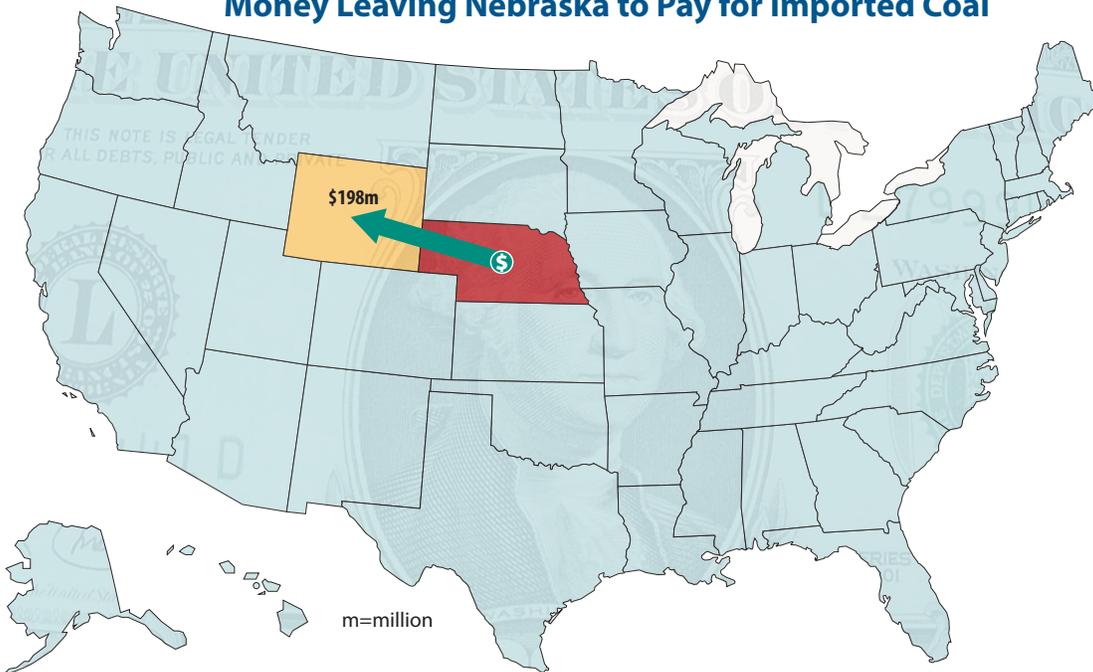


Nebraska's Dependence on Imported Coal

Nebraska imported all the coal its power plants burned in 2008 from Wyoming. To pay for those imports, Nebraska sent **\$198 million** out of state.

Money Leaving Nebraska to Pay for Imported Coal

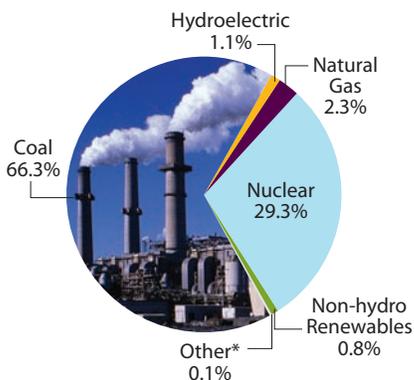


Note: Not all these funds will necessarily land in the state or nation where the mining occurs. Mine owners may divert the profits to parent companies in other locations, for example. Amounts also include the cost of transportation.

Compared with other states, Nebraska:

- Is the 6th most dependent on net imports as a share of total power use: 67 percent
- Spent the 18th most on net imports per person: \$111

Nebraska's Mix of Electricity Sources (2008)



Nebraska relies on coal to produce two-thirds of the electricity it generates, despite having no in-state coal supplies.

* "Other" includes oil, municipal solid waste, tires, propane, or other manufactured and waste gases from fossil fuel.

Clean Energy Solutions Can Boost Nebraska's Energy Independence

Investing in energy efficiency is one of the quickest and most affordable ways to replace coal-fired power while creating local jobs. Yet Nebraska spent just 53 cents per person on ratepayer-funded electricity efficiency programs in 2007—200 times less than it spends per capita on net coal imports.

Reducing the state's electricity use by 1 percent annually could save consumers \$10 million, while avoiding the need to send as much as \$3 million out of state in the first year alone. Twenty-three states have adopted energy efficiency resource standards, most of which require utilities to achieve annual electricity savings of at least 1 percent (a target some states are already achieving). Leading states require annual cuts of 2 percent or more.

Nebraska can also reduce its dependence on imported coal by tapping its own wealth of renewable energy resources. The state has the technical potential to produce more than 100 times its 2008 electricity needs from renewable energy, primarily from its robust wind and bioenergy resources, though economic and physical barriers will curb some of that potential. Nebraska could spur deployment by adopting a renewable electricity standard, requiring utilities to gradually expand their use of renewable resources. Twenty-nine states and the District of Columbia have already adopted this effective and affordable policy.



Union of Concerned Scientists

Citizens and Scientists for Environmental Solutions

© May 2010 Union of Concerned Scientists

This fact sheet is based on the findings of *Burning Coal, Burning Cash: Ranking the States That Import the Most Coal*, a report by the Union of Concerned Scientists. The fully referenced report, along with other state profiles, is available on the UCS website at www.ucsusa.org/burningcoalburningcash. The Union of Concerned Scientists is the leading science-based nonprofit working for a healthy environment and safer world.

National Headquarters

Two Brattle Square
Cambridge, MA 02238-9105
Phone: (617) 547-5552
Fax: (617) 864-9405

Washington, DC, Office

1825 K St. NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20006-1232
Phone: (202) 223-6133
Fax: (202) 223-6162

West Coast Office

2397 Shattuck Ave., Suite 203
Berkeley, CA 94704-1567
Phone: (510) 843-1872
Fax: (510) 843-3785

Midwest Office

One N. LaSalle St., Suite 1904
Chicago, IL 60602-4064
Phone: (312) 578-1750
Fax: (312) 578-1751