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Short-Term Energy Outlook Supplement: Expanded Forecasts for Renewable Energy Capacity and Generation

July 2017



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Overview

Beginning with the July 2017 *Short-Term Energy Outlook (STEO)*, EIA is expanding its presentation of data and forecasts for electric generating capacity and electricity generation from renewable energy sources. EIA is now publishing forecasts for capacity and electricity generation from small-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) systems. The new small-scale solar PV forecasts are presented in a new standard *STEO* table (Table 8b). This table also shows capacity and electricity generation estimates for large-scale power plants from all renewable technologies.

Small-scale solar PV systems are defined in EIA publications as those smaller than 1 megawatt (MW)¹ in size and are typically of the type installed on the rooftops of residences or businesses. They are also referred to as distributed generation systems in order to distinguish them from electric generating units at centrally-located power plants. In most cases, small-scale solar PV systems are interconnected with local electric distribution lines, allowing them to export electricity to the power grid. Owners of the small-scale systems are often reimbursed by electric utilities for supplying electricity onto the grid through a process called net metering.

EIA currently publishes historical U.S. data starting in 2014 for small-scale solar PV gross generation in the *Electric Power Monthly* and in the *Monthly Energy Review*. The historical values for small scale solar PV generation and capacity are based on net metering data collected on the annual Form EIA-861 and the monthly Form EIA-861M surveys. Detailed state-level data for both generation and capacity are available online in the monthly EIA-861M database.²

EIA's surveys collect information from electric utilities and other providers on data such as the number of customers with small-scale solar PV systems and the aggregate capacity of those systems. Much of the electricity generated by small-scale solar PV systems is consumed on-site (that is, behind the customer's meter) and is otherwise masked by net metering. So, electric utilities do not necessarily know the total amount of electricity generated by their customers' solar PV systems. EIA has developed statistical methods to make state-level estimates of monthly generation by small-scale solar PV for the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors using information from its surveys and other sources.³

Small-scale solar PV forecasts in the *STEO*

The *STEO* incorporates historical small-scale solar PV data from the Form EIA-861M database and forecasts monthly U.S. generation and capacity values through the end of the *STEO* forecast horizon (12-24 months) for the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors.

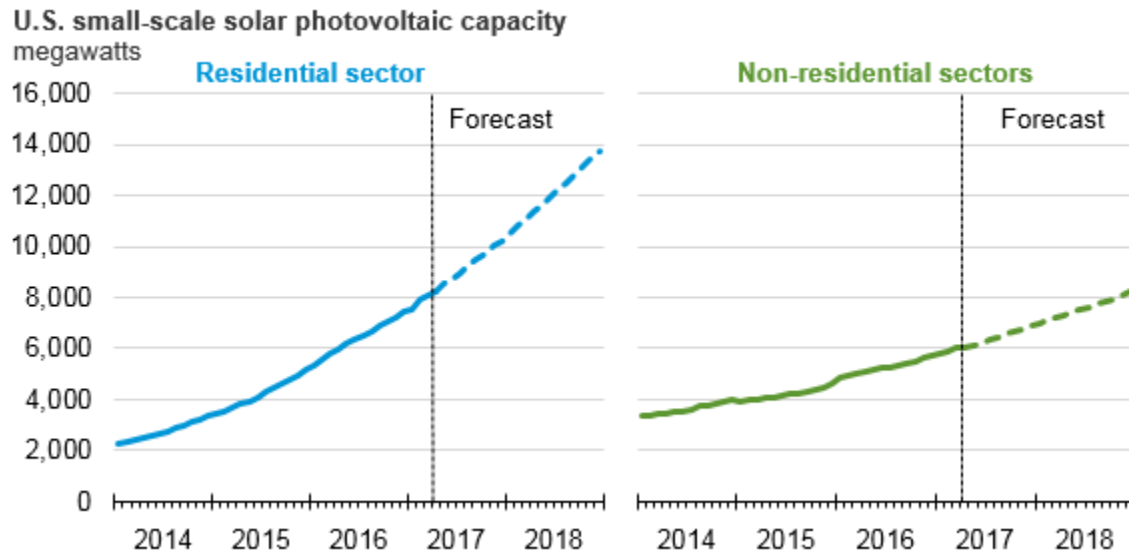
Residential small-scale solar PV capacity was about 7,400 MW at the end of 2016, which is 43% higher than a year earlier. Installations of small-scale solar PV in nonresidential (commercial and industrial)

¹ Most EIA publications report generating capacity data for all energy sources in terms of alternating current (AC), which is the type of electricity that flows on the transmission grid. Some organizations report small-scale solar PV capacity in direct current (DC) since PV panels produce DC electricity.

² <https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/eia861m/>

³ More information about the imputation methodology for small-scale solar PV generation is available in the appendix to the *Electric Power Monthly* publication <<https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/pdf/epm.pdf>>

