

A Balanced Energy Mix: Key to Reliability and Affordability

Electric Companies Use a Diverse, Domestic Energy Mix

The 3 Key Facts You Need

- 1** To deliver the safe, reliable, affordable, and increasingly clean energy that powers America's economy and customers' lives, electric companies use a balanced energy mix. Using all of our nation's diverse and domestic energy resources takes into account the needs of all customers as well as the need to manage risk.
- 2** By taking an "all-of-the-above" approach—integrating clean and renewable energy sources with traditional sources via smarter energy infrastructure—the electric power industry is meeting customers' needs while delivering value to every community in America.
- 3** In just 10 years, the mix of resources used to generate electricity in the United States has changed dramatically and is increasingly clean. More than one-third of the nation's electricity now comes from zero-emissions sources (nuclear energy and hydropower and other renewables). Every day, 24/7 energy (or baseload) sources, including nuclear energy, play a vital role in sustaining a diverse, reliable, and resilient energy mix.

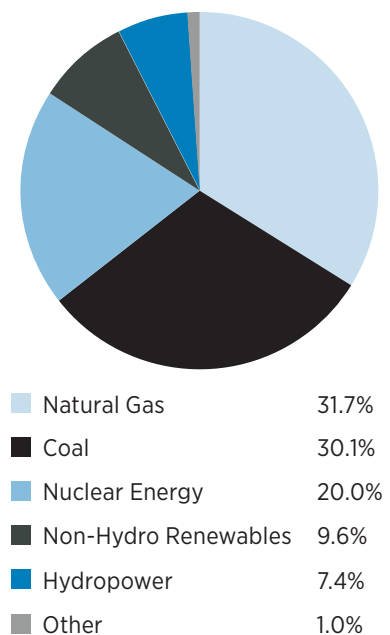
How a Balanced Energy Mix Works

A diverse and domestic energy mix is critical to the safe, reliable, affordable, and increasingly clean electricity customers expect. By using a balanced energy mix, electric companies create value for customers and enhance national security by ensuring a reliable supply of electricity.

Different regions of the country rely on different energy mixes, depending on the resources available and their cost to build and operate. It is important that electric companies and states be allowed to continue to use resources that are most cost-effective and that provide a range of options for their customers.

To serve customers, electricity must be generated exactly when it is needed. Ensuring reliability under all circumstances, including weather extremes and emergencies, requires electric companies to use 24/7 energy sources, such as nuclear energy, natural gas, hydropower, and coal, to generate reliable energy consistently. These 24/7 energy sources are key to companies' ability to serve all customers, including businesses and industries whose energy usage differs from that of most residential customers.

U.S. Electric Generation Mix, 2017



Source: Department of Energy,
Energy Information Administration

Electric Companies Are Changing the Energy Mix

In just 10 years, electric companies have led a dramatic transformation of the resources used to generate electricity, and these resources are increasingly clean. Today, the electric power industry continues to invest in diverse energy resources to deliver the benefits of a balanced energy mix for customers. Factors driving this shift include declining costs for natural gas and renewable energy resources that are developed at scale, changing customer expectations, environmental regulations, and the growth of distributed energy resources.

Electric companies' use of a balanced energy mix improves the reliability and resiliency of the energy grid and helps to ensure affordability for customers. Experience and research show that it's important to avoid overdependence on any single fuel type. Using a diverse portfolio of energy resources allows electric companies to balance the output of variable sources like solar and wind and to use the most cost-effective resources available to provide customers with the safe, reliable, and affordable energy they need.

Using 24/7 energy sources also helps electric companies to keep energy bills as affordable and predictable as possible. In 2017, for every dollar in consumer expenditures, less than a penny and a half went to pay residential electric bills—the lowest in the last 59 years.



Electric companies use a balanced energy mix to improve the reliability and resiliency of the energy grid and to help ensure affordability for customers.

Our Policy Platform

To ensure that electric companies can deliver the energy future customers want and expect, it is critical that public policies:

- Foster a balanced energy mix to ensure that electricity remains safe, reliable, and affordable.
- Streamline the process for permitting and siting energy infrastructure to ensure that energy can get where it is needed when it is needed.
- Recognize the value of nuclear energy. Nuclear energy is a 24/7 energy source that is essential to the energy mix. We must preserve existing nuclear plants to ensure electric reliability and affordability. Premature loss of nuclear plants would make the energy mix much less diverse and more expensive.

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