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U.S. Solar Energy to Continue Growth After Rapid Rise in 2023-24

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The Greater Houston area in Texas covers 10,000 square miles, making it a hub of industrial activity. Industrial Info is tracking about \$15 billion worth of industrial projects that are under construction in the Houston [...]

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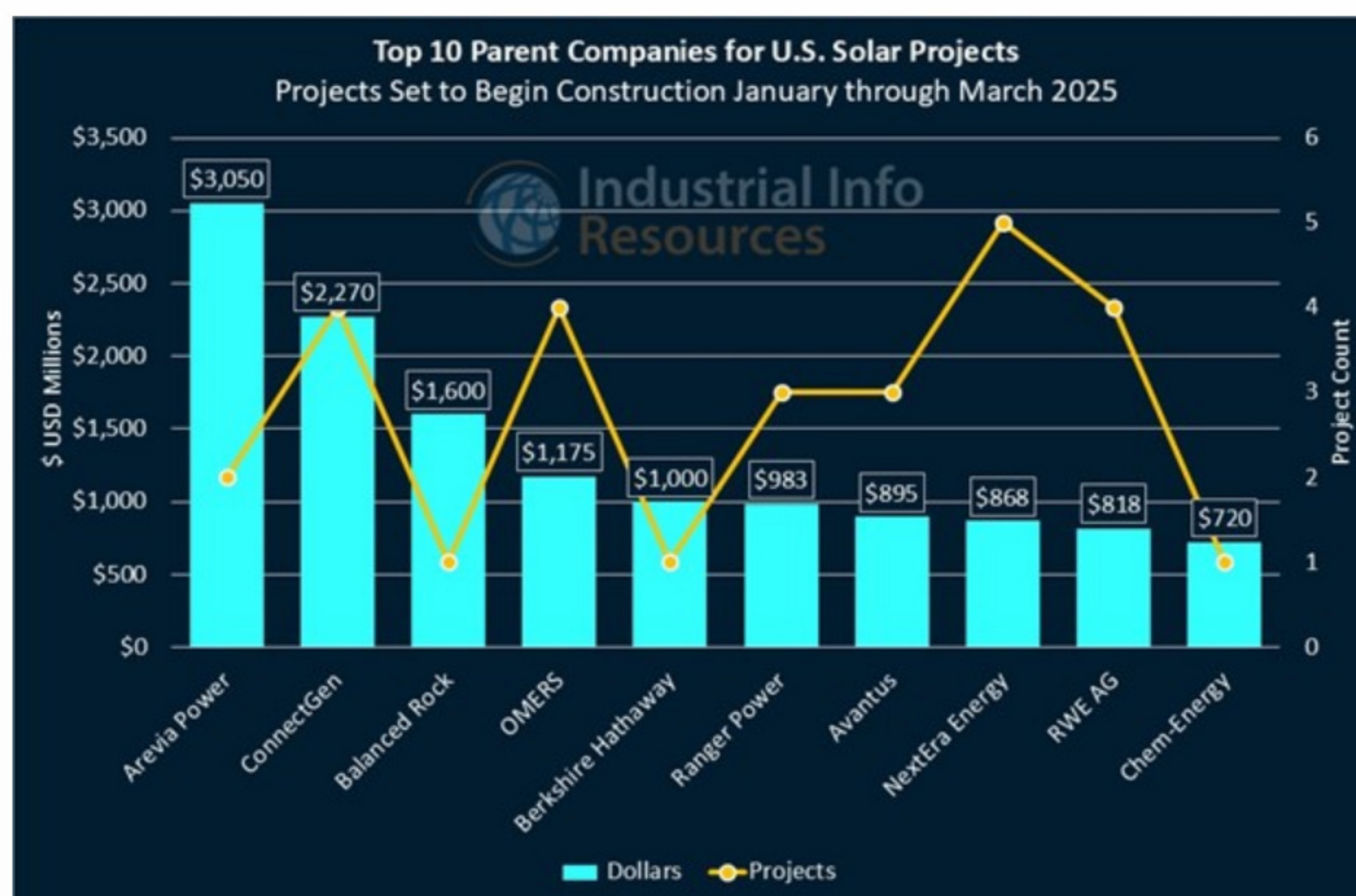
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U.S. Solar Energy to Continue Growth After Rapid Rise in 2023-24

Additions of solar-generating capacity across the U.S. outpaced other resources in 2023 and 2024, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). Earlier this year, the EIA forecast U.S. solar power generation will grow 75% from 163 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) in 2023 to 286 billion kWh in 2025. The solar industry also has benefited from a sharp decline in utility-scale construction costs over the past decade. Industrial Info is tracking more than \$25 billion worth of active and proposed solar-generation projects set to kick off across the U.S. in the first quarter, more than \$21 billion of which is attributed to grassroot projects.