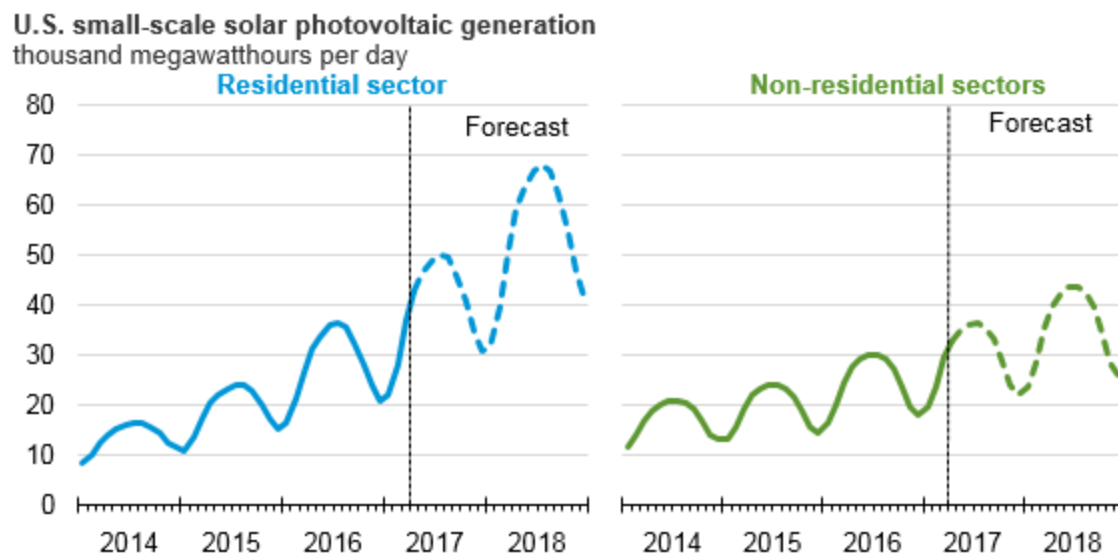
sectors have not been growing as strong as in the residential market. Nonresidential capacity at the end 2016 was almost 5,800 MW, which is 26% higher than at the end of 2015. The July 2017 *STEO* forecasts installed small-scale solar PV capacity in the residential and nonresidential sectors will grow to 13,700 MW and 8,200 MW, respectively, by the end of 2018.



Source: EIA, *Short-Term Energy Outlook*, July 2017

Electricity generation from small-scale solar PV systems has been growing along with the increase in capacity. Monthly generation from solar PV systems follows a regular seasonal pattern that peaks in July and reaches its lowest point in January, proportional to the number of hours of sunlight in each month.

The July 2017 *STEO* projects that residential small-scale solar PV systems in the United States will generate an average of 39.8 thousand megawatthours per day (MWh/day) in 2017, which is 39% higher than in 2016. Small-scale solar PV generation from non-residential sector is expected to grow by 21% this year, averaging 29.7 thousand MWh/day.



Source: EIA, *Short-Term Energy Outlook*, July 2017

Small-scale solar PV capacity and generation model

The small-scale solar PV component of the *STEO* model is designed to provide monthly projections of U.S. capacity and generation for the residential sector and the non-residential (commercial and industrial) sectors. The projections are developed using econometric regression equations, one for each sector and each component (capacity and generation).

The econometric regression equations are structured using time-series techniques, specifically autoregressive integrated moving average estimation with explanatory variables (ARIMAX), in which the small-scale solar PV capacity projections are based on recent trends in small-scale solar PV additions along with pertinent economic factors. For, example, the residential capacity econometric equation uses personal income as an explanatory variable. These capacity forecasts are then used in other econometric regression equations to produce forecasts of monthly electricity generation, which are based on historical seasonal patterns in the utilization rate of small-scale solar PV capacity. All equations in the small-scale solar model are estimated using data from January 2014 through the most recent available month.

Residential Capacity Equation

The econometric equation for forecasting U.S. residential small-scale solar PV capacity depends mostly on peer effects in capacity installations. Personal income is included as an explanatory variable to reflect households' ability to purchase solar PV systems. Using an ARIMAX model selection procedure based on minimizing the Schwartz Information Criterion along with an analysis of out-of-sample forecasting performance, EIA has determined that second-differencing the residential capacity and personal income data with an AR(2) specification for the model equation is most appropriate. The equation used for forecasting residential U.S. small-scale solar capacity is then:

$$\Delta^2 SODRC_USX = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1(\Delta^2 PYR) + \alpha_2 AR(1) + \alpha_3 AR(2)$$

where $SODRC_USX$ = U.S. small-scale solar PV installed capacity for residential sector, in MW
 PYR = Real household personal income, in 2009 dollars
 $AR(1)$ = First-order autoregressive term
 $AR(2)$ = Second-order autoregressive term
 Δ^2 = Second difference of variable
 α_x = estimated coefficients

An AR(2) specification allows the residential capacity forecast to adapt quickly to changes in the trend over time, compared with using a regression with a simple trend, for example.

Non-residential Capacity Equation

The econometric equation for forecasting non-residential capacity follows a different structural form than the residential equation. The commercial and industrial markets are still at the early stage of adopting PV technology. As a result, no economic explanatory variables were found to adequately explain growth in non-residential installed capacity, and the equation is structured using an automatic ARIMA selection procedure. The best fitting model consists of regressing the first difference of the log of non-residential capacity against a constant and a dummy variable that accounts for a shift in the installed capacity series in January 2016:

$$\Delta \log(SODNC_USX) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 D1601$$

where $SODNC_USX$ = U.S. non-residential small-scale solar PV installed capacity, in MW
 $D1601$ = A dummy variable for the January 2016 observation
 $\Delta \log$ = Difference of log of variable
 α_x = estimated coefficients

The econometric regression equation for non-residential capacity can be interpreted as a constant-growth model. Another equation estimates the amount of small-scale solar PV capacity in the commercial sector as a share of non-residential capacity. Forecast capacity for the industrial sector is then calculated as the difference between the forecast non-residential and commercial sector capacities.

