

Advances in energy technology and declining clean energy costs offer an historic opportunity to build a truly clean, low carbon, and consumer friendly energy future that is also more reliable and resilient. These changes are profound—and a large disconnect exists between how we currently see and interact with the energy system and what a low-emission future could look like. Concerns over ensuring the lights are on remain throughout energy and media circles. This large gap between what exists now and what the future can be makes it difficult for policymakers, media and the public to conceptualize the changes needed to put the region on the steady path towards a clean energy future. As a result of this gap, changes to outdated rules are slow to be made and unnecessary energy investments like multi-billion-dollar fossil fuel pipelines continue to be proposed.

Acadia Center is preparing EnergyVision 2030 to help fill this information and “vision” gap by presenting a detailed picture of what the energy system would look like in 2030 on a pathway to a clean energy future in 2050. This picture will show audiences in New England and New York a changed but recognizable system and help make today’s policy and infrastructure decisions with much better context and thus comfort.

EnergyVision 2030 will analyze the following emerging trends and their impact on energy production and use:

- Expanded use of electrification technologies like electric vehicles and heat pumps
- Expanded wind and solar generation to take advantage of the region’s potential
- High levels of cost-effective energy efficiency to eliminate unnecessary demand and reduce costs
- Optimizing the power grid through energy storage and managing energy use
- Pricing of carbon emissions extending beyond the electric generation sector

The report will provide the following information that will help inform the region:

- A clear path to significant 2030 emissions reductions
- Benefits of different levels of electrification of heating and transportation
- Optimal amount of gas pipeline capacity needed in the region
- Increased levels of renewable generation
- Impact of different carbon prices on emissions and energy mix

The analysis and report will help support the following policy advocacy goals:

- Minimize expensive infrastructure costs like natural gas pipelines that will not be needed
- Lower the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) emissions cap and expand it to transportation
- Encourage consumers to purchase electric vehicles
- Create programs to boost the use of high efficiency heat pumps for building heating
- Maximize energy efficiency investments through the New England / New York region
- Modernize the electric grid to integrate more renewables and local generation
- Maximize wind and solar power development in the region

Acadia Center expects to release EnergyVision 2030 in Fall 2016 in creative online and handout formats.

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