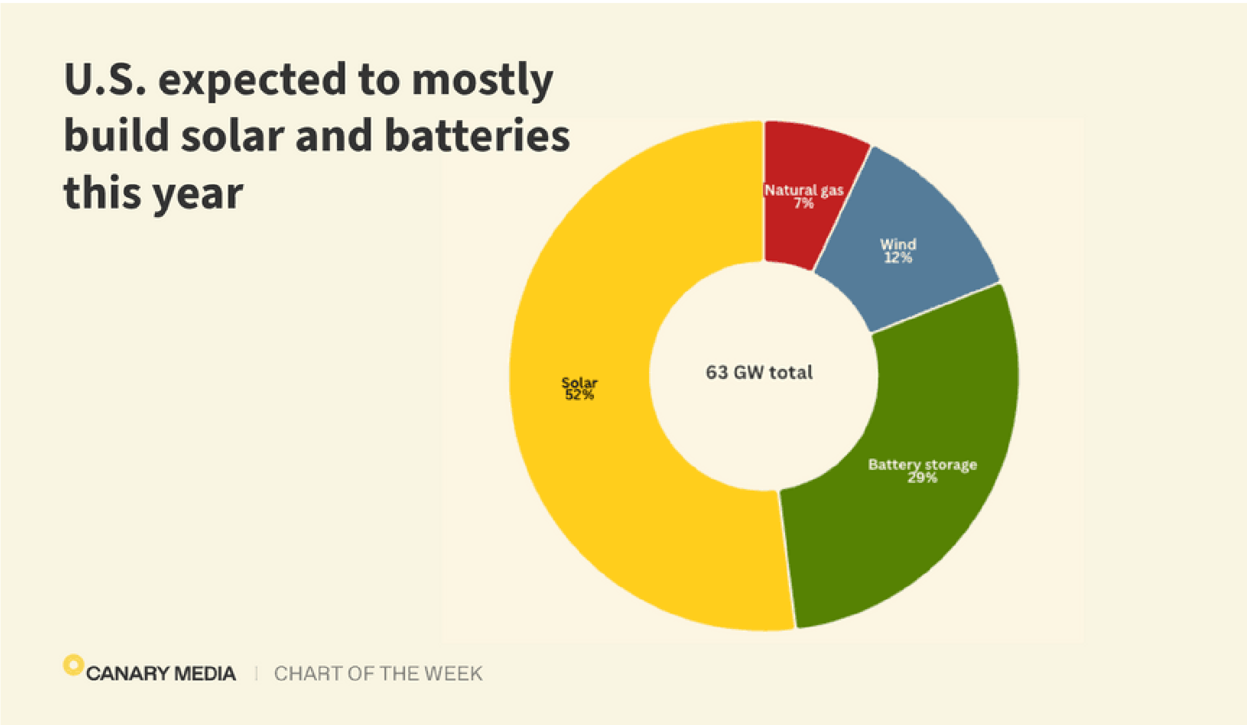
Solar, batteries to lead US power plant construction in 2025

The country is set to build a record 63 gigawatts of new power this year as demand surges — and almost all of it will be carbon-free.

By **Julian Spector**, 28 February 2025



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The numbers are in, and clean energy is set to sweep U.S. power plant construction yet again this year.

The U.S. is expected to build 63 gigawatts of power plant capacity this year, more than it has in decades, as new AI computing and domestic manufacturing projects cause a surge in energy demand. At this crucial juncture, plants that don't burn fossil fuels are set to deliver 93% of all the new capacity joining the U.S. grid in 2025, per new estimates from the federal Energy Information Administration.

A Flourish data visualization

The new prediction is no fluke — carbon-free sources delivered nearly all the new capacity last year, too. And the trend was building for years before that.

This year, utility-scale solar is expected to continue its winning streak as the largest source of new electricity generation. More than half of new power plant capacity built this year will be solar, followed by batteries, with 29% of total capacity. That's a step up for batteries from last year. Meanwhile, solar's share is forecast to fall, but EIA expects more construction in absolute terms — 32.5 gigawatts compared to 30 last year.

Wind will add 12% of the new capacity, burnished by two major offshore wind projects the EIA still expects to come online despite political headwinds: Massachusetts' 800-megawatt Vineyard Wind 1 and Rhode Island's 715-megawatt Revolution Wind. The Trump administration unilaterally halted federal permitting for new offshore wind projects, but these are among the five that were already under construction, with necessary permits in hand.

This dominant showing from clean energy developers leaves natural gas with just 7% of new power capacity. That fossil fuel still leads in total U.S. electricity generation with about 42% of the mix but has entered a multi-year slump in terms of new construction.

The EIA predicts total gas-fired generation — the actual electricity produced — will fall 3% this year while solar generation rises by more than one-third.

This dataset offers a snapshot of where the U.S. power industry is heading — and the direction is toward cleaner, cheaper energy that mainly comes from solar and batteries.

But beyond the climate metrics, these clean power plants are proving vital in meeting the needs of an increasingly power-hungry economy. Data centers, AI hubs, and the domestic manufacturing that grew during the Biden administration all need more electricity. Renewables and batteries are the source of energy that can meet this demand most quickly and cost-effectively, though they still need to work alongside other resources to ensure 24/7 service.

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