

Dry hole: An exploratory or development well found to be incapable of producing either oil or gas in sufficient quantities to justify completion as an oil or gas well.

Dry natural gas production: See **Natural gas (dry) production**.

E85: A fuel containing a mixture of 85 percent **ethanol** and 15 percent **motor gasoline**.

Electric power plant: A station containing prime movers, electric generators, and auxiliary equipment for converting mechanical, chemical, and/or fission energy into electric energy.

Electric power sector: An energy-consuming sector that consists of electricity-only and combined-heat-and-power (CHP) plants whose primary business is to sell electricity, or electricity and heat, to the public—i.e., North American Industry Classification System 22 plants. See also **Combined heat and power (CHP) plant**, **Electricity-only plant**, **Electric utility**, and **Independent power producer**.

Electric utility: Any entity that generates, transmits, or distributes **electricity** and recovers the cost of its generation, transmission or distribution assets and operations, either directly or indirectly, through cost-based rates set by a separate regulatory authority (e.g., State Public Service Commission), or is owned by a governmental unit or the consumers that the entity serves. Examples of these entities include: investor-owned entities, public power districts, public utility districts, municipalities, rural electric cooperatives, and state and federal agencies. Electric utilities may have Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approval for interconnection agreements and wholesale trade tariffs covering either cost-of-service and/or market-based rates under the authority of the Federal Power Act. See **Electric power sector**.

Electrical system energy losses: The amount of energy lost during generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity, including plant and unaccounted-for uses.

Electricity: A form of energy characterized by the presence and motion of elementary charged particles generated by friction, induction, or chemical change.

Electricity generation: The process of producing electric energy, or the amount of electric energy produced by transforming other forms of energy, commonly expressed in **kilowatthours** (kWh) or megawatthours (MWh).

Electricity generation, gross: The total amount of electric energy produced by generating units and measured at the generating terminal in **kilowatthours** (kWh) or megawatthours (MWh).

Electricity generation, net: The amount of **gross electricity generation** less **station use** (the **electric energy** consumed at the generating station(s) for station service or auxiliaries). **Note:** Electricity required for pumping at **hydroelectric pumped-storage** plants is regarded as electricity for station service and is deducted from gross generation.

Electricity only plant: A plant designed to produce electricity only. See also **Combined heat and power (CHP) plant**.

Electricity retail sales: The amount of electricity sold to customers purchasing electricity for their own use and not for resale.

End use sectors: The **residential**, **commercial**, **industrial**, and **transportation** sectors of the economy.

Energy: The capacity for doing work as measured by the capability of doing work (potential energy) or the conversion of this capability to motion (kinetic energy). Energy has several forms, some of which are easily convertible and can be changed to another form useful for work. Most of the world's convertible energy comes from fossil fuels that are burned to produce heat that is then used as a transfer medium to mechanical or other means in order to accomplish tasks. Electrical energy is usually measured in kilowatthours, while heat energy is usually measured in British thermal units.

Energy consumption: The use of energy as a source of heat or power or as an input in the manufacturing process.

Energy service provider: An energy entity that provides service to a retail or end-use customer.

Energy use sectors: A group of major energy-consuming components of U.S. society developed to measure and analyze energy use. The sectors most commonly referred to in EIA are: **residential**, **commercial**, **industrial**, **transportation**, and **electric power**.