



# Where does most of our energy come from

**Our Energy Sources Fossil Fuels.** The United States gets 81% of its total energy from oil, coal, and natural gas, all of which are fossil fuels. We depend on those fuels to heat our homes, run our vehicles, power industry and manufacturing, and provide us with electricity.

California accounts for about 7% of the United States' total energy consumption. California's deserts have considerable solar energy potential. California is the first state to get more than 5% of its utility-scale electricity generation from its solar resource.

Sunlight is Earth's predominant source of energy. Learn the basics of how the Sun serves as the ultimate energy source for much of the energy we use, including fossil fuels, from the National Academies, advisers to the nation on science, engineering, and medicine.

The share of total energy used by power plants from sources such as solar, wind, and geothermal is projected to grow to about 28% by 2040. A sustained effort and accelerated deployment of new technologies and efficient renewable sources could power a ...

Want to understand the basics of America's current energy situation? The National Academies, advisers to the nation on science, engineering, and medicine, provides objective information about the United States' current energy sources and uses, as well as a ...

**Electric Vehicles.** Many new vehicle technologies have the goal of steering automobiles away from dependence on fossil fuels. One option is the all-electric, battery-powered vehicle that uses no gasoline or diesel fuel and does not directly emit any carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

Our energy supply comes mainly from fossil fuels, with nuclear power and renewable sources rounding out the mix. These sources originate mostly in our local star, the Sun. Electricity falls into its own category because it's an energy carrier and not a primary source.

The United States imports a small portion of its electricity from Canada and Mexico, with net imports totaling 0.16 quads. Most of Canada's electricity comes from hydroelectric power plants while the electricity from Mexico comes largely from ...

Natural gas supplies 22% of the energy used in the United States and most of it comes from North America. Learn more about the facts behind natural gas from the National Academies, advisers to the nation on science, engineering, and medicine.

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