OMERS Infrastructure Management Incorporated (Toronto, Canada), which is among the top spenders on U.S. first-quarter solar kickoffs, is preparing to begin work on two grassroot projects in the U.S. Midwest: the **\$180 million Blackford Solar Plant in Hartford City, Indiana**, which is expected to generate 150 megawatts (MW), and the **\$150 million Northern Prairie Solar Plant in New Richmond, Wisconsin**, which is expected to generate about 101 MW. The Blackford project is expected to employ First Solar Incorporated's (NASDAQ:FSLR) (Tempe, Arizona) Series 6 Plus photovoltaic (PV) panels.

Subscribers to Industrial Info's Global Market Intelligence (GMI) Power Project Database can learn more about OMERS' projects from detailed reports on the Blackford and Northern Prairie developments.

Other grassroot projects expected to kick off in the Midwest over the coming months include Ranger Power's (Chicago, Illinois) **\$288 million Hawkeye Solar Plant in Grand Mound, Iowa**, which is designed to generate 200 MW, and Invenergy LLC's (Chicago) **\$180 million Meadow Forge Solar Plant in Muncie, Indiana**, which is designed to generate 163 MW. Both projects are expected to use PV panels built by Longi Group (Shaanxi, China). Subscribers can read detailed reports on the Hawkeye and Meadow Forge projects.

Indiana also will be home to two of the largest expansion projects for existing solar farms: Doral Renewables LLC's (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) **\$435 million Mammoth North Solar Plant in Monterey**, which is expected to add 300 MW to the existing 400-MW plant, and Connor Clark & Lunn Financial Group's (Toronto, Ontario) **\$325 million Riverstart Solar Plant in Modoc**, which is expected to double the existing facility's capacity to 400 MW. Subscribers can read detailed reports on the Mammoth and Riverstart projects.

Energias de Portugal S.A. (Lisbon, Portugal), through subsidiary EDP Renewables North America LLC, is boosting its footprint in the North American solar market with both grassroot and expansion projects. The subsidiary is expected to begin construction on the 100-MW, **\$150 million Ragsdale Solar Project in Canton, Mississippi**, and the 200-MW, **\$200 million addition to the Scarlet Solar Plant in Tranquillity, California**, which is expected to bring the facility's full capacity to 600 MW. Subscribers can read detailed reports on the Ragsdale and Scarlet projects.

In a recent interview with *PV Tech*, Sandhya Ganapathy, the chief executive officer of EDP Renewables North America, said the subsidiary is looking beyond well-established solar markets like California and Texas. She pointed to projects like the Ragsdale plant in Mississippi, as well as projects in Arkansas, rural Illinois and emissions-heavy Michigan, as examples of where the company would like to build in coming years.

Battery energy-storage system (BESS) units play a major role in many upcoming solar projects, such as NextEra Energy Incorporated's (NYSE:NEE) (Juno Beach, Florida) **\$325 million fourth-phase addition at its Duane Arnold Solar Plant in Palo, Iowa**. The 220-MW expansion would bring the facility's total output to 720 MW, and it would be supported by a 180-MW, **\$650 million BESS unit**. Subscribers can read detailed reports on the solar plant and BESS unit.

"The power sector is going to need to build more gas-powered generation and battery storage to meet growing capacity needs over the next decade," said John Ketchum, the chief executive officer of NextEra, in a recent earnings-related conference call. "And as we build more, we also enable more renewables to come to market as the lowest cost generation source of energy."

Subscribers to Industrial Info's GMI Project and Plant databases can [click here](#) for a full list of detailed reports for projects mentioned in this article, and [click here](#) for a full list of related plant profiles.

Subscribers can [click here](#) for a full list of reports for active and proposed solar-generation projects set to kick off across the U.S. in the first quarter.

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Florida Sees \$7.9 Billion in Projects Underway

Florida, the third most populous state in the U.S., is experiencing a broad array of industrial projects. Industrial Info is tracking nearly \$7.9 billion worth of projects actively under construction in the state, with billions of dollars' worth more in the planning or engineering stage. The Power Industry leads other industries in spending on projects that are underway, coming in with more than \$3.6 billion. While the Sunshine State has a strong solar power sector, a few larger power projects using other fuel sources shine through.

