**Glossary**

**Biomass:**  Organic non-fossil material of biological origin constituting a renewable energy source.

**Biomass gas:**  A medium Btu gas containing methane and carbon dioxide, resulting from the action of microorganisms on organic materials such as a landfill.

**Biomass waste:**  Organic non-fossil material of biological origin that is a byproduct or a discarded product. Biomass waste includes municipal solid waste from biogenic sources, landfill gas, sludge waste, agricultural crop byproducts, straw, and other biomass solids, liquids, and gases; but excludes wood and wood-derived fuels (including black liquor), biofuels feedstock, biodiesel, and fuel ethanol. **Note:** EIA biomass waste data also include energy crops grown specifically for energy production, which would not normally constitute waste.

**Biomass-based diesel fuel:**  Biodiesel and other renewable diesel fuel or diesel fuel blending components derived from biomass, but excluding renewable diesel fuel co-processed with petroleum feedstocks.

**Coke (coal):**  A solid carbonaceous residue derived from low-ash, low-sulfur bituminous coal from which the volatile constituents are driven off by baking in an oven at temperatures as high as 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit so that the fixed carbon and residual ash are fused together. Coke is used as a fuel and as a reducing agent in smelting iron ore in a blast furnace. Coke from coal is grey, hard, and porous and has a heating value of 24.8 million Btu per ton.

**Conventional hydroelectric plant:**  A plant in which all of the power is produced from natural streamflow as regulated by available storage.

**Electricity sales:**  The amount of kilowatt-hours sold in a given period of time; usually grouped by classes of service, such as residential, commercial, industrial, and other. "Other" sales include sales for public street and highway lighting and other sales to public authorities, sales to railroads and railways, and interdepartmental sales.

**Electric utility:**  A corporation, person, agency, authority, or other legal entity or instrumentality aligned with distribution facilities for delivery of electric energy for use primarily by the public. Included are investor-owned electric utilities, municipal and State utilities, Federal electric utilities, and rural electric cooperatives. A few entities that are tariff based and corporately aligned with companies that own distribution facilities are also included.

**Energy consumption:**  The use of energy as a source of heat or power or as a raw material input to a manufacturing process

**Fossil fuel:**  An energy source formed in the Earth's crust from decayed organic material. The common fossil fuels are petroleum, coal, and natural gas.

**Geothermal energy:**  Hot water or steam extracted from geothermal reservoirs in the earth's crust. Water or steam extracted from geothermal reservoirs can be used for geothermal heat pumps, water heating, or electricity generation.

**Nuclear electric power (nuclear power):**  Electricity generated by the use of the thermal energy released from the fission of nuclear fuel in a reactor.

**Primary energy consumption:**  Consumption of primary energy. The U.S. Energy Information Administration includes the following in U.S. primary energy consumption:

* Coal consumption
* Coal coke net imports
* Petroleum consumption (petroleum products supplied)
* Dry natural gas—excluding supplemental gaseous fuels—consumption
* Nuclear electricity net generation (converted to Btu using the average annual heat rate of nuclear plants)
* Conventional hydroelectricity net generation (converted to Btu using the average annual heat rate of fossil-fuel fired plants)
* Geothermal electricity net generation (converted to Btu using the average annual heat rate of fossil-fuel fired plants), geothermal heat pump energy and geothermal direct-use energy
* Solar thermal and photovoltaic electricity net generation (converted to Btu using the average annual heat rate of fossil-fuel fired plants)
* Solar thermal direct-use energy
* Wind electricity net generation (converted to Btu using the average annual heat rate of fossil-fuel fired plants)
* Wood and wood-derived fuels consumption
* Biomass waste consumption
* Fuel ethanol and biodiesel consumption
* Losses and co-products from the production of fuel ethanol and biodiesel
* Electricity net imports (converted to Btu using the electricity heat content of 3,412 Btu per kilowatt-hour)

**Primary energy consumption** also includes all non-combustion uses of fossil fuels. Energy sources produced from other energy sources—e.g., coal coke from coal—are included in primary energy consumption only if their energy content has not already been included as part of the original energy source. As a result, U.S. primary energy consumption does include net imports of coal coke, but it does not include the coal coke produced from domestic coal.

**Primary energy consumption expenditures:**  Expenditures for energy consumed in each of the four major end-use sectors, excluding energy in the form of electricity, plus expenditures by the electric utilities sector for energy used to generate electricity. There are no fuel-associated expenditures for associated expenditures for hydroelectric power, geothermal energy, photovoltaic and solar energy, or wind energy. Also excluded are the quantifiable consumption expenditures that are an integral part of process fuel consumption.

**Renewable energy resources:**  Energy resources that are naturally replenishing but flow-limited. They are virtually inexhaustible in duration but limited in the amount of energy that is available per unit of time. Renewable energy resources include biomass, hydro, geothermal, solar, wind, ocean thermal, wave action, and tidal action.

**Renewable fuels (other):**  Fuels and fuel blending components, except biomass-based diesel fuel, renewable diesel fuel, and fuel ethanol, produced from renewable biomass. **Note:** This category "other" pertains to the petroleum supply data system.

**Renewable diesel fuel (other):**  Diesel fuel and diesel fuel blending components produced from renewable sources that are co-processed with petroleum feedstocks and meet requirements of advanced biofuels. **Note:** This category "other" pertains to the petroleum supply data system.

**Supplemental gas:**  Any gaseous substance introduced into or commingled with natural gas that increased the volume available for disposition. Such substances include, but are not limited to, propane-air, refinery gas, coke-oven gas, still gas, manufactured gas, biomass gas, or air or inerts added for Btu stabilization.

**Supplemental gaseous fuels supplies:**  Synthetic natural gas, propane-air, coke oven gas, refinery gas, biomass gas, air injected for Btu stabilization, and manufactured gas commingled and distributed with natural gas.