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U.S. power producers using more natural gas in 2015

U.S. electric power producers are increasing their use of natural gas and burning less coal for generating electricity.

In its new forecast, the U.S. Energy Information Administration said natural gas-fired generation is expected to produce 30% of U.S. electricity this year. That's up from 27% during 2014.

More competitively-priced natural gas is expected to cut coal's share of electricity generation from about 39% last year to just under 36% this year.

Less coal use by the electric power sector will contribute to an expected 7% decline in U.S. coal production this year.

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