



Save these Dates!

PMEA Spring Superintendents/ Foremen Meeting
March 26 & 27, 2026 @ The Nittany Lion Inn, State College
Registration opens in January 2026

PMEA Reception – June 1, 2026
5:00 – 7:00 pm @ PSAB Conference, Hershey Lodge

PMEA 2026 Annual Conference – September 9 – 11, 2026
Omni Bedford Springs, Bedford

PMEA Business Workshop
– September 9, 2026 @ Omni Bedford Springs, Bedford

2026 Training for Line Crews
Registration opens prior to each class

Customer Service (*open to all municipal departments*)
March 10 – Grove City
March 12 – Chambersburg
March 13 – Lansdale

Overhead Troubleshooting
April 9 & 10 – Grove City
April 13 & 14 – Chambersburg
April 15 & 16 – Lansdale

Advanced Transformer
June 4 & 5 – Grove City
June 8 & 9 – Chambersburg
June 10 & 11 – Lansdale

Underground Troubleshooting & Grounding
September 14 & 15 – Grove City
September 21 & 22 – Chambersburg
September 23 & 24 - Lansdale

Safety for Lineworkers
October 22 & 23 – Grove City
October 26 & 27 – Chambersburg
October 28 & 29 – Lansdale



*Wishing you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*

PUC Alerts Consumers to Electric Price Changes

Encourages All Customers — Especially At-Risk Households — to Contact Utilities Early and Explore Affordability Options Before Winter Bills Rise

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) is alerting consumers that energy supply prices for all PUC regulated electric utilities will adjust on December 1. These seasonal changes matter: during the winter heating months, the cost of electricity can account for more than half of a typical customer bill.

The PUC urges consumers who are worried about winter heating bills to act early and Call Utilities Now to discuss affordability options and assistance programs that will help them to stay connected.

Electric PTC Adjustments for Residential Customers

The generation/supply PTC typically makes up 40% to 60% of the customer's total utility bill, but the actual impact on total bills will vary based on weather, the efficiency of your heating system, and individual usage. The Commission does not regulate energy prices themselves, which are driven by the regional energy market.

Price Increases (Effective December 1)

Duquesne Light: 12.43 to 13.75 ¢/kWh (+10.6%)
Pike County Light & Power (estimated): 10.1923 to 11.21 ¢/kWh (+9.9%)
Met-Ed: 11.905 to 12.965 ¢/kWh (+8.9%)
Penelec: 11.004 to 11.747 ¢/kWh (+6.75%)
Penn Power: 11.858 to 12.606 ¢/kWh (+6.31%)
West Penn Power: 10.318 to 10.947 ¢/kWh (+6.1%)
PECO: 10.4 to 11.024 ¢/kWh (+6%)
PPL: 12.49 to 12.953 ¢/kWh (+3.7%)

Price Decreases (Effective December 1)

Wellsboro Electric: 12.809 to 12.04 ¢/kWh (−6%)
UGI Electric: 11.471 to 11.213 ¢/kWh (−2.25%)

Pending December 1 Prices

Citizens' Electric: 11.419 to Pending ¢/kWh

December 1 PTC Adjustments for Small Business Customers

For small business customers, the PUC notes that most EDCs are also adjusting their PTCs on December 1 in their small commercial rate classes. Among the state's major EDCs, price changes in default service rates for small businesses will vary:

Duquesne Light small business customers will see a PTC increase of more than 12%. PTC increases in the FirstEnergy service territories (Met-Ed, Penelec, Penn Power and West Penn Power) range between 6.5% and 13.8%.

Small business customers in UGI's service territory will see a PTC drop of approximately 2.24%.

Source: PUC Press Release, 11/24/2025

PJM Capacity Auction Results for 2027/2028 – Hits Cap Again, Not Enough Supply

According to the PJM report, the 2027/2028 PJM Base Residual Auction cleared at the temporary price cap of **\$333.44** per MW-day, which represents only a modest 1.3% increase from the prior year's capped price of \$329.17. However, this artificial ceiling is masking severe market conditions. Without the cap, PJM's simulation indicates the market would have cleared at **\$529.80** per MW-day—59% higher than the actual clearing price. The cap prevented 809.6 MW of offered capacity from clearing because those resources had offer prices above the ceiling.

