

# **SUN DAY CAMPAIGN**

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## **News Advisory**

### **RENEWABLE ENERGY PROVIDES 100% OF ALL NEW U.S. ELECTRICAL GENERATING CAPACITY IN NOVEMBER 2013**

### **FERC's LATEST DATA UNDERMINES EIA's PROJECTIONS OF SLOW RENEWABLE ENERGY GROWTH TO 2040**

**For Immediate Release:** Friday, December 20, 2013

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**Washington DC** – According to the latest "Energy Infrastructure Update" report from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Office of Energy Projects, solar, biomass, wind, geothermal, and hydropower "units" provided 394 MW - or 100% - of all new electrical generation placed in-service in November 2013. There was no new capacity during the month from natural gas, coal, oil, or nuclear power. Renewable energy sources also provided 99% of all new electrical generating capacity in October.

For the first eleven months of 2013, renewable energy sources (i.e., biomass, geothermal, hydropower, solar, wind) have accounted for more than a third (34.9%) of all new electrical generating capacity: 2,631-MW solar, 1,108 MW wind, 519 MW biomass, 121 MW hydropower, and 39 MW geothermal. That is more than that provided thus far this year by coal (1,543 MW - 12.2%), oil (36 MW - 0.3%), and nuclear power (0 MW - 0.0%) combined. Solar alone comprises 20.8% of new generating capacity (2,631 MW) thus far this year - two-thirds more than its year-to-date total in 2012 (1,584 MW). However, natural gas has dominated 2013 thus far with 6,568 MW of new capacity (52.0%).

Renewable sources now account for 15.9% of total installed U.S. operating generating capacity: water - 8.42%, wind - 5.20%, biomass - 1.34%, solar - 0.61%, and geothermal steam - 0.33%. \* This is more than nuclear (9.20%) and oil (4.05%) combined.

Ironically - and in seeming contradiction to the growth rates reflected in the new FERC data - earlier this week, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) released the preliminary data for its forthcoming the *Annual Energy Outlook 2014* and projected that renewable sources would provide only a paltry 16% of the nation's electricity supply by 2040. EIA's own data reveal that renewables were already providing 14.2% of the nation's electrical generation as of June 30, 2013.

“FERC's latest renewable energy capacity data, coupled with the actual electrical generation from renewable sources, reveal a growing disconnect with the longer-term projections being issued by EIA,” said Ken Bossong, Executive Director of the SUN DAY Campaign. “With virtually all new electrical generation coming from renewables during the last two months, it is obvious that solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, and hydropower are rapidly outpacing EIA's unduly conservative forecasts.”

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The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission released its most recent 5-page "Energy Infrastructure Update," with data through November 30, 2013, on December 19, 2013. See the tables titled "New Generation In-Service (New Build and Expansion)" and "Total Installed Operating Generating Capacity" at <http://www.ferc.gov/legal/staff-reports/2013/nov-energy-infrastructure.pdf>.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration released its most recent "Electric Power Monthly" with data through September 30, 2013 on November 20, 2013; see: <http://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly>. The relevant charts are Tables 1.1, 1.1.A, ES1.A, and ES1.B.

\* Note that generating capacity is not the same as actual generation. Actual net electrical generation from renewable energy sources in the United States now totals 13-14%.

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The SUN DAY Campaign is a non-profit research and educational organization founded in 1993 to promote sustainable energy technologies as cost-effective alternatives to nuclear power and fossil fuels.

**NEWS ADVISORY: Renewables Provide 100% of All New U.S. Electrical Generating Capacity in November**

