

# Texas's Dependence on Imported Coal

Texas imported nearly two-thirds of the coal its power plants burned in 2008—almost all from Wyoming. To pay for those imports, Texas sent **\$1.91 billion** out of state.

## Money Leaving Texas to Pay for Imported Coal

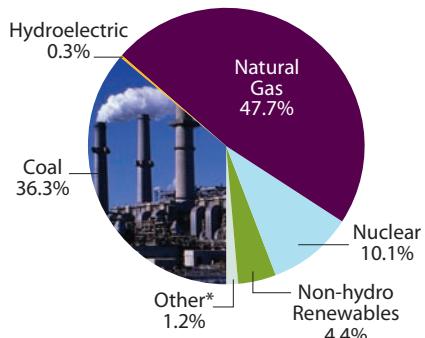


### Compared with other states, Texas:

- Imported the most in net weight: 64.6 million tons
- Spent the 3rd most on total net imports: \$1.91 billion

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.

### Texas's Mix of Electricity Sources (2008)



**Texas produces and consumes more electricity—and more coal-fired power—than any other state. It relies on coal for 36 percent of in-state electricity generation, and imports 63 percent of that coal.**

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

### Clean Energy Solutions Can Boost Texas'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. Yet Texas spent just 3.33 cents per person on ratepayer-funded electricity efficiency programs in 2007—about 23 times less than it spent on imported coal.

In 1999, Texas became the first state to adopt an energy efficiency resource standard, which requires utilities to use efficiency to meet 10 percent of annual growth in power demand. The standard rose to 30 percent of demand growth in 2010. However, that target is still modest compared with the target in 22 other states with energy efficiency resource standards that focus on total demand, not just growth. Most of these states have committed to annual electricity savings of at least 1 percent (which some are already achieving), and leading states require annual cuts of 2 percent or more.

Texas can also reduce its dependence on imported coal by tapping its wealth of renewable energy resources. The state has the technical potential to generate more than 17 times its 2008 electricity needs from renewable energy, primarily from wind, bioenergy, and solar, though economic and physical barriers will curb some of that potential.

Texas is already the national leader in wind energy, with more than 9,400 megawatts (MW) of installed capacity, thanks in part to the state's renewable electricity standard. That standard—which the state has already achieved—requires utilities to rely on renewable resources to produce at least 5,800 MW (about 5.5 percent) of the state's power needs by 2015. Twenty-eight other states and the District of Columbia have adopted such a policy, with 17 states setting targets of 20 percent or more.



**Union of  
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Citizens and Scientists for Environmental Solutions

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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.

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