One of the largest projects underway in Florida involves a natural gas-fired power plant. The state government has taken initiatives to unravel previous goals regarding renewable energy and greenhouse gas emissions, so building a natural gas-fired plant is less tied up in regulatory guidelines than the process would be in many other states. To this end, [Seminole Electric Cooperative Incorporated](#) (Tampa, Florida) is constructing a grassroot natural gas-fired power plant in Shady Hills, about 40 miles north of downtown Tampa. Engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) company [The Industrial Company](#) (Lenexa, Kansas) broke ground on the power plant in late 2023, which is being built on a 14-acre site near a peaking power station. The combined-cycle plant will have a generating capacity of 573 megawatts (MW) when completed in early 2027. Subscribers to Industrial Info's Global Market Intelligence (GMI) Power Project Database can learn more by viewing the [project report](#).

The plant is located in Pasco County, which is taking initiatives to reduce municipal waste while generating power in a waste-to-energy project in Spring Hill. This summer, work began on the installation of another municipal waste combustor at the existing facility that will increase the plant's waste-processing capacity by 475 tons per day. A 15-MW turbine-generator set will provide power from the combustion to the regional power grid. The project is expected to be completed next summer. Subscribers can [click here](#) to learn more about the project.

Work at airports always means big spending, and at least one major airport project is underway in Florida at the Jacksonville International Airport. Construction manager [Balfour Beatty Construction](#) (London, England) is heading up construction of a three-level, 187,000-square-foot concourse that will include six new aircraft gates, concession space and a connecting corridor with moving sidewalks. In addition, a six-level parking garage will add 2,000 parking spaces. Work at the airport began this summer and is expected to wind down toward the end of 2026. Subscribers to Industrial Info's Industrial Manufacturing Project Database can learn more by viewing the [project report](#).

Also in Jacksonville, [IKO Industries Limited](#) (Brampton, Ontario) has launched its "Project Gator," which includes a grassroot asphalt roofing shingle plant along with other plans for additional buildings for more roofing products. General contractor [Dana B. Kenyon Company](#) (Jacksonville) broke ground on the new plant late last year and expects to complete the 265,300-square-foot shingle-manufacturing plant next summer. But IKO has further plans. Upon completion of the shingles plant, IKO intends to begin work on a 306,000-square-foot plant to manufacture insulation board products. As that project draws to an end, IKO intends to begin work on another plant for rolled and underlaying roofing products. All three projects are expected to be completed by the end of 2027. Subscribers to Industrial Info's GMI Project Database can learn more by viewing the related [project reports](#).

Another of the state's large projects under construction is a grassroot sales and distribution facility for [Coca-Cola Beverages Florida LLC](#) (Coke Florida) (Tampa, Florida). Coke Florida held a groundbreaking ceremony for the 800,000-square-foot facility in the Greater Tampa area in the summer of 2022, with construction beginning shortly afterward. The facility will include more than 685,000 square feet of warehousing and distribution space as well as more than 390,000 square feet for product packaging. According to a Coke Florida press release, the company's Tampa operations employ 800 people across sales, manufacturing, warehousing, distribution, fleet operations and more, and the new facility will bring these employees together on one campus. In addition, a state-of-the-art warehousing system will improve the speed and accuracy of operations. The project is expected to be completed in mid-2025. Subscribers to Industrial Info's Food & Beverage Project Database can [click here](#) for more details.

Cold storage and distribution represents an important component of the food service industry, and Industrial Info is tracking no less than 10 such projects underway within Florida's Food & Beverage Industry. The projects represent about \$480 million in aggregate spending, with the largest project underway in Jacksonville in the form of a 272,000-square-foot cold storage facility owned by [FreezPak Logistics](#) (Woodbridge, New Jersey) and the smallest a \$10 million, 77,000-square-foot cold storage warehouse in Miami. Subscribers can learn more by viewing the related [project reports](#).

Subscribers to Industrial Info's GMI Database can [click here](#) to view reports for all of the projects discussed in this article and [click here](#) for the related plant profiles.

