

Comment from L. R. Roberts on [#M-2025-3054271](#) to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

In 2025, we have seen that worldwide the cheapest form of new electricity generation is solar + batteries. We have passed that inflection point. Aren't convinced? Google it! Ask AI. To save you the trouble and to avoid multiple electric drains I have saved you the trouble:

Source → Gemini AI

“As of 2025, **utility-scale Solar PV** (Photovoltaic) is widely recognized as the least expensive form of new electric power generation globally. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA) and recent reports from Lazard and BloombergNEF, solar has achieved record-low costs that consistently undercut coal and natural gas.

The Ranking of New Generation Costs

When comparing the "Levelized Cost of Energy" (LCOE)—which measures the total cost of building and operating a plant over its lifetime—the current hierarchy for new builds is:

| Technology | Typical LCOE Range (USD/MWh) | Status |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Solar PV (Utility) | \$27 – \$60 | Cheapest Globally |
| Onshore Wind | \$34 – \$75 | Highly Competitive |
| Natural Gas (Combined Cycle) | \$70 – \$100+ | Costly due to fuel prices” |

The fossil fuel companies, through regulatory and government capture, are trying to railroad through and lock us into commitments requiring more expensive, more polluting, more dangerous fuel sources. This is at the same time that our climate crisis is hitting home with more deadly heatwaves, extreme flooding and wildfires. Areas of Allegheny County were struck by a straight-line derecho that knocked out power for some residents for weeks. The catastrophic fires in Hawaii and L.A. are the most destructive and deadly in recent memory but they won't be the last.

It is dangerously irresponsible to pretend that the Homer City fracking-gas powered plant wouldn't significantly make the climate crisis worse. Not to mention harming the surrounding air and water quality. This is just as true for all the other proposed frack-gas power plants being proposed or redeveloped.

The AI data center being rushed through in Cheswick/Springdale will jack up all of our Duquesne Light electricity rates. People in the Cheswick/Springdale community who thought they finally were going to have environmental relief after their dirty-coal powerplant was demolished -- they are already looking to leave.

There are solutions that do NOT make our electric bills go through the roof. Those same solutions do not harm our communities, our state, or our world's climate.

Data Centers need to use the power source that can be most rapidly deployed and provide the cheapest, safest and cleanest forms of new electricity: solar with battery storage. And since their needs are greater than their own rooftops can provide, they should pay homeowners to install solar+battery power. This will do far more than lower the home-owner's electric bill -- it will lower demand for electricity across the grid and keep non-solar citizens or businesses from having to pay higher electric bills. This way the Data Centers will be good neighbors -- not bad.