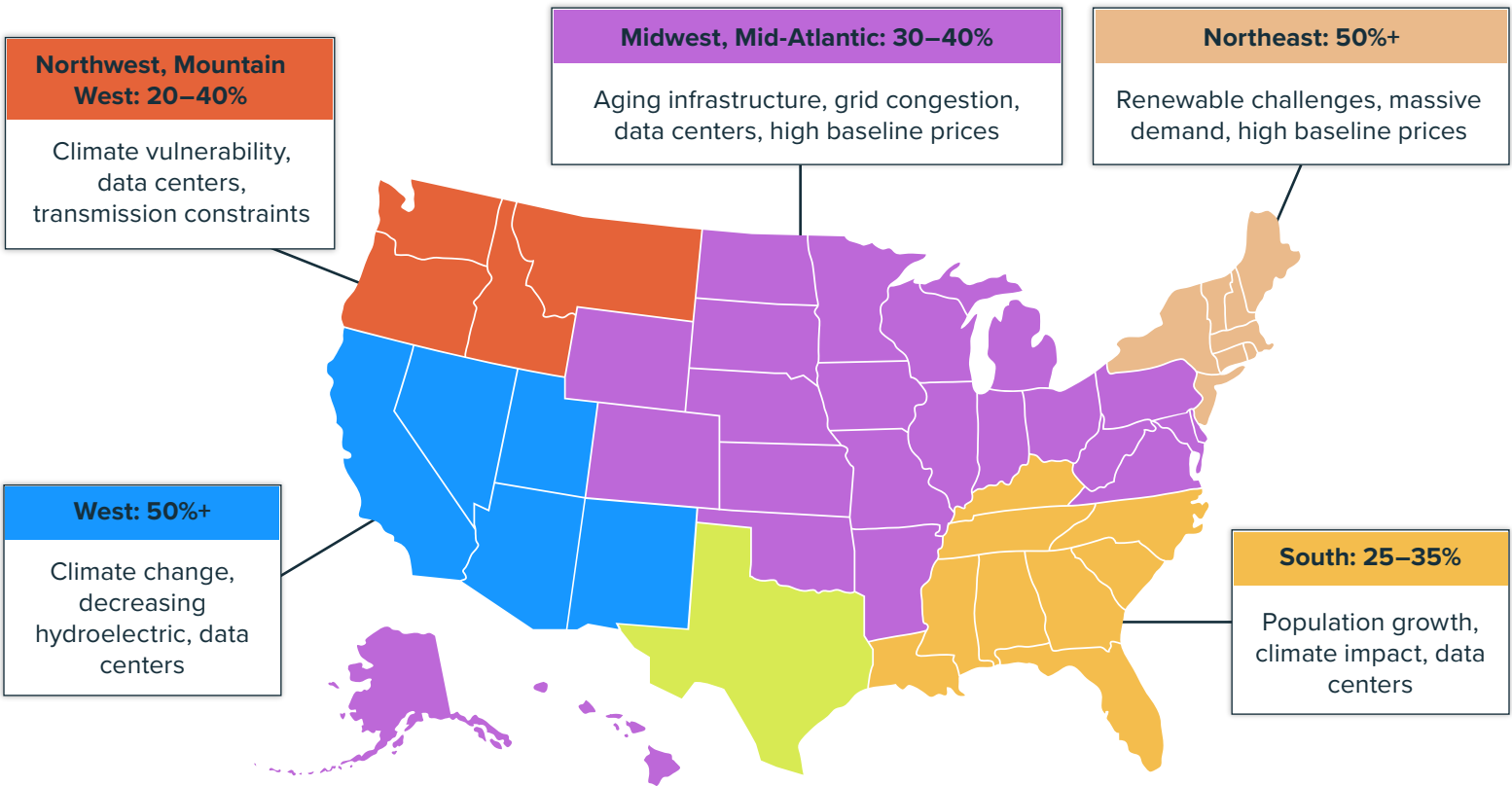


The Energy Future Is Expensive

Energy prices projected to increase 50–90% by 2030



Western U.S. (50% ▲)

Prolonged drought continues to reduce hydroelectric capacity, while wildfires threaten transmission infrastructure and cause reliability concerns. Surging data center growth, especially throughout Arizona and NorCal, is placing additional strain on the grid. Meanwhile, renewable energy projects are facing delays due to interconnection bottlenecks, permitting hurdles, and rising development costs.

Solution:

- ▶ Start by analyzing your peak demand charges—data centers and electrification are shifting load curves.
- ▶ Align building schedules with utility Time-of-Use windows, especially in the summer.
- ▶ If you're in a wildfire-prone area, monitor usage closely for anomalies during outages or rerouting events, and understand how resiliency credits or tariffs may apply.

Northwest/Mountain West (20–40% ▲)

This region has the oldest grid in the country, driving up baseline costs and increasing reliability concerns. Population expansion is intensifying usage on already overburdened systems, increasing the risk of outages even as prices rise.

Solution:

- ▶ Conduct a facility-wide rate code review to ensure your buildings are on the correct tariff schedules.
- ▶ Aging infrastructure increases the likelihood of billing errors, so prioritize bill audits and field verification of meters.
- ▶ Use benchmarking to identify the highest cost-per-square-foot buildings and investigate efficiency or HVAC scheduling issues there.

Atlantic/Midwest (30–40% ▲)

Aging infrastructure has become difficult to manage on a grid that sees the most usage in the country, high baseline prices will continue to rise, and Google, Microsoft, and Amazon invest billions in data centers across Missouri, Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, and more.

Solution:

- ▶ Audit interval data to uncover demand spikes—often linked to older HVAC or lighting systems running off-hours.
- ▶ Reassess load factors and power factor penalties, and verify the accuracy of any billing multipliers or rate structures, particularly if you've added buildings or meters recently.

Northeast (50% ▲)

Aging infrastructure, the oldest in the country, is massively driving up costs on an outdated grid. High baseline prices will only get higher as population expansion continues to put pressure on the system.

Solution:

- ▶ Explore ways to shift flexible loads to times when clean energy is more available.
- ▶ Recommission building automation systems to better reflect occupancy and seasonality.
- ▶ Prioritize demand-side management strategies, especially during constrained periods.

South/Southeast (25–35% ▲)

Extreme weather like hurricanes and heatwaves is stressing systems and driving up energy costs. At the same time, industrial growth, university system expansion, and a surge in data center development are increasing overall demand, putting additional pressure on the grid.

Solution:

- ▶ Map your HVAC runtime schedules to building occupancy and revisit them seasonally.
- ▶ Perform post-storm reviews of utility data to detect surges, leaks, or irregularities.
- ▶ If you're in a storm-prone zone, ensure you know which meters or systems should receive backup priority.

Texas

Texas will see the most tempered price increases due to a lower reliance on out-of-state energy and a regulatory structure that insulates pricing.

Solution:

- ▶ Review and refine building-level energy profiles.
- ▶ Take full advantage of ERCOT market rules—many schools overspending due to misaligned demand and scheduling. If your billing is demand-based, even small shifts in runtime strategy can yield savings.