



Montana is an energy leader in the U.S., with large amounts of existing electricity production and untapped resources. Our electrical grid is powered by a diverse portfolio of renewable and fossil fuels.

- Coal: 37%
- Hydroelectric: 33%
- Wind: 22%
- Natural gas: 4%
- Solar: 1%
- Petroleum: 1.5%
- Biomass: 1.5%

Clean energy sources, led by hydropower and wind, account for over 57% of electricity

generation. Montana exports half its energy to coastal population centers and Canada.

Coal

Montana holds the largest recoverable coal reserves in the U.S., about 30% of the country's total. This coal is located close to the surface in thick, 20-meter seams. It is known for having high energy content (4,720 kcal/kg), low moisture and low sulfur content (0.2-0.6%). These characteristics, along with Montana's proximity to ocean ports and rail infrastructure, make these reserves ideal for export. Montana mines approximately 26 million metric tons of coal each year, exporting about half of that primarily to Asian markets through Canadian ports.

Hydroelectric

Montana was an early adopter of hydroelectric power, with multiple dams built before 1900. All optimal dam sites are already in use, accounting for a significant proportion of the state's power supply, and no additional dams are currently planned.

Wind

Montana's potential for wind energy generation is ranked among the highest in the U.S. Large wind farm projects began development in 2005 and already account for 22% of Montana's energy production. Further growth is expected as transmission infrastructure is built.

Transmission

Because of Montana's vast size and low population density, long transmission lines are needed to get energy to markets. The State of Montana, in partnership with developers, is working on a transmission project connecting the two major U.S. grids for the first time using a 3,000-megawatt, high-voltage, direct-current system. The project, known as the North Plains Connector, will more than double the transfer capacity between the two grids, improving reliability, lowering costs and providing access to new energy resources and markets.

Sustainable Aviation Fuel

Montana Renewables, located in Great Falls, is a leading SAF producer in North America. As of 2024, the facility has an annual production capacity of approximately 30 million gallons of SAF derived from renewable feedstocks such as tallow, as well as corn, canola and camelina oils. The U.S. government guaranteed a loan of \$1.67 billion in 2025 to fund an expansion of operations to increase SAF production to 315 million gallons per year.

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