



Key Energy Acronyms and Terms

Acronyms: Agencies and Organizations			
<u>ACEEE</u>	American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy	<u>MISO</u>	Midcontinent Independent System Operator
<u>ACORE</u>	American Council on Renewable Energy	<u>NARUC</u>	National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners
<u>APPA</u>	American Public Power Association	<u>NASEO</u>	National Association of State Energy Officials
<u>ACP</u>	American Clean Power Association	<u>NCEL</u>	National Caucus of Environmental Legislators
<u>BLM</u>	U.S. Bureau of Land Management	<u>NCSL</u>	National Conference of State Legislatures
<u>BOEM</u>	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	<u>NEEA</u>	Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
<u>BPA</u>	Bonneville Power Administration	<u>NEEP</u>	Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships
<u>CAISO</u>	California Independent System Operator	<u>NERC</u>	North American Electric Reliability Corporation
<u>DOE</u>	U.S. Department of Energy	<u>NREL</u>	National Renewable Energy Laboratory
<u>EIA</u>	U.S. Energy Information Administration	<u>RAP</u>	Regulatory Assistance Project
<u>EPA</u>	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	<u>SEEA</u>	Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance
<u>ERCOT</u>	Electric Reliability Council of Texas	<u>SEIA</u>	Solar Energy Industries Association
<u>FERC</u>	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	<u>SPEER</u>	South-Central Partnership of Energy Efficiency as a Resource
<u>IEA</u>	International Energy Agency	<u>SPP</u>	Southwest Power Pool
<u>IREC</u>	Interstate Renewable Energy Council	<u>SWEEP</u>	Southwest Energy Efficiency Project
<u>ISO-NE</u>	Independent System Operator of New England	<u>TVA</u>	Tennessee Valley Authority
<u>LBL / LBNL</u>	Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory	<u>USFS</u>	U.S. Forest Service
<u>LEED</u>	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design	<u>WAPA</u>	Western Area Power Administration
<u>MEEA</u>	Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance	<u>WECC</u>	Western Electricity Coordinating Council

Acronyms & Abbreviations: Terms

AFV	Alternative Fuel Vehicle	GWh	Gigawatt hour
AMI	Advanced Metering Infrastructure	IOU	Investor-Owned Utility
AMR	Automatic Meter Reading	IRA	Inflation Reduction Act
ARRA	The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009	kW	Kilowatt
BACT	Best Available Control Technology	kWh	Kilowatt hour
BART	Best Available Retrofit Technology	LEV	Low Emissions Vehicle
BIL / IIJA	Bipartisan Infrastructure Law / Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act	MW	Megawatt
BMP	Best Management Practice	MWh	Megawatt hour
Btu	British thermal unit	PAYS	Pay as You Save
CCUS	Carbon Capture, Use, and Sequestration	PEV	Plug-in Electric Vehicle
DCFC	Direct Current Fast Charging	PSC	Public Service Commission
DG	Distributed Generation	PUC	Public Utilities Commission
EE	Energy Efficiency	PV	Photovoltaic
EV	Electric Vehicles	T&D	Transmission and Distribution
GHG(s)	Greenhouse Gas(es)	VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled
GW	Gigawatt	ZEV	Zero Emissions Vehicle

Terms: Definitions

Acronym	Term	Definition
	Baseload	The lowest level of power production needed during a season or year.
CAFE Standards	Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards	These regulate fuel-economy, or how many miles vehicles should travel on each gallon of fuel.
	Capacity Factor	The percentage of electricity produced by a generating unit over a given time frame, compared to what that unit would have produced during that same period if it was run at continuous full power.
CHP	Combined Heat and Power	Also known as "cogeneration," it is the simultaneous production of electricity and heat (thermal energy) in a single, integrated system.
	Demand	The level at which electricity or natural gas is delivered to users at a given point in time.