The auction reveals a critical supply shortage that falls well short of reliability targets. PJM procured a total of 145,777 MW when combining the 134,478 MW cleared through the RPM auction with 11,299 MW committed through Fixed Resource Requirement arrangements. This leaves a substantial shortfall of 6,623 MW below the RTO Reliability Requirement of 152,400 MW. The cleared capacity represents only a 14.8% reserve margin compared to the 20% target needed to maintain reliability standards of one loss-of-load day every ten years. This 5.2 percentage point deficit is significant enough to trigger mandatory reliability investigations under PJM's tariff rules, and if the shortage persists for two more auctions, it will require a Reliability Backstop Auction.

On the supply side, total offered capacity increased modestly by 955.8 MW from the previous year to 136,147.6 MW. New resources contributed 350.7 MW of capacity while uprates to existing generation added another 423.6 MW.

The market structure remained unconstrained with no locational deliverability areas experiencing binding transmission limits, meaning all zones cleared at the uniform RTO-wide price. However, the market failed the Three-Pivotal Supplier Test, indicating insufficient competition and triggering mitigation measures on existing generation resources. Financially, the auction will result in \$16.4 billion in total payments to capacity resources, up 1.9% from \$16.1 billion in the prior year. Yet this figure is estimated to be \$0.8 billion lower than what would have been paid if the auction had secured enough capacity to meet the full reliability requirement. More dramatically, PJM's simulation shows that without the artificial cap and floor, the market would have cleared at higher prices and generated \$26.3 billion in payments—\$9.9 billion more than the actual results—while also procuring an additional 792 MW of capacity closer to reliability targets.

Source: PJM, 2027/2028 Base Residual Auction Report, December 17, 2025.

There's More than One Way to Power Data Centers

Hundreds of billions of dollars are pouring into artificial intelligence, driving the U.S. economy. The profits that technology leadership investors seek depend on meeting the electricity needs of data centers, warehouse-sized facilities filled with servers that power the digital world, including AI.

By the end of 2025, U.S. data centers are projected to need 22 percent more grid power than they did the year before and almost three times more soon after. S&P Global puts the 2030 need at over 134 GW (gigawatts). One GW is enough to meet the average annual energy needs of about 700,000 homes.

Eric Gimon, a senior fellow at the nonpartisan think tank Energy Innovation, hopes to provide legislators and state officials working to attract data centers with a more nuanced picture of what they can do to fill gaps between energy demand and supply.

“It’s the normal human thing when we’re dealing with complexity to cling to the simplest ideas,” he says. “People have devolved to the thinking that the way to deal with a big new load is a big new generator.”

Through a [new report](#), Gimon hopes to move beyond what he calls “firm fixation.” He makes the case that overemphasis on “firm” power — electricity from sources that are always “on,” such as nuclear reactors or gas-fired power plants — leads to missed opportunities.

It can cause utilities and developers to overlook solutions like energy efficiency, or batteries connected to solar and wind generators, which cost less, can be implemented more quickly and reduce risk from overinvestment in local fixed capacity vulnerable to shifts in demand, he argues.

Negotiating Power

It’s well known that data centers can have serious environmental impacts and require massive amounts of water to cool the servers. Communities have increasingly pushed back on their construction, with complaints about noise and the possibility of increased energy costs. States and localities have the best chance of making deals to address these issues when a data center is first built, Gimon says — when it’s getting permits, authorization to connect to the grid, and when the utility is deciding how much to charge.

This is the time to ensure data center developers make fair commitments to help cover the infrastructure costs that come with their energy needs, and to push them toward solutions that make the most of existing resources and support the energy grid, Gimon argues. These could include energy efficiency requirements, using data center waste heat to generate electricity or flexibility regarding peak use times.

Gimon also points to a report from Rewiring America arguing that household energy efficiency and rooftop solar could potentially free up enough existing grid energy to meet the needs of the biggest data centers. Governments may be able to secure agreements from companies to fund efficiency projects for the rest of the grid to help meet their needs.

