

# Solar/Wind/Natural Gas-Fired Generators: U.S. Energy Information Administration Notes Drop in Costs for 2021



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The United States Energy Information Administration (“EIA”) published an October 3rd report titled: *U.S. Construction Costs Dropped for Solar, Wind, and Natural Gas-Fired Generators in 2021 (“Report”)*

The *Report* states that average construction costs for solar photovoltaic systems, wind turbines, and natural gas-fired electricity generators decreased in the United States in 2021 compared to 2020.

Average construction costs are stated to have fallen as follows:

- 18% for natural gas-fired generators
- 5% for wind turbines
- 6% for solar photovoltaic systems

The relevance of these three technologies (i.e., solar, wind, and natural gas) are that they are stated to have made up more than 91% of the capacity added to the United States electric grid in 2021.

The generator cost data is derived from EIA’s Form EIA-860, *Annual Electric Generator Report*.

The drop in costs is described in greater detail in the *Report*.

The decrease in United States solar construction cost is stated to be driven by a 10% drop in the construction costs for crystalline silicon tracking panels.

The average construction costs for United States onshore wind turbines are stated to have fallen 5% to \$1,428/kW. These include the average construction costs for all three wind turbine size groups.

The average construction cost for natural gas-fired generators fell 18%, which is stated to have been driven primarily by decreases in the cost for combustion turbines. The average construction cost for combustion turbines is stated to have fallen 19%.

A copy of the *Report* can be downloaded [here](#).