The *STEO* model allows for adjustments based on analyst judgment. Positive or negative adjustment factors may be added to the modeled capacity estimates to produce the published capacity forecasts:

$$\begin{aligned} SODRC_US &= SODRC_USX + SODRC_US_A \\ SODNC_US &= SODNC_USX + SODNC_US_A \end{aligned}$$

To forecast the amount of electricity generation from small-scale solar PV systems, the model equations for each sector are structured to estimate the daily utilization rate of forecast capacity using monthly dummy variables to account for the strong seasonal patterns in solar generation. For example, the equation for forecasting U.S. small-scale solar PV generation in the residential sector is specified as:

$$1,000 * \left(\frac{SODRP_US}{24 * SODRC_US} \right) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 JAN + \alpha_2 FEB + \dots + \alpha_{12} DEC + \alpha_{13} AR(1)$$

where $SODRP_US$ = U.S. residential sector small-scale solar PV generation, in thousand MWh/day
 $SODRC_US$ = U.S. residential small-scale solar PV installed capacity, in MW
 JAN, FEB, \dots = Monthly dummy variables for observations in January, February, etc.
 $AR(1)$ = First-order autoregressive term
 α_x = estimated coefficients

The model equations were estimated using the Eviews 9.5 software package. Detailed econometric estimation results for the small-scale solar PV capacity and generation equations in each sector are shown in the appendix to this supplement. EIA periodically re-evaluates the specification of equations in the *STEO* model to reflect the current market and regulatory structure of the industry.

Changes to *STEO* renewable energy tables

EIA has expanded its presentation of renewable energy data in the *STEO* standard tables and associated datasets to include the new small-scale solar PV capacity and generation forecasts. The former *STEO* Table 8 (U.S. Renewable Energy Consumption) has been renamed Table 8a, but it continues to show historical data and forecasts for renewable energy consumption by sector and source, as measured in quadrillion British thermal units (Btu). For the electric power, industrial, and commercial sectors, the data for solar energy consumption in Table 8a now reflects electricity generated by both large-scale solar generating units (i.e., 1 MW or larger) and electricity produced by small-scale solar PV systems. The residential solar consumption data only reflects energy produced from small-scale systems. Note that the consumption of solar energy in the residential sector also includes a small amount of energy used for solar heating by all sectors, following the same convention as other EIA publications.

A new table 8b (U.S. Renewable Electricity Generation and Capacity) has been added to the *STEO* standard tables. The top section of Table 8b shows historical data and forecasts for end-of-period capacity by renewable energy source, and values are shown for the electric power sector and for all other sectors. Most of the data in Table 8b represents capacity at large-scale power plants with aggregate capacity of at least 1 MW. The small-scale solar PV capacity data (< 1 MW) is broken out for the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors. Historical data and forecasts for renewable energy generation (measured in thousand MWh/day) are presented on the bottom half of *STEO* Table 8b in a similar fashion as renewable capacity.

In addition to the standard *STEO* Tables 8a and 8b, the renewable energy historical data and forecasts for generation and capacity are also accessible through the *STEO* Custom Table Builder, EIA's Microsoft Excel add-in, and the EIA Application Programming Interface (API).⁴

⁴ *STEO* Custom Table Builder: <https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/steo/query/>
 EIA Microsoft Excel add-in: <https://www.eia.gov/opa/data/excel/>
 Application Programming Interface: <https://www.eia.gov/opa/data/>

Table 8a. U.S. Renewable Energy Consumption (Quadrillion Btu)

