

SUN DAY CAMPAIGN

(a campaign for a sustainable energy future)

6930 Carroll Avenue, Suite #340; Takoma Park, MD 20912

301-270-6477 x.11

sun-day-campaign@hotmail.com

Twitter: Follow @SunDayCampaign

News Advisory

RENEWABLE ENERGY PROVIDES 56% OF NEW U.S. ELECTRICAL GENERATING CAPACITY; IN FIRST HALF 2014 AND 48% FOR LAST 30 MONTHS

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Contact: Ken Bossong, 301-270-6477 x.11

Washington DC – According to the latest "Energy Infrastructure Update" report from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Office of Energy Projects, solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, and hydropower provided 55.7% of new installed U.S. electrical generating capacity during the first half of 2014 (1,965 MW of the 3,529 MW total installed).

Solar alone has accounted for nearly a third of new U.S. generating capacity thus far in 2014: 32.1% (1,131 MW). Wind provided 19.8% (699 MW), followed by biomass (2.5% - 87 MW), geothermal (0.9% - 32 MW), and hydropower (0.5% - 16 MW).

Most of the balance (1,555 MW - 44.1%) of the new generating capacity was provided by natural gas while no new coal or nuclear power capacity was reported.

The dominant role being played by renewables in providing new electrical generating capacity in 2014 is continuing a trend now several years in the making. Over the past 30 months (i.e., since January 1, 2012), renewable energy sources have accounted for almost half (48.0%) or 22,774 MW of the 47,446 MW of new electrical generating capacity.

If calendar year 2011 is also factored in, then renewables have accounted for approximately 45% of all new electrical generating capacity over the past 3 1/2 years. In fact, since January 1, 2011 renewables have provided more new electrical generating capacity than natural gas (31,345 MW vs. 29,176 MW) and nearly four times that from coal (8,235 MW)

Renewable energy sources now account for 16.28% of total installed U.S. operating generating capacity: water - 8.57%, wind - 5.26%, biomass - 1.37%, solar - 0.75%, and geothermal steam - 0.33%. This is up from 14.76% two years earlier (i.e., June 30, 2012) and is now more than nuclear (9.24%) and oil (4.03%) combined. *

"A new report from the U.S. Energy Information is projecting that renewable energy sources will account for only 24% of new capacity additions between now and 2040," notes Ken Bossong, Executive Director of the SUN DAY Campaign. "However, the latest FERC data coupled with that published during the past several years indicate that EIA's numbers are once again low-balling the likely share of renewables in the nation's future energy mix."

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The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission released its most recent 5-page "Energy Infrastructure Update," with data through June 30, 2014, on July 18, 2014. 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/2014/jun-infrastructure.pdf> . FERC data for 2012 and 2013 may be found at <http://www.ferc.gov/legal/staff-reports/2013/dec-energy-infrastructure.pdf>. FERC data for 2011 may be found at <http://www.ferc.gov/legal/staff-reports/dec-2012-energy-infrastructure.pdf>. Capacity data for June 2012 may be found at <http://www.ferc.gov/legal/staff-reports/jun-2012-energy-infrastructure.pdf> .

* 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 about 14% according to the most recent data (i.e., as of April 2014) provided by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (see: <http://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly>).

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The SUN DAY Campaign is a non-profit research and educational organization founded in 1992 to aggressively promote sustainable energy technologies as cost-effective alternatives to nuclear power and fossil fuels.