



Walter Wright, Jr.
wwright@mwlaw.com
(501) 688.8839

Accelerating Into a Clean Energy Future: Natural Resources Defense Council Annual Energy Report

Arkansas Environmental, Energy, and Water Law Blog

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The Natural Resources Defense Council ("NRDC") issued a December 2016 report titled *Accelerating Into a Clean Energy Future* ("Report").

NRDC states that this is its fourth annual energy report.

The organization reviews on an annual basis the most recent data to present an overall picture of the United States energy sector.

NRDC states that the United States:

... is building a clean energy revolution that will deliver deep pollution reductions. Coal-fired generation dropped to historic lows this year, producing only one-third of our electricity while renewable energy generation reached record highs, with more than one-eighth of America's electricity generated from solar panels, wind turbines, and other renewable resources. This past year energy saw a number of victories for the environment, highlighted by a global climate agreement and a carbon reduction plan for the United States. There have been strong efforts to decarbonize the electric grid through carbon reduction targets, energy efficiency gains, and renewable energy additions. In fact, more than one-fifth of the U.S. population lives in a state with a goal of at least 50 percent renewable energy.

The *Report* concludes that "these strong trends indicate that a transition to a clean energy economy is irrevocably underway, and independent of any changes in federal administrations or congressional leadership."

A graph is included providing the percentage contribution of various energy sources in the generation of electricity in the United States. The *Report* also addresses:

- Clean Energy Highlights
- Greenhouse Gases
- Energy Efficiency
- Renewable Energy
- Nuclear Energy
- Natural Gas
- Coal
- Oil
- On the Horizon – America's Utilities Prepare for New Roles

[A copy of the Report can be downloaded here.](#)

