

AMERICA'S POWER ARMY



Coal: America's most abundant resource helping lead the way to energy independence

In this Issue

ABEC is getting a new name: America's Power Army!

Take our easy member survey to let us know what you think about American important energy issues.

Read about our recent study showing that rising energy costs are hitting American families hard, especially those with lower incomes.

Can our electricity supply keep up with growing demand? It doesn't look good, according to the NextGen Energy Council.

The recent stimulus bill that passed Congress is boosting clean coal technology projects.

Contact Scott Barker or Suzanne Hammelman if you have any questions or comments about this issue of Energy and Environment News.

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ABEC is Changing its Name to America's Power Army

Americans for Balanced Energy Choices has a new name: America's Power Army.

We're renaming ourselves to be consistent with our advertising campaign, "America's Power" and the corresponding website, Americaspower.org.

In April we will also launch a new Web site for Army members. The new member site will include highly interactive features which will allow you to network with other Army members and become more active online in spreading the word about American coal.

AMERICA'S POWER ARMY

New America's Power Army Logo

While we are changing our name, there is no change in our mission. The mission of America's Power Army is to advocate public policies that advance environmental improvement, economic prosperity, and energy security. We believe that the use of coal—America's most abundant energy resource—is essential to providing affordable, reliable electricity for millions of U.S. consumers. Further, we are committed to continued and enhanced American leadership in developing and deploying new, advanced coal technologies that protect the environment.

Together with our parent organization ACCCE (American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity) we work at the federal, regional, state and local levels on a range of

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FAST FACT

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that a 15 percent cut in nationwide carbon dioxide emissions could cost the average household roughly \$1,600 per year.



energy policy issues, including climate change, mercury, ozone, and regional haze, as well as the siting of new, high tech clean coal-fueled power plants.

America's Power Army will become more of a community of concerned citizens who are involved and committed to getting America on the path to energy independence. Army members will be able to network with others in your community who share your concerns and beliefs about America's energy future and make sure we have affordable electricity based on American resources.

For 10 years ABEC members have been making a difference on issues that directly affect you, your family, your business and your community. The nearly 200,000 members America's Power Army members will continue to carry that banner.

Thank you for your continued commitment to ABEC... now America's Power Army.

Scott Barker
On behalf of America's Power Army

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Our New Ad

As always, it's been busy on the energy front as we spread the word about America's Power. In fact, we just launched a new ad. It drills home what we've been discussing with all of you: affordable energy is one of the lynchpins of our economy. You can see the ad on our website www.americaspower.org.



As you will see, we all move to the beat of America's economy—a beat driven by affordable energy. And nothing helps keep our energy affordable more than abundant, domestic coal.

Remember, coal generates electricity at a third of the price of most other fuels. So it's likely that if coal provides the majority of electricity in your state, you'll have cheaper power and be in a better position to attract businesses.

That's why we firmly believe affordable energy will play a key role in our economic recovery—and why we're working every day to make sure coal remains an integral part of America's energy mix. To read more about our take on the issues that are facing America, check out our blog, [behindtheplug](#).

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Tell Us What You Think

We are interested in your opinion and need your input. As we prepare to fight for American coal and funding for advanced clean coal technology in the U.S. Congress and state legislatures across the country, we wanted to make sure that members of America's Power Army are prepared for the battle ahead. You can help us by taking this [confidential online survey](#). It should take you less than five minutes.

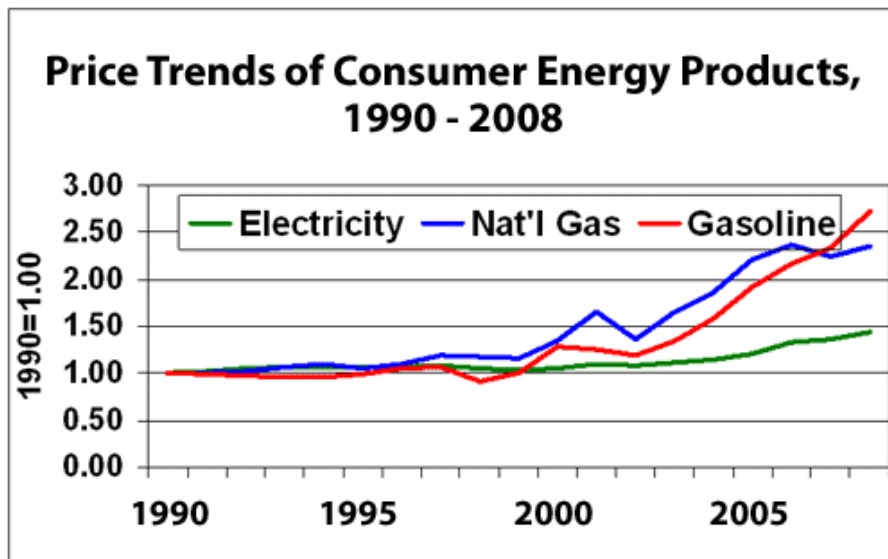
Thank you for your commitment and support. And thank you for taking time to respond to this survey. If you have questions or comments, please e-mail Suzanne



Study Show Energy Costs Hitting Families Hard

We all know gasoline prices went through the roof last year, but a new study by our parent organization, the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity (ACCCE), shows that American families saw their total energy costs increase by 75 percent from 2001 to 2008.

The good news, however, is that electricity costs increased less than 38 percent during that same timeframe showing that electricity remains an energy bargain in most parts of the country.



Source: U.S. Department of Energy (residential electricity and natural gas, retail gasoline averages).

Electricity costs have increased at less the rate of inflation over the last two decades. The primary reason for that is because we used lower-cost domestic coal for half our nation's electric generation.

