



U.S. Energy Information  
Administration

## 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%

Learn more:

[Monthly Energy Review](#)

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### Other FAQs about Electricity

- [Can I choose the electricity supplier where I live?](#)
- [Can I generate and sell electricity to an electric utility?](#)
- [Does EIA have city or county-level energy consumption and price data?](#)
- [Does EIA have county-level energy production data?](#)
- [Does EIA have data on each power plant in the United States?](#)
- [Does EIA have data on peak and hourly electricity demand?](#)
- [Does EIA have electricity prices by state?](#)
- [Does EIA have information on the service territories of U.S. electric utilities?](#)
- [Does EIA have maps or information on the location of electric power plants and transmission lines in the United States?](#)
- [Does EIA publish electric utility rate, tariff, and demand charge data?](#)
- [How is electricity used in U.S. homes?](#)
- [How many and what kind of power plants are there in the United States?](#)
- [How many nuclear power plants are in the U.S. and where are they located?](#)
- [How many smart meters are installed in the U.S. and who has them?](#)
- [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?](#)

