

Capacity factor: The ratio of the electrical energy produced by a generating unit for a given period of time to the electrical energy that could have been produced at continuous full-power operation during the same period.

Carbon dioxide (CO₂): A colorless, odorless, non-poisonous gas that is a normal part of Earth's atmosphere. Carbon dioxide is a product of **fossil-fuel** combustion as well as other processes. It is considered a **greenhouse gas** as it traps heat (infrared energy) radiated by the Earth into the atmosphere and thereby contributes to the potential for **global warming**. The **global warming potential** (GWP) of other greenhouse gases is measured in relation to that of carbon dioxide, which by international scientific convention is assigned a value of one (1).

Chained dollars: A measure used to express **real prices**. Real prices are those that have been adjusted to remove the effect of changes in the purchasing power of the dollar; they usually reflect buying power relative to a reference year. Prior to 1996, real prices were expressed in constant dollars, a measure based on the weights of goods and services in a single year, usually a recent year. In 1996, the U.S. Department of Commerce introduced the chained-dollar measure. The new measure is based on the average weights of goods and services in successive pairs of years. It is "chained" because the second year in each pair, with its weights, becomes the first year of the next pair. The advantage of using the chained-dollar measure is that it is more closely related to any given period and is therefore subject to less distortion over time.

CIF: See **Cost, insurance, freight**.

Citygate: A point or measuring station at which a distribution gas utility receives gas from a **natural gas** pipeline company or transmission system.

Climate change: A term used to refer to all forms of climatic inconsistency, but especially to significant change from one prevailing climatic condition to another. In some cases, "climate change" has been used synonymously with the term "**global warming**"; scientists, however, tend to use the term in a wider sense inclusive of natural changes in climate, including climatic cooling.

Coal: A readily combustible black or brownish-black rock whose composition, including inherent moisture, consists of more than 50 percent by weight and more than 70 percent by volume of carbonaceous material. It is formed from plant remains that have been compacted, hardened, chemically altered, and metamorphosed by heat and pressure over geologic time. See **Anthracite**, **Bituminous coal**, **Lignite**, **Subbituminous coal**, **Waste coal**, and **Coal synfuel**.

Coal coke: A solid carbonaceous residue derived from low-ash, low-sulfur **bituminous coal** from which the volatile constituents are driven off by baking in an oven at temperatures as high as 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit so that the fixed carbon and residual ash are fused together. Coke is used as a fuel and as a reducing agent in smelting iron ore in a blast furnace. Coke from coal is grey, hard, and porous and has a heating value of 24.8 million Btu per ton.

Coal stocks: Coal quantities that are held in storage for future use and disposition. **Note:** When coal data are collected for a particular reporting period (month, quarter, or year), coal stocks are commonly measured as of the last day of the period.

Coal synfuel: Coal-based solid fuel that has been processed by a **coal synfuel plant**; and coal-based fuels such as briquettes, pellets, or extrusions, which are formed from fresh or recycled coal and binding materials.

Coal synfuel plant: A plant engaged in the chemical transformation of **coal** into **coal synfuel**.

Coke: See **Coal coke** and **Petroleum coke**.

Coking coal: Bituminous coal suitable for making coke. See **Coal coke**.

Combined cycle: An electric generating technology in which electricity is produced from otherwise lost waste heat exiting from one or more gas (combustion) turbines. The exiting heat is routed to a conventional boiler or to a heat recovery steam generator for utilization by a steam turbine in the production of electricity. This process increases the efficiency of the electric generating unit.

Combined-heat-and-power (CHP) plant: A plant designed to produce both heat and electricity from a single heat source. **Note:** This term is being used in place of the term "cogenerator" that was used by EIA in the past. CHP better