

# New Jersey's Dependence on Imported Coal

New Jersey imported all the coal its power plants burned in 2008—some from as far away as Indonesia. To pay for those imports, New Jersey sent **\$347 million** out of state.

## Money Leaving New Jersey to Pay for Imported Coal

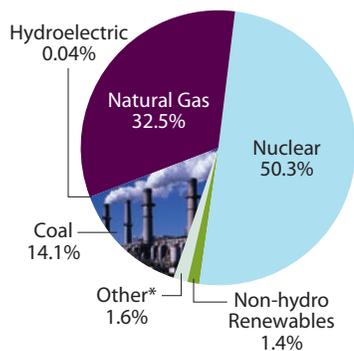


**Compared with other states, New Jersey:**

- Spent the 7th most on international imports: **\$93 million**

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.

## New Jersey's Mix of Electricity Sources (2008)



**New Jersey relies on coal for about 14 percent of the electricity it produces in-state—among the lowest of our profiled states. However, retail customers buy 26 percent more power than New Jersey generates. That means the state imports significant amounts of electricity—some likely produced from coal.**

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

## Clean Energy Solutions Can Boost New Jersey's Energy Independence

Investing in energy efficiency is one of the quickest and most affordable ways to replace coal-fired power while boosting the local economy. New Jersey spent more than \$11 per person on ratepayer-funded energy efficiency programs in 2007, reducing electricity use by 0.3 percent. That is more than the efficiency spending of most states, but still about 3.5 times less than the state spends on imported coal.

New Jersey could expand its efforts by joining the growing list of states that have adopted energy efficiency resource standards, which require utilities to meet annual targets for saving electricity. Twenty-three states have adopted such 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.

Fortunately, New Jersey is already poised to reduce its dependence on imported coal by tapping its wealth of renewable energy resources. The state has the technical potential to produce 30 percent of its 2008 electricity needs from renewable energy, primarily through solar and bioenergy. Mid-Atlantic states also have significant offshore wind resources, which could supply 4.4 times the region's power needs. Though economic and physical barriers will curb some of that potential, New Jersey has made a significant commitment to deploying renewable energy. Utilities must rely on renewable resources to supply about 22 percent of the state's power needs by 2020. Twenty-eight other states and the District of Columbia have adopted such renewable electricity standards.



**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](http://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