U.S. Energy Information Administration | Short-Term Energy Outlook - July 2017

| | 2016 | | | | 2017 | | | | 2018 | | | | Year | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
| Electric Power Sector | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Geothermal | 0.040 | 0.039 | 0.040 | 0.043 | 0.041 | 0.042 | 0.041 | 0.040 | 0.040 | 0.039 | 0.040 | 0.041 | 0.162 | 0.164 | 0.160 |
| Hydroelectric Power (a) | 0.710 | 0.684 | 0.528 | 0.543 | 0.771 | 0.885 | 0.655 | 0.550 | 0.679 | 0.725 | 0.639 | 0.538 | 2.465 | 2.861 | 2.581 |
| Solar (b) | 0.062 | 0.095 | 0.110 | 0.077 | 0.087 | 0.151 | 0.147 | 0.091 | 0.102 | 0.181 | 0.178 | 0.107 | 0.344 | 0.477 | 0.567 |
| Waste Biomass (c) | 0.070 | 0.072 | 0.072 | 0.072 | 0.071 | 0.068 | 0.073 | 0.072 | 0.069 | 0.072 | 0.074 | 0.073 | 0.287 | 0.284 | 0.288 |
| Wood Biomass | 0.061 | 0.049 | 0.060 | 0.052 | 0.057 | 0.056 | 0.064 | 0.056 | 0.056 | 0.050 | 0.062 | 0.056 | 0.222 | 0.233 | 0.225 |
| Wind | 0.577 | 0.531 | 0.452 | 0.596 | 0.643 | 0.637 | 0.441 | 0.621 | 0.646 | 0.668 | 0.475 | 0.684 | 2.155 | 2.342 | 2.473 |
| Subtotal | 1.521 | 1.470 | 1.261 | 1.384 | 1.671 | 1.840 | 1.420 | 1.430 | 1.592 | 1.736 | 1.469 | 1.497 | 5.636 | 6.361 | 6.294 |
| Industrial Sector | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Biofuel Losses and Co-products (d) .. | 0.196 | 0.193 | 0.203 | 0.205 | 0.202 | 0.203 | 0.207 | 0.207 | 0.200 | 0.203 | 0.206 | 0.207 | 0.796 | 0.819 | 0.816 |
| Geothermal | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.004 | 0.004 | 0.004 |
| Hydroelectric Power (a) | 0.004 | 0.003 | 0.002 | 0.003 | 0.004 | 0.003 | 0.002 | 0.003 | 0.004 | 0.003 | 0.002 | 0.003 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 |
| Solar (b) | 0.003 | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.004 | 0.005 | 0.007 | 0.007 | 0.005 | 0.006 | 0.009 | 0.009 | 0.006 | 0.018 | 0.024 | 0.030 |
| Waste Biomass (c) | 0.046 | 0.047 | 0.047 | 0.046 | 0.051 | 0.049 | 0.049 | 0.049 | 0.049 | 0.049 | 0.049 | 0.049 | 0.186 | 0.198 | 0.196 |
| Wood Biomass | 0.321 | 0.315 | 0.320 | 0.326 | 0.316 | 0.308 | 0.315 | 0.316 | 0.308 | 0.303 | 0.314 | 0.316 | 1.283 | 1.255 | 1.241 |
| Subtotal | 0.573 | 0.564 | 0.578 | 0.585 | 0.578 | 0.570 | 0.579 | 0.580 | 0.566 | 0.563 | 0.577 | 0.580 | 2.300 | 2.306 | 2.287 |
| Commercial Sector | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Geothermal | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.020 | 0.020 | 0.020 |
| Solar (b) | 0.015 | 0.022 | 0.022 | 0.015 | 0.017 | 0.025 | 0.025 | 0.018 | 0.021 | 0.030 | 0.030 | 0.022 | 0.074 | 0.085 | 0.103 |
| Waste Biomass (c) | 0.013 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.049 | 0.049 | 0.048 |
| Wood Biomass | 0.020 | 0.020 | 0.021 | 0.021 | 0.020 | 0.018 | 0.019 | 0.018 | 0.020 | 0.018 | 0.019 | 0.018 | 0.082 | 0.075 | 0.075 |
| Subtotal | 0.060 | 0.065 | 0.066 | 0.060 | 0.061 | 0.067 | 0.069 | 0.060 | 0.064 | 0.072 | 0.074 | 0.063 | 0.251 | 0.256 | 0.273 |
| Residential Sector | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Geothermal | 0.010 | 0.010 | 0.010 | 0.010 | 0.010 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.040 | 0.046 | 0.052 |
| Solar (e) | 0.030 | 0.047 | 0.049 | 0.034 | 0.037 | 0.059 | 0.062 | 0.045 | 0.048 | 0.074 | 0.078 | 0.056 | 0.161 | 0.203 | 0.256 |
| Wood Biomass | 0.093 | 0.093 | 0.094 | 0.094 | 0.095 | 0.098 | 0.099 | 0.099 | 0.103 | 0.103 | 0.104 | 0.104 | 0.373 | 0.392 | 0.413 |
| Subtotal | 0.133 | 0.150 | 0.153 | 0.138 | 0.142 | 0.169 | 0.173 | 0.156 | 0.163 | 0.190 | 0.195 | 0.173 | 0.573 | 0.640 | 0.721 |
| Transportation Sector | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Biomass-based Diesel (f) | 0.051 | 0.066 | 0.088 | 0.084 | 0.051 | 0.073 | 0.086 | 0.090 | 0.069 | 0.076 | 0.088 | 0.089 | 0.289 | 0.300 | 0.323 |
| Ethanol (f) | 0.277 | 0.283 | 0.293 | 0.288 | 0.269 | 0.292 | 0.299 | 0.290 | 0.271 | 0.291 | 0.297 | 0.289 | 1.141 | 1.150 | 1.148 |
| Subtotal | 0.328 | 0.349 | 0.381 | 0.372 | 0.320 | 0.364 | 0.385 | 0.380 | 0.340 | 0.367 | 0.385 | 0.379 | 1.430 | 1.449 | 1.470 |
| All Sectors Total | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Biomass-based Diesel (f) | 0.051 | 0.066 | 0.088 | 0.084 | 0.051 | 0.073 | 0.086 | 0.090 | 0.069 | 0.076 | 0.088 | 0.089 | 0.289 | 0.300 | 0.323 |
| Biofuel Losses and Co-products (d) .. | 0.196 | 0.193 | 0.203 | 0.205 | 0.202 | 0.203 | 0.207 | 0.207 | 0.200 | 0.203 | 0.206 | 0.207 | 0.796 | 0.819 | 0.816 |
| Ethanol (f) | 0.287 | 0.295 | 0.305 | 0.299 | 0.278 | 0.301 | 0.311 | 0.302 | 0.282 | 0.302 | 0.308 | 0.301 | 1.186 | 1.191 | 1.193 |
| Geothermal | 0.056 | 0.055 | 0.056 | 0.059 | 0.057 | 0.059 | 0.058 | 0.058 | 0.059 | 0.058 | 0.059 | 0.060 | 0.226 | 0.232 | 0.236 |
| Hydroelectric Power (a) | 0.714 | 0.687 | 0.530 | 0.546 | 0.775 | 0.889 | 0.657 | 0.553 | 0.683 | 0.729 | 0.642 | 0.540 | 2.477 | 2.874 | 2.594 |
| Solar (b)(e) | 0.110 | 0.166 | 0.183 | 0.128 | 0.139 | 0.244 | 0.242 | 0.160 | 0.176 | 0.294 | 0.294 | 0.191 | 0.587 | 0.784 | 0.955 |
| Waste Biomass (c) | 0.129 | 0.131 | 0.130 | 0.131 | 0.134 | 0.131 | 0.134 | 0.133 | 0.130 | 0.132 | 0.136 | 0.134 | 0.522 | 0.531 | 0.532 |
| Wood Biomass | 0.496 | 0.477 | 0.495 | 0.492 | 0.486 | 0.479 | 0.497 | 0.490 | 0.486 | 0.474 | 0.499 | 0.494 | 1.959 | 1.952 | 1.953 |
| Wind | 0.577 | 0.531 | 0.452 | 0.596 | 0.643 | 0.637 | 0.441 | 0.621 | 0.646 | 0.668 | 0.475 | 0.684 | 2.155 | 2.342 | 2.473 |
| Total Consumption | 2.614 | 2.598 | 2.439 | 2.538 | 2.742 | 2.997 | <i>2.626</i> | <i>2.606</i> | <i>2.725</i> | <i>2.928</i> | <i>2.699</i> | <i>2.692</i> | 10.190 | <i>10.971</i> | <i>11.045</i> |

