



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What is U.S. electricity generation by energy source?

In 2012, the United States generated about 4,054 billion kilowatthours of electricity. About 68% of the electricity generated was from fossil fuel (coal, natural gas, and petroleum), with 37% attributed from coal.

Energy sources and percent share of total electricity generation in 2012 were:

- Coal 37%
- Natural Gas 30%
- Nuclear 19%
- Hydropower 7%
- Other Renewable 5%
 - Biomass 1.42%
 - Geothermal 0.41%
 - Solar 0.11%
 - Wind 3.46%
- Petroleum 1%
- Other Gases < 1%

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[Monthly Energy Review](#)

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- [How many smart meters are installed in the U.S. and who has them?](#)

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Didn't find the answer to your question? Ask an energy expert!

- How much coal, natural gas, or petroleum is used to generate a kilowatt-hour of electricity?
- How much does it cost to build different types of power plants in the United States?
- How much does it cost to generate electricity with different types of power plants?
- How much electricity does a typical nuclear power plant generate?
- How much electricity does an American home use?
- How much electricity is lost in transmission and distribution in the United States?
- How much electricity is used for cooling in the United States?
- How much electricity is used for lighting in the United States?
- How much energy is consumed in the world by each sector?
- How much of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions are associated with electricity generation?
- How much of world energy consumption and electricity generation is from renewable energy?
- How old are U.S. power plants?
- What is U.S. electricity generation by energy source?
- What is a capacity factor?
- What is the difference between electricity generation capacity and electricity generation?
- What is the efficiency of different types of power plants?
- What is the outlook for home heating fuel prices this winter?
- What types and amounts of energy are produced in each state?

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U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585



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