Ambition vs. Reality

Share of Renewables in U.S. Primary Energy Demand

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March 15, 2023
In recent years, there has been a resurgence of “net zero” scenarios and government targets, with most of the future energy supply expected to come from solar and wind.

History has taught us that ambition doesn’t always match reality. There have been a number of ambitious scenarios and targets for renewable energy production in the U.S. over the past several decades.

Many of these scenarios were unable to come to fruition, and many more are almost certain to fail in the future, as the share of renewables in the overall U.S. energy supply remains low (as of 2021, all renewables: 12% and solar & wind alone: 5%).