



## ► ENERGY COMMITTEE

As the CGS West Energy Committee looks to next year's meeting, there are plenty of indicators as to what the future may hold regarding energy. Recently the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) released its [annual energy outlook report](#). The report offers five key takeaways:

1. With a slower growth in U.S. energy consumption and greater production in crude oil, natural gas, and natural gas plant liquids the U.S. will continue to be a net exporter of energy.
2. Regarding fossil fuel production, natural gas plant liquids (ethane, liquefied petroleum gasses like propane, normal butane and natural gasoline) will show the highest growth rate of all fuels.
3. Because future natural gas prices will remain low, there will continue to be an increased use of natural gas across all end use sectors.
4. Low natural gas prices will spur increased use of the fuel to generate electricity and, in conjunction with greater uses of intermittent renewables, will result in additional retirement of existing coal and nuclear plants.
5. Even though the U.S. economy is predicted to continue to expand, because of increasing energy efficiency it is predicted that U.S. energy consumption will remain flat.

The [agenda](#) of the World Energy Future Summit in Abu Dhabi next January will focus on the following energy trends shaping the future of energy:

1. Emerging technologies, including the use of blockchain in energy trading and storage management, the increasing use of Artificial Intelligence, and a greater production of hydrogen due to lower cost technologies, will greatly increase maximum energy efficiencies.
2. New approaches to financing will spur sustainable energy formats for battery storage and Photovoltaic (PV) projects.



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3. Utilizing micro grids, smart technology and energy efficiency will assist cities in reaching net zero energy and carbon neutral goals.
4. Changing attitudes and behaviors of energy consumers by initiating public media campaigns, and other efforts, to curb energy demand.

Technology, digital and scientific innovation, market forces, and energy efficient codes in building construction are some of the impacts on today's energy sector. It is the goal of the CSG West Energy Committee to explore and discuss these issues and their impacts on the western region. Montana Representative Custer, and Colorado Representative Hansen, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Energy Committee respectively, look forward to hosting another engaging conversation next July in Jackson, Wyoming.

*Stay tuned...for an introduction the CSG West Canada Relations Committee.*