

Residential electricity consumption this summer expected to be higher than last year

Electricity use among U.S. households is expected to be about 1 percent higher this summer compared to last year.

In its new short-term energy forecast, the U.S. Energy Information Administration says a nearly 6% increase in cooling degree days expected this summer will be slightly offset by more efficient air conditioning, lighting, and other appliances that use less electricity.

The 1 percent rise in summer electricity use is much smaller than the 7.3 percent jump in power consumption in the residential sector during the first quarter, when demand for electric heat was unusually strong.

More coal and less natural gas will be used to generate electricity this summer compared to last year, while combined power generated by wind, sun, and other renewables will also grow.

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