- = no data available

(a) Conventional hydroelectric power only. Hydroelectricity generated by pumped storage is not included in renewable energy.

(b) Solar consumption in the electric power, commercial, and industrial sectors includes energy produced from large scale (>1 MW) solar thermal and photovoltaic generators and small-scale (<1 MW) distributed solar photovoltaic systems.

(c) Municipal solid waste from biogenic sources, landfill gas, sludge waste, agricultural byproducts, and other biomass.

(d) Losses and co-products from the production of fuel ethanol and biomass-based diesel

(e) Solar consumption in the residential sector includes energy from small-scale (<1 MW) solar photovoltaic systems. Also includes solar heating consumption in all sectors.

(f) Fuel ethanol and biomass-based diesel consumption in the transportation sector includes production, stock change, and imports less exports. Some biomass-based diesel may be consumed in the residential sector in heating oil.

Notes: The approximate break between historical and forecast values is shown with historical data printed in bold; estimates and forecasts in italics.**Historical data:** Latest data available from EIA databases supporting the following reports: *Electric Power Monthly*, DOE/EIA-0226 and *Renewable Energy Annual*, DOE/EIA-0603; *Petroleum Supply Monthly*, DOE/EIA-0109.

Minor discrepancies with published historical data are due to independent rounding.

Projections: EIA Regional Short-Term Energy Model.

Table 8b. U.S. Renewable Electricity Generation and Capacity
 U.S. Energy Information Administration | Short-Term Energy Outlook - July 2017

