

Reclaiming Affordability

WINNING THE COST WAR WITH
THE **RIGHT** SOLUTIONS

*Utilities/
Energy*

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Introduction

Over the last five years, electricity rates have surged across the United States. The average American family saw their utility rates **increase** by 27% between 2019 and 2024. With rising electricity demand from artificial intelligence (AI) data centers, transportation, manufacturing, and improved living standards, energy affordability is a top concern for individuals and voters.

Overall, energy inflation under the second Trump administration is falling due to environmental deregulation and energy abundance policies adopted federally. But states—especially those **overseen** by Democrats—are experiencing higher-than-average electricity prices due to green mandates that require phasing out coal, oil, and natural gas in favor of 100% wind, solar, and batteries.

Background: *How We Got Here*

Congress gave all 50 states near-exclusive power to regulate electricity within their borders through a 1935 law called the Federal Power Act. States **control** their own decisions to determine generation portfolios, regulate retail prices, and mandate renewable energy adoption.

States with 100% renewable energy targets, electric vehicle mandates, or membership in cap-and-trade programs like the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) have experienced, on average, a **12.5%** increase in **utility bills** compared to states without mandates.

As a result, climate change policies **already** in place have worsened unaffordability. That's why blue state governors in the Northeast, for instance, are quietly watering down or eliminating these mandates.

Solutions: *Paths Forward*

Energy affordability is achievable in several ways.

It's imperative to repeal aggressive green mandates that invite higher energy prices. These include **renewable portfolio standards (RPS)**, 100% wind and solar energy targets, EV mandates, and RGGI taxes.

States must adopt energy abundance policies to encourage new energy infrastructure projects that deliver affordable, cheap, and reliable energy.

States must adopt energy abundance policies to encourage new energy infrastructure projects that deliver affordable, cheap, and reliable energy. New natural gas and nuclear energy projects save ratepayers billions in costs, especially in regions like **New England**.

Legislative remedies can also usher in affordability. Policies such as permitting reform and consumer-regulated electricity (build your own power) help meet rising electricity demand without raising consumer bills.

List of Specific Bills

- The ***DATA Act (S. 3585)*** allows private grids to supply their own electricity so long as they stay disconnected from the grid, and thus cannot impact utility bills. This reform will balance AI data center development with affordability.
- The ***SPEED Act (H.R.4776)*** will codify Trump administration changes to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to allow new energy infrastructure projects to be approved and built faster—not in seven to 10 years.

Misperceptions vs. Facts

MISPERCEPTION: Climate-mitigation policies make energy prices more affordable.

FACT: Radical climate policies are **expensive** and don't lower energy bills—especially in blue states (or Europe). New England residents saw their electricity rates increase 29% across the last five years, while California residents saw their utility bills increase, on average, **39%**—the **highest** of any U.S. state.

MISPERCEPTION: Repealing wind and solar mandates will lead to higher electricity bills.

FACT: Wind and solar are subsidized, part-time energy sources that don't lower electric bills. Their addition to the grid results in higher electricity costs. Adding new natural gas and nuclear, for instance—not 100% renewables—is **expected** to lower energy costs, especially in blue states.

MISPERCEPTION: Exiting state-level greenhouse gas pacts will increase carbon emissions and raise energy bills.

FACT: The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is an 11-member cap-and-trade program that mandates participating states transition away from carbon-intensive goods and services. RGGI membership, however, has a “**negligible**” impact on emissions and generates **higher** electricity rates.

MISPERCEPTION: Natural gas won't lower electricity rates.

FACT: Natural gas is the largest electricity generation source in the U.S. Over the years, natural gas prices **remained** affordable and cheap due to innovation. It's no wonder why Americans, including New England women, **support** the construction of new natural gas pipelines and infrastructure to help lower energy costs.

U.S. RESIDENTS CONCERNED ABOUT RISING UTILITY BILLS



Source: [Ipsos \(April 2025\)](#)

NEW ENGLAND WOMEN FEEL MISLED ABOUT CLIMATE POLICIES



Source: [IW New England Energy Survey \(January 2026\)](#)



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analysis, and data enable us to drive
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