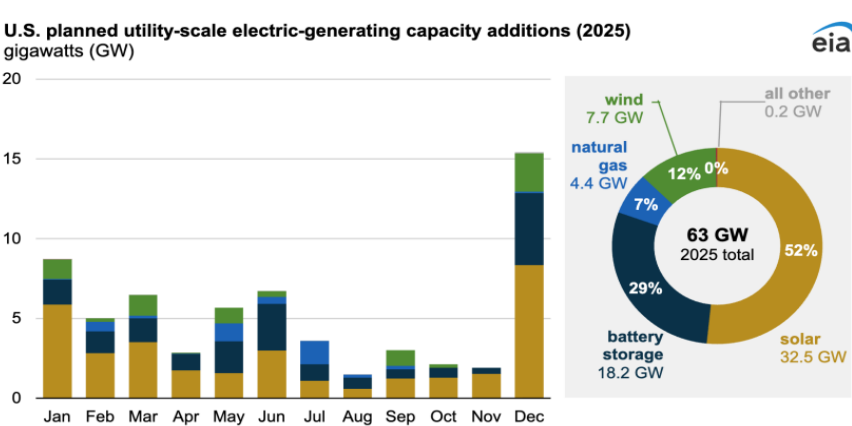
They may be better able to get these kinds of commitments from large technology companies like Amazon Web Services or OpenAI, which are building huge data centers to deliver their services. These companies may have a vested interest in gaining community buy-in and have a greater ability to make long-term energy use projections, Gimon argues.

It may be harder to secure these kinds of promises from “co-location” facilities — large warehouses owned by developers and rented out to multiple separate entities. These developers may be hesitant to make any deals that might affect their ability to draw tenants or the long-term value of their properties, Gimon says.

Drawing From Existing Resources

It’s common for conversations about data centers and energy use to focus on giant power sources like gas-fired plants or nuclear energy facilities. And certainly they will have to make use of those existing energy sources.

But Gimon argues that states and localities shouldn’t be afraid of a varied approach to meeting energy demands, leaning more heavily on renewables like wind and solar. The usual criticism of these sources is that they don’t provide a constant enough supply to power giant data centers.



That’s not the whole picture, Gimon says. Energy demand from AI data centers may be enormous, but they don’t operate at peak demand at all times. “Depending on what they are doing, they could be running their chips 70 percent of the time, 50 percent of the time or 40 percent of the time,” says Gimon. “They also turn off and on a lot.”

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Powering Data Centers (continued)

They also tend to be built in phases. “That’s part of what makes it difficult to serve them with one big power plant,” says Gimon. “You can be undersized or oversized depending on where you are in phase in or phase out.”

Using batteries can assuage concerns about the intermittent nature of renewables. According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency, wind, and solar account for more than two-thirds of utility-scale electric-generating capacity additions planned for 2025.

If governments can secure agreements with data centers to avoid peak energy use during periods of high demand for other grid users (like the afternoon of a summer day, for example), it can create more flexibility in choosing energy sources that can meet need.

“By exploring the nuanced solutions, policymakers can avoid overcommitting to outdated firm resources and instead adopt strategies that embrace modularity, flexibility, and clean energy,” Gimon writes. This can require a deeper dive in the complexity of energy systems by those in government who have responsibility for regulation or legislation.

The Tip of the Spear

Over the last 20 years, energy use decreased from 60 percent of what was available to users to 40 percent, Gimon says. The emergence of an energy-intensive industry, and cross-sector conviction that the nation’s fate depends on growing it as fast as possible, is a head-spinning reversal of this trend.

Data centers are just the tip of the spear, Gimon says. The dawning era of building electrification and the growth of electric vehicles, including heavy duty trucks, mean load growth will continue even if the data center craze crashes and burns.

“We’re in a new era of demand growth that we haven’t seen in a long time in the U.S.,” Gimon says. “It’s going to require an all-of-government approach to manage that, to manage new facilities, manage new generation and find ways to do a better job of using the infrastructure that we have.”

Source: Carl Smith, *Governing*, December 8, 2025

Lend Your Voice to Public Power in DC



Plan now to attend the APPA Legislative Rally in Washington, DC next year and help our federal leaders understand the issues that impact our public power communities. In addition to energy related issues, come and discuss workforce challenges, specific funding needs, and other barriers to effectively serving your communities. Registration is now open for the rally on February 23 – 25, 2026. PMEA arranges meetings with PA Congressional delegation members to share information on the most pressing issues. Visit the APPA website for more information, <https://www.publicpower.org/event/legislative-rally>.

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