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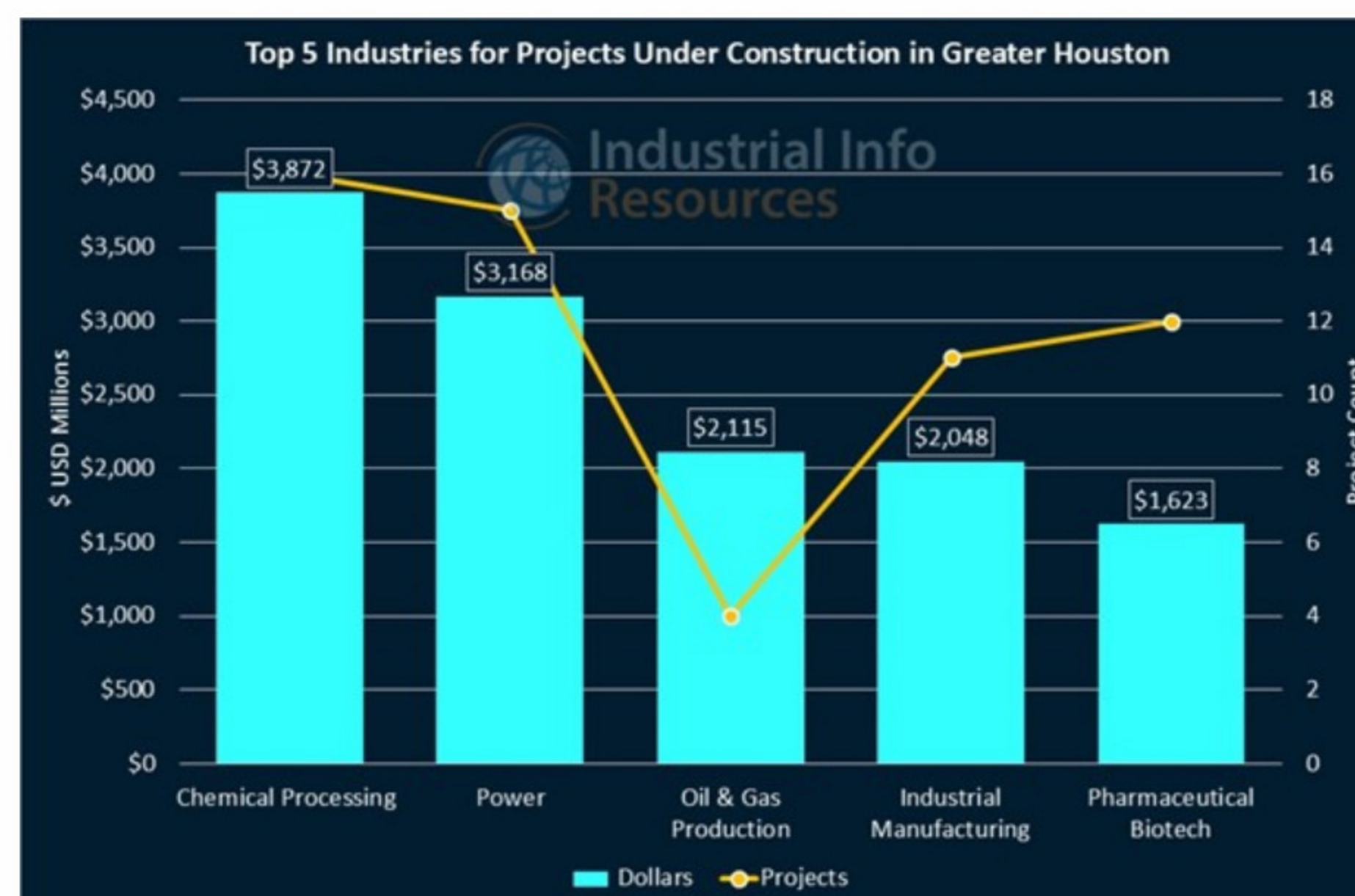
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Greater Houston Home to \$15 Billion Worth of Projects Under Construction

The Greater Houston area in Texas covers 10,000 square miles, making it a hub of industrial activity. Industrial Info is tracking about \$15 billion worth of industrial projects that are under construction in the Houston metropolitan area, with more than half of the spend attributed to the Chemical Processing, Power and Oil & Gas Production industries.



Subscribers to Industrial Info's Global Market Intelligence (GMI) Project Database can [click here](#) for a full list of detailed project reports.

Greater Houston is home to Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller counties, but much of the chemical and oil and gas project activity is attributed to facilities along the Gulf Coast.

Among the chemical projects underway is [Occidental Petroleum Corporation's \(NYSE:OXY\)](#) (Houston, Texas) **\$1.1 billion conversion and expansion of its Battleground Chlor-Alkali Plant in La Porte**. The project entails upgrading, modernizing and expanding equipment to increase the production of chlorine and caustic soda. Site preparation began in December 2023 and completion is expected in late 2027. Subscribers to the GMI Chemical Processing Database can read a detailed [project report](#).

