



Monthly Energy Update

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For information,
contact UAE staff at
801-355-4374

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Utah Legislature Bill Changing State Energy Plan Poised to Become Law

On February 23, 2024, the Utah Legislature approved changes to its energy policy plan to promote adequate supply and paving the way for the state’s “energy independence”. It would do so by prioritizing the use of energy resources generated in Utah and establishing guidelines to measure the benefits of new generators.

[HB374](#), titled State Energy Policy Amendments, sponsored by Rep. Colin Jack, R-St. George, dictates a strategy to develop Utah’s energy resources and plan for future demand. The legislation also ranks a list of attributes the state should take into consideration when building energy systems in order of importance: adequate, reliable, dispatchable, affordable, sustainable, secure, and clean.

The House voted 60-7 to approve changes introduced in the Senate, the final step for the bill’s legislative passage. It now goes to the governor’s desk for consideration.

This is one part of a package of three bills that Jack presented this session to ensure the state will have enough energy supply to avoid blackouts. The set of legislation also prioritizes already existing resources by protecting coal plants from being shut down before there’s a plan to replace them with generators of the same or higher capacities.

Two of those bills, including HB374, have passed both the House and Senate,