Sustainability Bulletin

1st Edition of September 2025

Solar May Account for Half of New US Electricity Added This Year, EIA Says

Developers are set to add 33 GW of solar power in the U.S. this year, representing about half of all new electricity capacity planned for 2025. If realised, this would be the largest annual solar build in U.S. history, underscoring solar's rapid rise from niche resource to a central pillar of the grid.

The surge comes as electricity demand hits record levels, driven by data centers, transport electrification, and energy-intensive industries. The Energy Information Administration (EIA) notes that solar, paired with expanding battery storage, is becoming essential for balancing grids, cutting emissions, and strengthening resilience against climate and supply risks.

Texas has emerged as the leader, accounting for a quarter of 2025 solar activity so far. The state expects to add another 9.7 GW by year-end, nearly half the national pipeline, driven by abundant sunlight, available land, and fast-growing energy demand.

New Report: Brazil's Methane Emissions Surge Linked to Livestock Expansion

Brazil's methane emissions grew 6% from 2020 to 2023, reaching 21.1 million tons in 2023, the country's second-highest level on record. Nearly three-fourths of these emissions come from cattle, with beef and dairy alone producing 14.5 million tons of methane, equal to 406 million tons of CO_2, more than Italy's entire annual emissions.

This dependence on livestock is driving a climate risk with outsized impact. As methane warms far faster than CO_2, Brazil, home to the world's second-largest cattle herd, faces mounting pressure to act. Researchers from Brazilian climate network Observatorio do Clima point to improved grazing and feed additives as viable solutions, citing New Zealand's experience as a model. As Brazil prepares to host COP30 in November, the rise in methane highlights a critical gap in its climate strategy. Addressing agricultural emissions will be essential if the country is to meet its targets and limit global warming.

Pakistan Evacuates 1 Million People as Farming Belt Hit by Worst Floods in Decades

Punjab, Pakistan is facing its worst floods in nearly 40 years, with monsoon rains displacing over 1 million people and inundating 1,400 villages. Swollen rivers swamped farmland and forced emergency breaches for the protection of infrastructure. The disaster, part of a season claiming 819 lives nationwide, highlights rising climate risks and the urgent need for stronger water management and resilient infrastructure across South Asia's farming belt.

33 GW

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6%

Brazil's methane emissions rose 6% between 2020 and 2023, reaching their second-highest level on record

1 million

Over 1 million people have been displaced as Punjab suffers its worst floods in nearly four decades