Meanwhile, [Dow Incorporated's \(NYSE:DOW\)](#) (Midland, Michigan) addition of a **seventh polyethylene unit at its Plant B in Freeport** is expected to wrap up in mid-2026. The unit is designed to produce an estimated 600,000 tons per year of polyethylene. [Click here](#) to read the project report.

The Oil & Gas Production activity is buoyed by the addition of two natural gas liquids (NGL) fractionators in Mont Belvieu, about 30 miles east of Houston on the Gulf Coast. Mont Belvieu is a hub for the storage, processing and distribution of NGLs.

[Enterprise Products Partners L.P.'s \(NYSE:EPD\)](#) (Houston) **Train 14** at its 1.37 million-barrel-per day (BBL/d) fractionation and storage complex will provide an additional 200,000 BBL/d of capacity. The project is expected to wrap up in third-quarter 2025.

[Targa Resources Corporation \(NYSE:TRGP\)](#) (Houston) last month began adding an **11th train** at its 940,000-BBL/d fractionator, to produce more than 100,000 BBL/d of high-purity butane, propane and ethane for a total NGL capacity of 1,180,000 BBL/d. Commissioning is expected in third-quarter 2026. Subscribers to the Oil & Gas Production Project Database can read more information on the [Train 14](#) and [Train 11](#) projects.

In other industries, Greater Houston's power projects are highlighted by the addition of battery energy storage systems (BESS) and solar-generation capacity, although Industrial Info is tracking most of the BESS projects with a completion date around the end of 2024.

In terms of solar projects, in Waller County, [EnCap Investments'](#) (Houston) **\$650 million Parliament photovoltaic project** is being built on a 3,400-acre site and will provide approximately 640 megawatts (MW) of generation when completed in 2026. In Fort Bend County, [M.A. Mortenson Company](#) (Minneapolis, Minnesota) is providing engineering, procurement and construction services for [Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners'](#) (Copenhagen, Denmark) **Fighting Jays solar farm**—which is designed to provide up to 350 MW of power at full output utilizing 1 million panels. The project is expected to wrap up in early 2025. Subscribers can read more information on the [Parliament](#) and [Fighting Jays](#) projects.

For more information on solar and BESS projects in the Greater Houston area, see May 24, 2024, article - [Acciona Energia Completes One of \\$3.8 Billion Worth of Solar, BESS Projects Underway in Greater Houston](#).

Another industry with more than \$1 billion worth of investment is Pharmaceutical-Biotech. This includes two new buildings at the operational TMC3 collaborative research hub in Houston's medical center, also known as the Texas Medical Center (TMC). TMC3 will house synergistic research initiatives for four institutions: MD Anderson, the Texas A&M University Health Science Center, the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and the TMC.

Both the Texas A&M University Health Science Center and University of Texas Health Science Center are adding a research building at TMC3, and both projects are expected to wrap up by the end of 2025. Subscribers to the GMI Pharmaceutical & Biotech Project Database can [click here](#) for the related project reports.

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Join Industrial Info for Our In-Person 2025 North American Market Outlook

There are questions that are lingering on the minds of those in the industrial marketplace as to what the new year holds. Key decisions are still to be made regarding legislation that could have a pivotal impact on industrial sectors including the CHIPS Act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act. We could see significant changes in total investment values for projects revolving around semiconductors, hydrogen, carbon emissions, renewable energy and more. Furthermore, the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) is being seen more and more in the industrial landscape, which is also causing a shift in investments.

The key question is this: Now that the election is over, what does the future hold? Join Industrial Info in Sugar Land, Texas, on Wednesday, January 29th, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. for our [2025 North America Industrial Market Outlook](#). This two-hour presentation will feature experts from several industries that will cover spending drivers and constraints for the new year.

Presentations will include:

- A global market outlook
- Chemical Processing
- Petroleum Refining & Alternative Fuels
- Midstream gas processing and liquefied natural gas markets
- Electric Power
- a North American spending forecast

A networking session will be held after the presentations, featuring an open bar and gourmet hors d'oeuvres, allowing you to mingle with your industry peers and ask questions of our experts.

In addition, for those wishing to broaden their knowledge of Industrial Info's products, interactive training workshops will begin at 1 p.m., including sessions on the latest PECWeb enhancements, our Analytics Solutions and how to maximize your Labor Analytics experience.

We hope you are able to join us for this popular event. Spaces will go quickly, so make sure to mark your calendars and [RSVP today!](#)

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