| | 2016 | | | | 2017 | | | | 2018 | | | | Year | | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|---------|
| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
| Renewable Energy Electric Generating Capacity (megawatts, end of period) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Electric Power Sector (a) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Biomass | 7,312 | 7,334 | 7,311 | 7,343 | 7,338 | 7,430 | 7,418 | 7,418 | 7,475 | 7,569 | 7,569 | 7,571 | 7,343 | 7,418 | 7,571 |
| Waste | 4,144 | 4,166 | 4,161 | 4,186 | 4,198 | 4,240 | 4,228 | 4,227 | 4,285 | 4,285 | 4,285 | 4,287 | 4,186 | 4,227 | 4,287 |
| Wood | 3,168 | 3,168 | 3,150 | 3,157 | 3,141 | 3,191 | 3,191 | 3,191 | 3,191 | 3,284 | 3,284 | 3,284 | 3,157 | 3,191 | 3,284 |
| Conventional Hydroelectric | 79,529 | 79,595 | 79,617 | 79,661 | 79,663 | 79,724 | 79,660 | 79,748 | 79,764 | 79,775 | 79,902 | 80,069 | 79,661 | 79,748 | 80,069 |
| Geothermal | 2,514 | 2,514 | 2,514 | 2,514 | 2,454 | 2,454 | 2,454 | 2,491 | 2,491 | 2,491 | 2,491 | 2,522 | 2,514 | 2,491 | 2,522 |
| Large-Scale Solar (b) | 14,263 | 15,066 | 17,496 | 21,525 | 22,339 | 23,720 | 24,647 | 29,057 | 29,687 | 30,358 | 30,910 | 32,191 | 21,525 | 29,057 | 32,191 |
| Wind | 73,314 | 74,196 | 74,749 | 81,215 | 82,913 | 83,376 | 84,971 | 88,114 | 88,234 | 89,697 | 90,686 | 102,193 | 81,215 | 88,114 | 102,193 |
| Other Sectors (c) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Biomass | 6,813 | 6,809 | 6,807 | 6,761 | 6,809 | 6,828 | 6,828 | 6,832 | 6,832 | 6,833 | 6,833 | 6,835 | 6,761 | 6,832 | 6,835 |
| Waste | 944 | 943 | 942 | 895 | 892 | 893 | 893 | 897 | 897 | 897 | 897 | 899 | 895 | 897 | 899 |
| Wood | 5,869 | 5,866 | 5,866 | 5,866 | 5,917 | 5,935 | 5,935 | 5,935 | 5,935 | 5,936 | 5,936 | 5,936 | 5,866 | 5,935 | 5,936 |
| Conventional Hydroelectric | 325 | 327 | 327 | 327 | 327 | 327 | 327 | 327 | 327 | 327 | 327 | 327 | 327 | 327 | 327 |
| Large-Scale Solar (b) | 303 | 307 | 309 | 314 | 314 | 316 | 330 | 332 | 332 | 332 | 332 | 332 | 314 | 332 | 332 |
| Small-Scale Solar (d) | 10,810 | 11,569 | 12,305 | 13,183 | 14,107 | 14,941 | 16,040 | 17,124 | 18,267 | 19,415 | 20,646 | 21,947 | 13,183 | 17,124 | 21,947 |
| Residential Sector | 5,775 | 6,352 | 6,874 | 7,421 | 8,070 | 8,735 | 9,460 | 10,235 | 11,055 | 11,911 | 12,807 | 13,743 | 7,421 | 10,235 | 13,743 |
| Commercial Sector | 4,104 | 4,239 | 4,405 | 4,681 | 4,727 | 4,840 | 5,135 | 5,372 | 5,622 | 5,844 | 6,104 | 6,390 | 4,681 | 5,372 | 6,390 |
| Industrial Sector | 930 | 978 | 1,027 | 1,081 | 1,311 | 1,365 | 1,445 | 1,517 | 1,590 | 1,660 | 1,735 | 1,813 | 1,081 | 1,517 | 1,813 |
| Wind | 89 | 89 | 89 | 89 | 89 | 89 | 95 | 95 | 95 | 95 | 95 | 95 | 89 | 95 | 95 |
| Renewable Electricity Generation (thousand megawatthours per day) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Electric Power Sector (a) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Biomass | 89 | 84 | 92 | 84 | 87 | 86 | 92 | 86 | 87 | 84 | 92 | 87 | 87 | 88 | 87 |
| Waste | 49 | 52 | 51 | 50 | 49 | 48 | 50 | 50 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 50 | 51 | 49 | 50 |
| Wood | 39 | 32 | 41 | 34 | 38 | 38 | 42 | 37 | 38 | 34 | 41 | 37 | 37 | 39 | 37 |
| Conventional Hydroelectric | 837 | 806 | 615 | 634 | 912 | 1,023 | 749 | 629 | 793 | 838 | 731 | 614 | 723 | 827 | 744 |
| Geothermal | 47 | 46 | 47 | 50 | 49 | 49 | 47 | 47 | 48 | 46 | 47 | 47 | 48 | 48 | 47 |
| Large-Scale Solar (b) | 72 | 110 | 125 | 88 | 102 | 175 | 168 | 104 | 119 | 209 | 203 | 122 | 99 | 137 | 163 |
| Wind | 667 | 613 | 517 | 681 | 751 | 736 | 504 | 709 | 754 | 772 | 543 | 782 | 619 | 675 | 712 |
| Other Sectors (c) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Biomass | 85 | 82 | 85 | 83 | 86 | 83 | 85 | 83 | 86 | 83 | 85 | 83 | 84 | 84 | 84 |
| Waste | 75 | 72 | 75 | 74 | 76 | 73 | 75 | 74 | 76 | 73 | 75 | 74 | 74 | 75 | 75 |
| Wood | 11 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 9 |
| Conventional Hydroelectric | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Large-Scale Solar (b) | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Small-Scale Solar (d) | 42 | 63 | 64 | 45 | 53 | 81 | 84 | 60 | 70 | 105 | 108 | 77 | 53 | 70 | 90 |
| Residential Sector | 21 | 34 | 35 | 24 | 29 | 46 | 49 | 35 | 41 | 63 | 66 | 48 | 29 | 40 | 54 |
| Commercial Sector | 16 | 23 | 23 | 16 | 19 | 27 | 27 | 19 | 22 | 32 | 32 | 22 | 20 | 23 | 27 |
| Industrial Sector | 4 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 8 |
| Wind | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

-- = no data available

Notes: The approximate break between historical and forecast values is shown with historical data printed in bold; estimates and forecasts in italics.

- (a) Power plants larger than or equal to one megawatt in size that are operated by electric utilities or independent power producers.
- (b) Solar thermal and photovoltaic generating units at power plants larger than or equal to 1 megawatt.
- (c) Businesses or individual households not primarily engaged in electric power production for sale to the public, whose generating capacity is at least one megawatt (except for small-scale solar photovoltaic data, which consists of systems smaller than 1 megawatt).
- (d) Solar photovoltaic systems smaller than one megawatt.

Historical data: Latest data available from EIA databases supporting the Electric Power Monthly, DOE/EIA-0226.

Minor discrepancies with published historical data are due to independent rounding.

Projections: EIA-860M database, EIA-826 Solar PV database, and EIA Regional Short-Term Energy Model.

Appendix – Small-scale solar photovoltaic model equations

Variable Definitions

| Variable name | Variable description | Units |
|---------------|--|------------------------------|
| SODRC_US | Small-scale solar PV capacity, residential sector | megawatts |
| SODNC_US | Small-scale solar PV capacity, non-residential sectors | megawatts |
| SODCC_US | Small-scale solar PV capacity, commercial sector | megawatts |
| SODIC_US | Small-scale solar PV capacity, industrial sector | megawatts |
| SODRP_US | Small-scale solar PV generation, residential sector | megawatthours per day |
| SODCP_US | Small-scale solar PV generation, commercial sector | megawatthours per day |
| SODIP_US | Small-scale solar PV generation, industrial sector | megawatthours per day |
| PYR | Real personal income | millions of dollars |
| D1601 | Dummy variable for January 2016 observation | =1 if Jan 2016, 0 otherwise |
| JAN | Dummy variable for month of January | =1 if January, 0 otherwise |
| FEB | Dummy variable for month of February | =1 if February, 0 otherwise |
| MAR | Dummy variable for month of March | =1 if March, 0 otherwise |
| APR | Dummy variable for month of April | =1 if April, 0 otherwise |
| MAY | Dummy variable for month of May | =1 if May, 0 otherwise |
| JUN | Dummy variable for month of June | =1 if June, 0 otherwise |
| JUL | Dummy variable for month of July | =1 if July, 0 otherwise |
| AUG | Dummy variable for month of August | =1 if August 0 otherwise |
| SEP | Dummy variable for month of September | =1 if September, 0 otherwise |
| OCT | Dummy variable for month of October | =1 if October, 0 otherwise |
| NOV | Dummy variable for month of November | =1 if November, 0 otherwise |
| DEC | Dummy variable for month of December | =1 if December 0 otherwise |
| D(Var,x) | x-th order difference of variable Var | N/A |
| AR(x) | Autoregressive term of order x | N/A |

