

# 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.

July 2021



## Energy Storage Heats Up

### The U.S. Race to Reach Net Zero Goals

The U.S. cannot reach President Biden's recently set net zero goals without a vast expansion of renewable energy resources such as wind and solar. All eyes are on energy storage as the primary solution to make renewable energy work for more people. [Read about the race to build the better battery...](#)

Which Battery Will Win?

## Energy Procurement Report: July 2021

### Electricity

According to the [U.S. Energy Information Administration](#) (EIA) retail sales of electricity will increase by 2.3% in the U.S. throughout 2021, after falling by almost 4% in 2020. The increase is largely due to colder temperatures during First Quarter 2021 compared with the same timeframe during 2020.

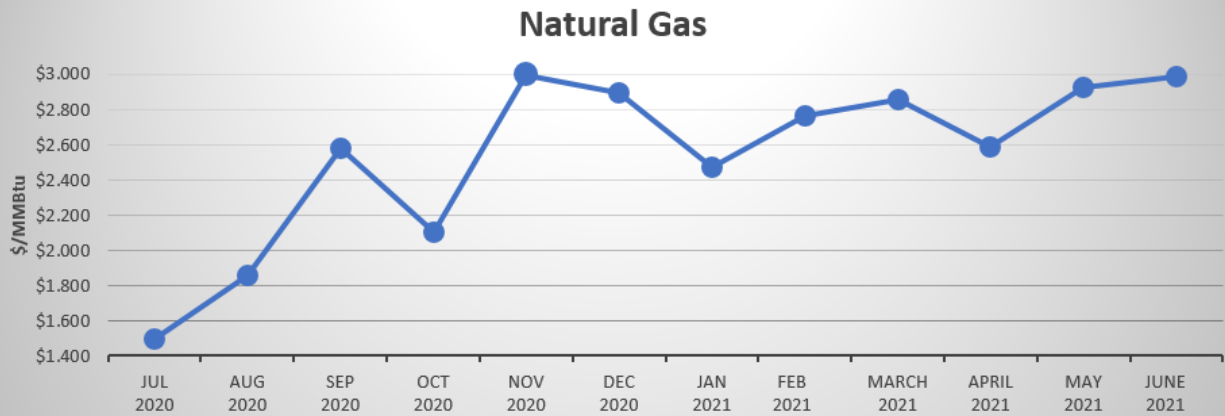
Due to high prices, natural gas continues to decline as a source of electricity generation. As a result, coal generation is expected to rise to 23% of total electricity generation. As the U.S. continues to increase solar and wind power capability, generation from renewable energy sources will rise. The renewables' share of U.S. electricity generation will climb to 21% in 2021 and as much as 23% in 2022

### Natural Gas

Natural gas prices at Henry Hub averaged \$2.91 per MMBtu in May and \$2.984 in June, up from \$2.66 in April. The EIA predicts prices to average \$3.07 for all of 2021, up significantly from the average 2020 price of \$2.03.

Current prices are buoyed in large part by a growing market for liquid natural gas (LNG). American LNG exports rose to record highs over the past few months, and the EIA forecasts an all-time high by the end of 2021. Prices may fall to an average \$2.93 in 2022 as the growth of LNG in Europe and Asia slows down and U.S. domestic natural gas production grows.

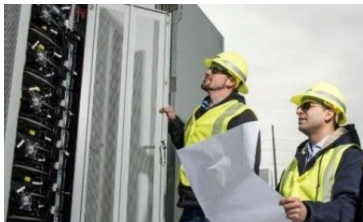
The following graph shows pricing over the past year:



### Natural Gas Storage Levels

EIA estimated natural gas inventories ended May 2021 at almost 2.4 Tcf, 3% lower than the five-year average. Inventories may finish at 3.6 Tcf after the injection season; this would be 4% below the five-year average.

## 6 Ways to Evaluate Energy Storage in 2021



2021 is expected to be another record-breaking year for storage, but with technological innovation accelerating across the market, renewable energy asset owners need to carefully select safe, reliable systems to protect their storage investments.

As the market accelerates, [these are a few of the essential questions asset owners should be asking.](#)

## 5 Benefits of Offsite Community Solar for Businesses



Community solar is an offsite model that is quickly growing in popularity. These projects deliver renewable solar-powered electricity to those who don't have adequate space or sunshine for their own installation or don't own their property or roof.

Offsite solar gives businesses the added advantage of avoiding upfront capital expenditure while reducing your greenhouse gas emissions and get closing to net zero goals. [Read about the benefits of community solar.](#)

## Get the Competitive Edge

Cost Control Associates has the energy 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.



Cost Control Associates, Inc. | 518-798-4437 | <https://costcontrolassociates.com>



Cost Control Associates, Inc. | 175 Broad Street, Suite 166, Glens Falls, NY 12801

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