**What’s powering Alabama?**

Although Alabama has decreased its dependence on coal in the last few years, coal is still a significant part of the state’s energy mix. From 2008 to 2012, Alabama spent over $8.5 billion on out-of-state coal purchases to burn in its coal-fired power plants.1 Not only is coal costly, burning it for electricity has a significant negative impact on the environment. In 2010, Alabama ranked 15th in the nation for overall carbon dioxide emissions (132.7 million metric tons).2 In 2010, Alabama’s electricity sector was 14th in the country for contributing a disproportionate share of toxic emissions compared to other sources – emitting more than 8.2 million pounds of toxic air pollution!3

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | County | Capacity (MW) | Average Age |  # of Units | U | R | NA |
| Barry  | Mobile | 1770.7 | 51 | 5 | 1 |  | 4 |
| Lowman | Washington | 538 | 38 | 3 | 3 |  |  |
| Colbert | Colbert | 1350 | 53 | 5 |  | 5 |  |
| EC Gaston | Shelby | 2012.8 | 46 | 5 | 1 | 4 |  |
| Gadsden | Etowah | 138 | 64 | 2 |  |  | 2 |
| Gorgas | Walker | 1416.7 | 64 | 5 | 3 |  | 2 |
| Greene County | Greene | 568.4 | 48 | 2 |  |  | 2 |
| Miller | Jefferson | 2822 | 29 | 4 | 4 |  |  |
| Widows Creek | Jackson | 1968.6 | 55 | 8 | 1 | 7 |  |

**Status of Coal Plants in Alabama**

Graph 1 and 2: Based on EIA Data

Alabama is home to the most toxic coal ash of any state in the country. Alabama’s coal ash impoundments contain almost 15 million pounds of toxic heavy metals. Visit our Alabama page on [Southeastcoalash.org](http://www.southeastcoalash.org/) to learn more about coal ash issues in Alabama.

**Table Key**

U = # of units upgraded with advanced pollution controls

R = # of units retired or planned for retirement

NA = no action taken to upgrade or retire