Small-scale solar PV capacity, residential sector (SODRC_US)

Dependent Variable: D(SODRC_USX,2)
 Method: ARMA Conditional Least Squares (Marquardt - EViews legacy)
 Date: 05/25/17 Time: 08:30
 Sample (adjusted): 2014M05 2017M03
 Included observations: 35 after adjustments
 Convergence achieved after 10 iterations

| Variable | Coefficient | Std. Error | t-Statistic | Prob. |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|----------|
| C | 4.625245 | 2.059626 | 2.245672 | 0.0320 |
| D(PYR,2) | 0.235712 | 0.211795 | 1.112930 | 0.2743 |
| AR(1) | -1.147585 | 0.164214 | -6.988334 | 0.0000 |
| AR(2) | -0.714528 | 0.243499 | -2.934421 | 0.0062 |
| R-squared | 0.636450 | Mean dependent var | | 2.888543 |
| Adjusted R-squared | 0.601268 | S.D. dependent var | | 54.91833 |
| S.E. of regression | 34.67831 | Akaike info criterion | | 10.03732 |
| Sum squared resid | 37280.13 | Schwarz criterion | | 10.21507 |
| Log likelihood | -171.6530 | Hannan-Quinn criter. | | 10.09868 |
| F-statistic | 18.09010 | Durbin-Watson stat | | 2.136521 |
| Prob(F-statistic) | 0.000001 | | | |
| Inverted AR Roots | -.57+.62i | -.57-.62i | | |

Residential capacity adjusted for analyst judgement:

$$\text{SODRC_US} = \text{SODRC_USX} + \text{SODRC_US_A}$$

Small-scale solar PV capacity, non-residential sectors (SODNC_US)

Dependent Variable: DLOG(SODNC_USX)

Method: Least Squares

Date: 05/25/17 Time: 08:29

Sample (adjusted): 2014M02 2017M03

Included observations: 38 after adjustments

| Variable | Coefficient | Std. Error | t-Statistic | Prob. |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------|
| C | 0.014461 | 0.001219 | 11.86282 | 0.0000 |
| D1601 | 0.046215 | 0.007515 | 6.149844 | 0.0000 |
| R-squared | 0.512331 | Mean dependent var | | 0.015678 |
| Adjusted R-squared | 0.498785 | S.D. dependent var | | 0.010474 |
| S.E. of regression | 0.007415 | Akaike info criterion | | -6.919363 |
| Sum squared resid | 0.001979 | Schwarz criterion | | -6.833174 |
| Log likelihood | 133.4679 | Hannan-Quinn criter. | | -6.888698 |
| F-statistic | 37.82058 | Durbin-Watson stat | | 2.127135 |
| Prob(F-statistic) | 0.000000 | | | |

Non-residential capacity adjusted for analyst judgement:

$$\text{SODNC_US} = \text{SODNC_USX} + \text{SODNC_US_A}$$

Small-scale solar PV capacity, commercial and industrial sectors (SODCC_US and SODIC_US)

Commercial sector capacity

Dependent Variable: D(SODCC_US)

Method: Least Squares

Date: 05/25/17 Time: 08:28

Sample (adjusted): 2014M02 2017M03

Included observations: 38 after adjustments

| Variable | Coefficient | Std. Error | t-Statistic | Prob. |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|----------|
| C | -11.40575 | 6.388632 | -1.785319 | 0.0826 |
| D(SODNC_US) | 0.883293 | 0.073414 | 12.03161 | 0.0000 |
| R-squared | 0.800840 | Mean dependent var | | 51.58403 |
| Adjusted R-squared | 0.795308 | S.D. dependent var | | 49.88678 |
| S.E. of regression | 22.57021 | Akaike info criterion | | 9.122335 |
| Sum squared resid | 18338.92 | Schwarz criterion | | 9.208524 |
| Log likelihood | -171.3244 | Hannan-Quinn criter. | | 9.153000 |
| F-statistic | 144.7596 | Durbin-Watson stat | | 0.974263 |
| Prob(F-statistic) | 0.000000 | | | |

Industrial sector capacity (Non-residential capacity – commercial capacity)

$$\text{SODIC_US} = \text{SODNC_US} - \text{SODCC_US}$$

Small-scale solar PV generation, residential sector (SODRP_US)

