# Global Energy Landscape: Google's Emissions Surge, World Bank Funds India, Gas Prices Rise, U.S. Solar Installations Grow



### Google’s GHG Emissions Surge Due to AI Demand

In 2023, Google's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions increased by 13% year-over-year, and by nearly 50% compared to 2019, as detailed in its 2024 environmental report.

The search engine giant, which aims to reach net-zero emissions by 2030, cited increased data center energy consumption and supply chain emissions as primary contributors. These emission increases highlight the challenge of reducing emissions while expanding technical infrastructure to support AI advancements. Specifically, data center electricity consumption grew by 17% in 2023, even with a 100% global renewable energy match.

Despite these challenges, Google maintains a 64% global average in carbon-free energy use across its data centers and offices. The company acknowledges difficulties in regions like Asia Pacific where clean energy resources are less accessible.

Reflecting on the future, Google stated, "We expect this trend to continue as our infrastructure supports digital transitions globally, presenting opportunities to drive low-carbon economy innovations."

### World Bank Funds India’s Low-Carbon Initiatives

The World Bank approved $1.5 billion on June 29, 2024, to support India's Low-Carbon Energy Programmatic Development. This funding aims to boost India's production of green hydrogen and renewable energy, enhance battery energy storage solutions, and establish a national carbon credit market.

The initiative is part of a broader plan to scale India's renewable energy, which includes deploying 450,000 metric tons of green hydrogen and 1,500 MW of electrolyzers annually by 2025-2026. The operation also incentivizes energy storage and provides amendments to the Indian Electricity Grid Code to integrate renewable energy.

India, currently the world's fastest-growing major economy, is working towards achieving net-zero emissions by 2070. Significant investments in solar and wind energy, supported by the World Bank, aim to build over 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030.

### Gas Prices Rise in Gulf Coast Region

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, gas prices in the Gulf Coast region have increased for the second consecutive week, averaging $3.07 per gallon as of Monday. This represents a modest rise from last week’s $3.02 per gallon and a 3-cent increase from last month. Over the past year, regional prices have fluctuated between lows of $2.55 and highs of $3.46 per gallon.

The Gulf Coast region includes states such as Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, and Texas. With the national average gas price standing at $3.48, the region continues to enjoy prices roughly 11.7% lower than the national average.

### U.S. Solar Installations Reach Milestone

The first quarter of 2024 saw a 21% year-over-year rise in U.S. solar installations, according to S&P Global Commodity Insights, pushing total solar capacity past 100 GW. This growth is driven by policy incentives like the Inflation Reduction Act, which facilitate significant investments in solar infrastructure.

Recent installations include 3,379 MW of utility-scale solar capacity, indicating the industry's strong growth trajectory. The Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) projects that the number of solar projects could double to 10 million by 2030 and triple by 2034.

### Conclusion

Google's climbing GHG emissions, World Bank funding for India's low-carbon projects, rising gas prices in the Gulf Coast, and the U.S. solar industry's growth highlight significant shifts in the global energy landscape. These developments underscore both the challenges and opportunities in transitioning to a sustainable future.