829 Bcf. That's the largest February withdrawal on record. February included a record weekly withdrawal of 156 Bcf, mostly because of the conditions in Texas. Due to cold weather through February, natural gas inventories ended March about 2% lower than the five-year average. However, EIA is predicting inventories will end the 2021 injection season at more than 3.7 Tcf, right in line with the five-year average.

Renewable Energy

Electricity generation from renewable energy sources is expected to grow to 21% in 2021, up from 20% in 2020. For 2022 the EIA expects that number to jump to 23%. EIA is forecasting 16.1 gigawatts of new wind capacity will be added in 2021 and 5.8 gigawatts in 2022. EIA expects U.S. solar capacity to rise by 15.8 GW in 2021 and 14.9 GW in 2022.

Carbon Dioxide (CO²) Emissions

U.S. energy-related carbon dioxide emissions decreased by 11% in 2020. The decline in emissions results from the economic implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. EIA predicts CO² emissions will increase by 6% in 2021 when energy consumption increases as the economy continues to recover.

5 Tips for Preparing Your Business Energy Budget



Energy budgeting and forecasting does not have to feel like a shot in the dark. There are ways to gather the information you need, predict future behaviors and organize it into a budget that gives your business the planning insights that will help you succeed.

Energy is often a business' largest expense. Yet many organizations don't take the time to forecast or prepare a budget for the upcoming year's energy expenses. This is often because they lack the expertise or don't realize it's possible to forecast more accurately. [The analysts at Cost Control Associates suggest these five tips to make it easier to prepare your energy budget.](#)

[Read 5 tips to get you started](#)

Do You Know About Open & Close Utility Account Services?

Does your staff waste a lot of time on the phone trying to open and close utility accounts for your various locations? It's frustrating to wait long periods on hold--and then, when you finally get a customer service representative, you may be told you don't have the right paperwork or your information does not match theirs. Forget about trying to negotiate rates and deposits!

There is an Easier Way!

[Let our utilities experts manage the process for you.](#) We know how to work with your utility providers to begin and end services according to your schedule. We will get the job done and nothing will fall through the cracks. Our experts know the right questions to ask, the information you need at your fingertips, and the ins and outs of utility pricing. In the end, you'll save frustration, time and money!



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 almost 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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