

Energy Balance

What do the government's predictions say about energy independence?

FOR YEARS BEFORE the recent rise in big data, the U.S. Energy Information Administration has tracked the country's energy consumption and production. For their annual reports, the EIA uses a computer program to predict how the country will make and use energy if all current legislation remains the same. Then, they rerun the program assuming different scenarios, such as a carbon tax or increasing oil prices, to provide policy makers with blueprints for predicting how these scenarios might affect the rest of the energy picture. Looking back, the data reveals that the U.S. continues to use less energy while making more of it, suggesting that we're actually on our way toward energy independence. The economic crisis and recent increases in natural