Lower income families bear a disproportionate share of the burden, with U.S. families earning \$50,000 paying 20 percent of their after-tax income in 2008 for energy costs. The study also reveals energy costs consumed a quarter of after-tax income when families made \$30,000 or less.

Other findings:

- Black and Hispanic families earning less than \$30,000 annually spent 27 percent and 23 percent of their after-tax incomes on energy in 2008, respectively, reducing their ability to pay for other necessities such as housing, food, education and health care.
- Gasoline and residential natural gas have increased the most in percentage terms: 172 percent and 135 percent since 1990, respectively.
- Residential electricity prices have increased just 44 percent since 1990, below the rate of inflation (67 percent).
- The use of low-cost domestic coal for more than 50 percent of electricity generation has helped to keep electric prices low relative to other energy sources.

Joe Lucas, Senior Vice President of Communications for ACCCE, commenting on the study, said, "As our economy is faltering and more and more Americans are finding it hard to make ends meet, adopting policies that help keep energy costs affordable



should be a national priority."

Read the [complete findings](#) of the energy cost study.

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Is it Getting Dark in Here?

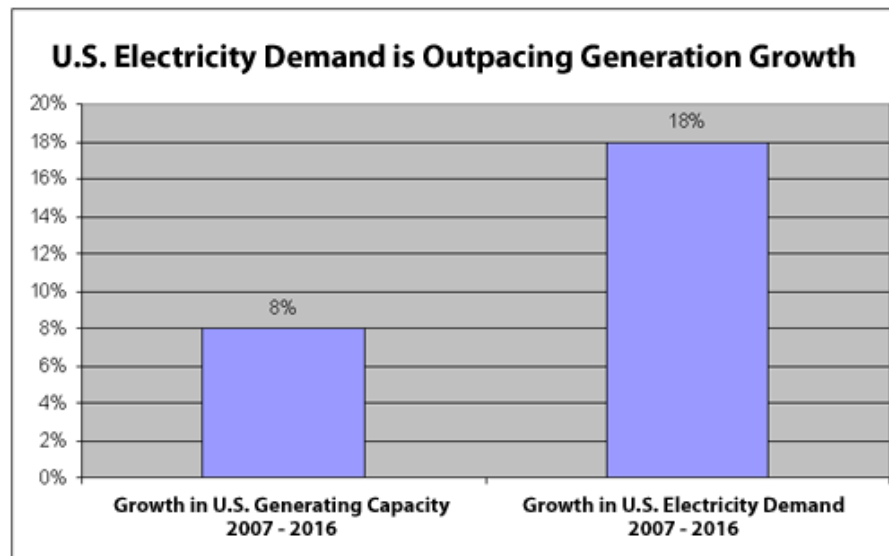
Article: 5 years after a giant blackout, concerns about electrical grid linger

Can U.S. electricity power generation keep up with consumer demand?

"No" is the answer according to the NextGen Energy Council whose report "Lights Out in 2009?" found serious deficiencies in both the electricity supply and transmission capability in the U.S.

Major findings:

- The U.S. faces potentially crippling electricity brownouts and blackouts...which may cost tens of billions of dollars and threaten lives.
- U.S. baseload generation capacity reserve margins have declined precipitously to 17 percent in 2007, from 30-40 percent in the early 1990s. A 12-15 percent capacity reserve margin is the minimum required to ensure reliability and stability of the nation's electricity system.
- Compounding this capacity deficiency, the projected U.S. demand in the next seven years is forecast to grow by 18 percent, far exceeding the projected 8 percent growth in baseload generation capacity between now and 2016.



- Opposition to generation and transmission projects...is the single biggest threat to maintaining the reliability of the North American electrical grid—e.g., keeping the lights on and fueling future economic growth in the U.S.

Findings such as these have prompted Rick Sergel, President of the North American Electric Reliability Corp., to say, "We're to the point where we need every possible resource: renewables, demand response and efficiency, nuclear, clean coal—you name it, we need it."

[Read the full report \(PDF\).](#)

The NextGen energy Council is a non-profit collaborative of industry, Western and Great Plains Governors, academic institutions, financial leaders, conservation groups and others involved in the development and deployment of advanced clean-coal technologies.



Stimulus Funds Boost Clean Coal Technology Projects

The stimulus bill that recently passed Congress and was signed by the President includes \$3.4 billion for clean coal technology research and several projects—some already underway—are vying for the funds. As noted by the *New York Times*, "The federal money is the latest sign of a growing interest worldwide in clean coal technologies, which backers believe could prove one of the most significant ways to tackle global warming."

Among the projects that may benefit are:

- A Duke Energy project in Edwardsport, Indiana that would trap carbon dioxide and store it underground instead of emitting it into the atmosphere;
- FutureGen, a public-private venture scuttled by the Bush administration early last year that also seeks to store carbon dioxide;
- A Babcock and Wilcox project for carbon capture; and,
- A plan to add carbon capture capability on older coal fueled plants by American Electric Power in New Haven, West Virginia.

Our parent organization, American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity (ACCCE) has compiled a list of [80 carbon capture and storage projects](#) in the United States. Some are actual commercial-scale CO₂ storage projects. A few demonstrate commercial use of available carbon capture technologies. The majority represent ongoing research into the carbon capture and storage techniques that will be required for broad commercial deployment in conjunction with coal-based generation here in the U.S. and around the world.

Joe Lucas, ACCCE Senior Vice President, said, "By investing in energy infrastructure projects like advanced clean coal projects, we can create jobs, promote domestic energy security, ensure access to affordable and reliable electricity, and promote continued progress in reducing emissions and protecting the environment."

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"This is America. We figured out how to put a man on the moon in 10 years. You can't tell me we can't figure out how to burn coal that we mine right here in the United States of America and make it work."
—President Barack Obama (during the 2008 campaign)