

# Understanding & Addressing Energy Affordability: Trends in U.S. Electricity Prices

## A Webinar



Increasing electricity prices for American consumers have garnered national attention in recent months, as residential prices are outpacing the rate of inflation in large regions of the country. With anticipated electricity demand growth in the coming years, understanding the root causes of these price increases and how to mitigate them will become increasingly important. This webinar will address the following key questions:

- What are the current trends in electricity prices across the United States, and how do they differ by geographic region and sector (residential, commercial, industry)?
- What factors are causing the observed increases in electricity prices?
- How might higher electricity prices impact energy affordability and U.S. economic competitiveness?

Tune in to the livestream at [this link](#). Join [our Slido](#) to ask questions and leave comments.

This webinar will be followed by a workshop which will identify key factors contributing to rising energy costs and discuss potential policy and technology solutions to energy affordability challenges, including the geographic and sectoral (e.g., electricity or heating, residential or industrial) factors. Register [here](#) to attend the workshop in person in Washington, DC or online.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026**

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**12:30 PM (ET)<sup>1</sup> Welcome & Opening Remarks**  
Catherine Wise, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

**12:35 PM Trends in U.S. Electricity Prices**  
Speakers will describe research on trends in and drivers of electricity prices across the United States, including impacts on different customer types and regions. A moderated discussion on additional research needs and options for mitigating price increases, including policy and technology considerations, will follow.  
**Moderator:** Catherine Wise, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine  
**Speakers:**

- Jesse Buchsbaum, Resources for the Future
- Ryan Hledik, Brattle Group
- Christopher Knittel, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**1:40 PM Audience Q&A Session**  
Send in and upvote questions via [Slido](#).

**2:00 PM ADJOURN**

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<sup>1</sup> All Times in Eastern

## Speaker Biographies

### **Jesse Buchsbaum, Resources for the Future**

Jesse Buchsbaum is an economist and a fellow at Resources for the Future (RFF). Prior to joining RFF, he was a postdoctoral scholar at University of Chicago's Energy & Environment Lab. Buchsbaum's research primarily focuses on energy economics, with particular attention to consumer decisionmaking, electricity markets, rate design, and equity. Jesse earned his PhD in agricultural and resource economics from the University of California, Berkeley, in 2022, where he was a research assistant at the Energy Institute at Haas. Previously, he worked as an Economic Policy Associate at the Environmental Law & Policy Center and received his BS in economics and mathematics from the University of Michigan.

### **Ryan Hledik, Brattle Group**

Mr. Hledik specializes in regulatory and planning matters related to the emergence of distributed energy technologies. He has consulted for clients across 35 states and nine countries, supporting them in matters related to load flexibility, energy storage, distributed generation, electricity rate design, electrification, energy efficiency, and grid modernization. Mr. Hledik's work has been cited in regulatory decisions establishing procurement targets for energy storage and demand response, authorizing billions of dollars in grid modernization investments, and approving the introduction of innovative rate designs. He has authored widely cited studies on the economics of virtual power plants, Saudi Arabia's first demand-side management (DSM) plan, the US Department of Energy's *A National Roadmap for Grid-Interactive Efficient Buildings*, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's *A National Assessment of Demand Response Potential* and *National Action Plan for Demand Response*. He has published more than 30 articles on electricity matters, presented at industry events in 10 countries, and given lectures on distributed grid economics at Penn, Stanford, and Yale. Mr. Hledik's research on the grid edge has been cited by *Forbes*, *National Geographic*, *The New York Times*, *NPR*, and *The Washington Post*, and he has served on the advisory boards of a clean energy startup and an energy storage trade association. Mr. Hledik received his MS in Management Science and Engineering from Stanford University, where he concentrated in Energy Economics and Policy. He received his BS in Applied Science from the University of Pennsylvania, with minors in Economics and Mathematics. Prior to joining Brattle, Mr. Hledik was a Research Assistant with Stanford University's Energy Modeling Forum and a Research Analyst at Charles River Associates.

### **Christopher Knittel, Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

Christopher Knittel is the Associate Dean for Climate and Sustainability, *the George P. Shultz Professor* and a Professor of Applied Economics at the MIT Sloan School of Management. Prior to MIT Sloan, Knittel taught at the University of California, Davis, and at Boston University. His research focuses on industrial organization, environmental economics, and applied econometrics. Knittel is an associate editor of *The American Economic Journal—Economic Policy*, *The Journal of Industrial Economics*, and the *Journal of Energy Markets*. His research has appeared in *The American Economic Review*, *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, *The Journal of Industrial Economics*, *The Energy Journal*, and other academic journals. He also is a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research in the Productivity, Industrial Organization, and Energy and Environmental Economics groups. Knittel holds a BA in economics and political science from California State University, Stanislaus; an MA in economics from the University of California, Davis; and a PhD in economics from the University of California, Berkeley.