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Four years ago, the environmental movement had been riding high until its "magic carpet ride" suddenly crashed. But the re-election of Barack Obama has given the green cause renewed hope and one that is manifesting itself both on Capitol Hill and in the market place. The victories are not of the ticker-tape parade variety, but they are subtle ones that have achieved environmental gains. The U.S. Energy Information Administration, for example, said Tuesday that coal-fired power plants are installing scrubbers to the tune of \$30 billion over five years -- a move that has made a notable dent in sulfur dioxide emissions that cause acid rain. At the same time, the U.S. Senate has twice now defeated amendments to rollback regulations on mercury and carbon dioxide. The argument for enacting such laws is that the technologies to curb those releases do not yet exist while the one given for continuing the course is that much progress is occurring, and that the tools to achieve mercury reductions are, in fact, getting deployed. "But I think the technological innovation of shale gas has been transformative in terms of the carbon footprint of our industry," says Jim Rogers, chief executive of Duke Energy in a conference call with analysts and shareholders. "Today in the United States we are at the same place in terms of CO2 emissions as we were in 1992 and on a per capita basis the same place we were in 1960." Rogers goes on to say that when the so-called Waxman-Markey bill passed the House in 2010, it had mandated carbon reductions equal to what they were in 1990 before the year 2020. Because of the shift over to natural gas used to fuel power plants, the nation is on its way to meeting that goal, he adds. Still, Rogers is insisting that federal legislation is required to go further and that the US Environmental Protection Agency cannot do it alone. The centerpiece of the environmental cause had been the positive House vote in favor of reducing carbon emissions through a cap-and-trade program. But that effort ended in 2011 when the Republicans took control of the House. But there is a shift in the energy landscape. It's not just centered on the shale gas boom. It's also focused on regulatory compliance and the adherence to existing law. The Energy Information Administration reports that scrubbers have been installed at 110 coal-fired power plants in 34 states from 2007 to 2011. So, 60 percent of the coal fleet now has that equipment. That, in turn, has reduced sulfur dioxide emissions by 68 percent between 1990 and 2011, the agency says. Pricing carbon won't happen in the near term. But environmental organizations can claim that progress is being made. And while the movement is standing upright, it has a ways to go before it reaches the altitude it did four years ago.

Electricity Pricing – Apr 2, 2013

Com Ed	On-Peak	Off-Peak
2013	\$.04226	\$.02730
2014	\$.04216	\$.02810
2015	\$.04369	\$.02937

PECO	On-Peak	Off-Peak
2013	\$.05192	\$.03429
2014	\$.05130	\$.03516
2015	\$.05299	\$.03633

LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
Mar, 2012	\$.02894
April, 2012	\$.02659
May, 2012	\$.02816
June, 2012	\$.03089
July, 2012	\$.04303
Aug, 2012	\$.03112
Sep, 2012	\$.03034
Oct, 2012	\$.02829
Nov, 2012	\$.03327
Dec, 2012	\$.03081
Jan, 2013	\$.03111
Feb, 2013	\$.03219
Mar 1–Mar 31, 2013	\$.03665

Extended Temperature Forecast:

Chicago Area

	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
High	44	44	60	46	61
Low	28	32	37	36	43