Dependent Variable: 1000*SODRP_US/(24*SODRC_US)
 Method: ARMA Conditional Least Squares (Marquardt - EViews legacy)
 Date: 05/25/17 Time: 08:30
 Sample (adjusted): 2014M02 2017M03
 Included observations: 38 after adjustments
 Convergence achieved after 3 iterations

| Variable | Coefficient | Std. Error | t-Statistic | Prob. |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------|
| JAN | 0.125935 | 0.005581 | 22.56538 | 0.0000 |
| FEB | 0.152346 | 0.005544 | 27.48094 | 0.0000 |
| MAR | 0.190838 | 0.005504 | 34.66994 | 0.0000 |
| APR | 0.216949 | 0.005691 | 38.12246 | 0.0000 |
| MAY | 0.227337 | 0.005803 | 39.17547 | 0.0000 |
| JUN | 0.234381 | 0.005857 | 40.01691 | 0.0000 |
| JUL | 0.232252 | 0.005868 | 39.58084 | 0.0000 |
| AUG | 0.223092 | 0.005848 | 38.14799 | 0.0000 |
| SEP | 0.203504 | 0.005808 | 35.03759 | 0.0000 |
| OCT | 0.174462 | 0.005756 | 30.30849 | 0.0000 |
| NOV | 0.145272 | 0.005698 | 25.49402 | 0.0000 |
| DEC | 0.125970 | 0.005639 | 22.33975 | 0.0000 |
| AR(1) | 0.859016 | 0.068646 | 12.51378 | 0.0000 |
| R-squared | 0.993992 | Mean dependent var | | 0.191546 |
| Adjusted R-squared | 0.991108 | S.D. dependent var | | 0.041527 |
| S.E. of regression | 0.003916 | Akaike info criterion | | -7.982007 |
| Sum squared resid | 0.000383 | Schwarz criterion | | -7.421781 |
| Log likelihood | 164.6581 | Hannan-Quinn criter. | | -7.782683 |
| Durbin-Watson stat | 1.919121 | | | |
| Inverted AR Roots | .86 | | | |

Small-scale solar PV generation, commercial sector (SODCP_US)

Dependent Variable: 1000*SODCP_US/(24*SODCC_US)
 Method: ARMA Conditional Least Squares (Marquardt - EViews legacy)
 Date: 05/25/17 Time: 08:28
 Sample (adjusted): 2014M02 2017M03
 Included observations: 38 after adjustments
 Convergence achieved after 3 iterations

| Variable | Coefficient | Std. Error | t-Statistic | Prob. |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------|
| JAN | 0.137057 | 0.001346 | 101.8462 | 0.0000 |
| FEB | 0.165176 | 0.001286 | 128.4613 | 0.0000 |
| MAR | 0.198844 | 0.001261 | 157.6825 | 0.0000 |
| APR | 0.221619 | 0.001329 | 166.7187 | 0.0000 |
| MAY | 0.231742 | 0.001354 | 171.1237 | 0.0000 |
| JUN | 0.237485 | 0.001360 | 174.5837 | 0.0000 |
| JUL | 0.235165 | 0.001359 | 173.0398 | 0.0000 |
| AUG | 0.223688 | 0.001356 | 165.0025 | 0.0000 |
| SEP | 0.204956 | 0.001352 | 151.5582 | 0.0000 |
| OCT | 0.174789 | 0.001350 | 129.5044 | 0.0000 |
| NOV | 0.143457 | 0.001348 | 106.4385 | 0.0000 |
| DEC | 0.129488 | 0.001347 | 96.16430 | 0.0000 |
| AR(1) | 0.706888 | 0.104982 | 6.733411 | 0.0000 |
| R-squared | 0.998801 | Mean dependent var | | 0.191902 |
| Adjusted R-squared | 0.998226 | S.D. dependent var | | 0.038500 |
| S.E. of regression | 0.001622 | Akaike info criterion | | -9.745156 |
| Sum squared resid | 6.57E-05 | Schwarz criterion | | -9.184929 |
| Log likelihood | 198.1580 | Hannan-Quinn criter. | | -9.545832 |
| Durbin-Watson stat | 2.048555 | | | |
| Inverted AR Roots | .71 | | | |

Small-scale solar PV generation, industrial sector (SODIP_US)

Dependent Variable: 1000*SODIP_US/(24*SODIC_US)

Method: ARMA Conditional Least Squares (Marquardt - EViews legacy)

Date: 05/25/17 Time: 08:29

Sample (adjusted): 2014M02 2017M03

Included observations: 38 after adjustments

Convergence achieved after 3 iterations

| Variable | Coefficient | Std. Error | t-Statistic | Prob. |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------|
| JAN | 0.148856 | 0.000577 | 258.0670 | 0.0000 |
| FEB | 0.171689 | 0.000547 | 314.0517 | 0.0000 |
| MAR | 0.216586 | 0.000526 | 411.3972 | 0.0000 |
| APR | 0.239136 | 0.000544 | 439.7416 | 0.0000 |
| MAY | 0.252442 | 0.000558 | 452.1995 | 0.0000 |
| JUN | 0.259159 | 0.000569 | 455.5182 | 0.0000 |
| JUL | 0.255582 | 0.000576 | 443.6993 | 0.0000 |
| AUG | 0.246005 | 0.000580 | 424.0642 | 0.0000 |
| SEP | 0.229273 | 0.000582 | 394.0274 | 0.0000 |
| OCT | 0.201681 | 0.000582 | 346.5709 | 0.0000 |
| NOV | 0.163405 | 0.000581 | 281.3257 | 0.0000 |
| DEC | 0.142284 | 0.000579 | 245.7309 | 0.0000 |
| AR(1) | 0.856215 | 0.151227 | 5.661795 | 0.0000 |
| R-squared | 0.999930 | Mean dependent var | | 0.209757 |
| Adjusted R-squared | 0.999896 | S.D. dependent var | | 0.041731 |
| S.E. of regression | 0.000426 | Akaike info criterion | | -12.42015 |
| Sum squared resid | 4.53E-06 | Schwarz criterion | | -11.85992 |
| Log likelihood | 248.9829 | Hannan-Quinn criter. | | -12.22083 |
| Durbin-Watson stat | 1.641603 | | | |
| Inverted AR Roots | .86 | | | |