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Saturday, November 15, 2025

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CNHI SPECIAL REPORT: PART III

Manufacturing clean energy equipment comes at a cost



CNHI file photo

Seth Buck, project manager for the construction of the City of Anderson Transit Center, looks over an array of solar panels covering the roof of the three-story structure in May 2023. Renewable resources — wind, solar, biofuels and more — accounted for nearly 10% of all energy produced last year in the U.S.

Tech not without safety risks, environmental impact

By Carson Gerber
CNHI State Reporter

Clean energy — such as solar, wind and batteries — is often considered a zero-emission technology that doesn't generate any climate-change-inducing carbon dioxide when it produces electricity.

But manufacturing the solar panels, wind turbines and battery cells for those energy sources is anything but clean.

Most production facilities require large amounts of electricity from emission-spewing coal and gas plants to make them, explained Sergey Paltsev, deputy director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Center for Sustainability Science and Strategy.

Mining the minerals needed for solar panels and batteries also requires huge amounts of mostly dirty energy and can also pollute the environment and endanger the health of local residents.

Today, CNHI and The Daily Item continue a five-part series looking at green energy in the United States as part of Great Green Debate.

Amid a growing need for energy access across the nation, more options are coming online, while old standbys are also being boosted.

The series will look at the global shift to renewable energy and America's growing need, how green energy works and how clean it is.



THE
GREAT
GREEN
DEBATE

Latter parts in the series will look at the ongoing conflict surrounding land development for green energy projects and the loss of greenspace, along with how we can use less energy, regardless of how it is supplied.

"Low-carbon sources are lower, but they're not zero," Paltsev said. "We definitely need to educate both decision-makers and the general public on making sure that we are not making claims which are not realistic."

It all begs the question: How clean really is green energy, and do the potential benefits offset the negative impacts?

"There's a big difference"

Manufacturing wind, solar and batteries can come with a significant upfront carbon footprint.

But nearly all research agrees that those energy sources produce far fewer greenhouse gas emissions than coal or gas over their entire lifecycles.

Coal plants, on average, generate 1,000 grams of CO2 for every kilo-

ONLINE

- Part I: New U.S. policy pulls back from renewables as energy demand swells/[dailyitem.com](#)
- Part II: 'No going back' on solar, renewable energy/[dailyitem.com](#)

watt hour of energy produced, according to an analysis by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

Wind generates just 13 grams per kilowatt hour; solar produces 28 grams; and lithium-ion batteries generate 33 grams, according to the analysis.

The energy department's research published in 2021 determined the average carbon emission rate based on a review of hundreds of independent studies.

"When you are comparing

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LAHS boys win soccer title

By Alex McGinley
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MANCHESTER — The Lewisburg boys soccer team won its fifth PIAA state championship after a 1-0 win over Fairview in the Class 2A title game on Friday at Northeastern High School in Manchester.

It's Lewisburg's first state title since 2020. The Green Dragons also took home state championships in 2000, 2015 and 2016. Lewisburg lost in the 2021 final for a total of six state championship appearances.

Sophomore Eli Abunassar scored the game-winning goal with 5:04 left in the game. It was Abunassar's first goal of the season.

"I'm excited and proud of them," Lewisburg coach Ben Kettlewell said. "I believe it was one of those games that we stayed together, didn't let anything break us, and we picked the one moment to score. It feels really, really good."

Lewisburg completes its season at 24-0-1, the first time it's finished a season without a loss since 2020, when it finished 22-0.

Fairview outshot Lewisburg, but couldn't find the back of the net. The Tigers came into Friday's game undefeated. Fairview was also playing in its first-ever state championship game.

SNAP payments resuming in state

By Eric Scicchitano
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HARRISBURG — The end of the federal government shutdown brings about the resumption of SNAP benefit payments in Pennsylvania and beyond, while the adoption of a new state budget brings about new accountability measures for the commonwealth's administration of the nutrition assistance. Benefit payments for the

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OBITUARIES B5

KEISTER, Judith A.,
76, Beaver Springs
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N.C.
STRAWSER, Lilith,

Selinsgrove
SWANGER,
Jeremiah D., 44,
York
WAGNER, Nancy
L., 83, Millmont

STOCKS B6

Friday, Nov. 14, 2025	
Dow Jones Industrials	-309.74 47,147.48
Nasdaq composite	30.23 22,900.59
Standard & Poor's 500	-3.38 6,734.11.

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