Terms: Definitions

Acronym	Term	Definition
<u>DER</u>	Distributed Energy Resources	Small-scale power generation technologies (typically in the range of 3 to 10,000 kilowatts) located close to where electricity is used to provide an alternative to or an enhancement of the traditional electric power system.
<u>DR</u>	Demand Response	Using time-based prices and other incentives to provide customers the ability to choose to reduce or shift electricity use, particularly during peak demand periods, so that changes in customer demand are an option for addressing pricing, system operations and reliability, infrastructure planning, operation and deferral, and other issues.
<u>DSM</u>	Demand Side Management	A technology or program that encourages customers to use electricity differently.
<u>EERS</u>	Energy Efficiency Resource Standard	A policy that sets specific, long-term targets for energy savings that utilities or non-utility program administrators must meet through customer energy efficiency programs.
<u>IDP</u>	Integrated Distribution Planning	Assesses the physical and operational changes to the grid necessary for safe, reliable, and affordable service that satisfies customers' changing expectations and use of distributed energy resources. Integrated distribution planning should include stakeholder-informed planning scenarios and be coordinated with other types of planning (for example, resource and transmission planning).
<u>IRP</u>	Integrated Resource Plan / Planning	A plan to meet forecasted energy demand using both supply and demand side resources to ensure reliable service to customers in the most cost-effective way.
<u>ISO</u>	Independent System Operator	An independent, federally regulated entity that coordinates regional transmission in a non-discriminatory manner and ensures the safety and reliability of the electric system.
<u>ITC</u>	Business Energy Investment Tax Credit	A federal corporate tax credit for investments in renewable and clean energy technologies.
<u>LCOE</u>	Levelized Cost of Electricity / Energy	Often cited as a convenient summary measure of the overall competitiveness of different generating technologies. It represents the per-megawatt hour cost (in discounted real dollars) of building and operating a generating plant over an assumed financial life and duty cycle.
	Load	The amount of electric power supplied to meet one or more end user's needs.
	Microgrid	A combination of localized electricity generation sources, energy storage devices, and multiple loads that acts as a small electric grid with respect to the main electric grid. The microgrid can operate interconnected or isolated from the main electric grid.
<u>NEM</u>	Net Energy Metering	A metering and billing arrangement used compensate distributed generation system owners for any generation they export to the utility grid. Often referred to as "net metering."

Terms: Definitions

Acronym	Term	Definition
<u>PACE</u>	Property Assessed Clean Energy	Allows a property owner to finance the up-front cost of energy or other eligible improvements on a property and then pay the costs back over time through a voluntary assessment. The assessment is attached to the property, not the individual.
<u>PBR</u>	Performance-Based Regulation	Any rate-setting mechanism which attempts to link rewards (generally profits) to desired results or targets rather than a utility's cost-of-service.
	Peak Load	The highest electric demand within a particular period of time.
	Peaking Unit	A power generator used by a utility to produce extra electricity during peak load times.
<u>PPA</u>	Power Purchase Agreement	A contract specifying the terms and conditions under which electric power will be generated and purchased.
<u>PTC</u>	Production Tax Credit	A per-kilowatt-hour federal tax credit for electricity generated by qualified clean and renewable energy resources.
<u>PURPA</u>	The Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act of 1978	Among other things, requires utilities to buy electric power from private "qualifying facilities," at an avoided cost rate. This rate is equivalent to what it would have otherwise cost the utility to generate or purchase that power themselves. Utilities must also provide customers that self-generate a reasonably priced back-up electric supply.
<u>REC</u>	Renewable Energy Credit / Certificate	A market-based instrument that represents the property rights to the environmental, social, and other non-power attributes of renewable electricity generation. Issued when one megawatt-hour of electricity is generated and delivered to the electricity grid from a renewable energy resource.
<u>REZ</u>	Renewable Energy Zone	A geographic area characterized by several features that support cost-effective renewable energy development, including high-quality renewable resources, suitable topography and land use designations, and demonstrated interest from developers.
<u>ROR</u>	Rate of Return	The ratio of net operating income earned by a utility is calculated as a percentage of its rate base.
<u>RPS</u>	Renewable Portfolio Standard	A policy that requires that at least a subset of a state's utilities or retail electric providers supply an increasing percentage of renewable energy to their customers within a set timeframe.
<u>RTO</u>	Regional Transmission Organization	An independent, federally regulated entity that coordinates regional transmission in a non-discriminatory manner and ensures the safety and reliability of the electric system.
<u>TOU</u>	Time-of-Use	In rate setting, refers to electricity prices that vary depending on the time periods in which the energy is consumed. In a time-of-use rate structure, higher prices are charged during utility peak-load times. Such rates can provide an incentive for consumers to curb power use during peak times. Also referred to as "time varying rates"

Additional Resources:

Body of Knowledge on Infrastructure Regulation, Glossary:

<https://regulationbodyofknowledge.org/glossary/>

California Energy Commission, Glossary of Energy Terms: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/resources/energy-glossary>

Energy Information Administration, Glossary: <https://www.eia.gov/tools/glossary/>

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Glossary: <https://www.ferc.gov/about/what-ferc/about/glossary>

Information Technology Associates, Energy Dictionary: <https://photius.com/energy/>

NREL, Solar Resource Glossary: <https://www.nrel.gov/grid/solar-resource/solar-glossary.html>