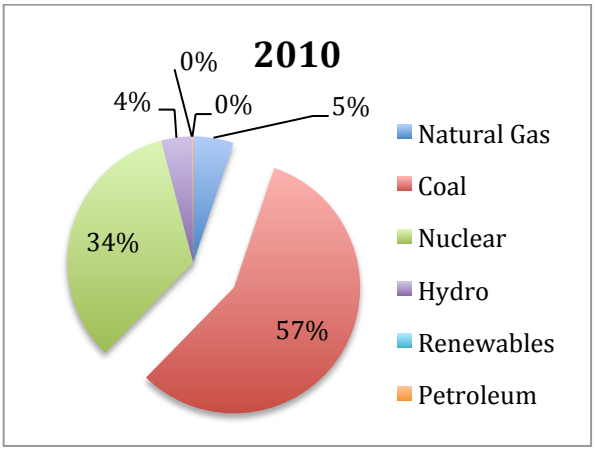
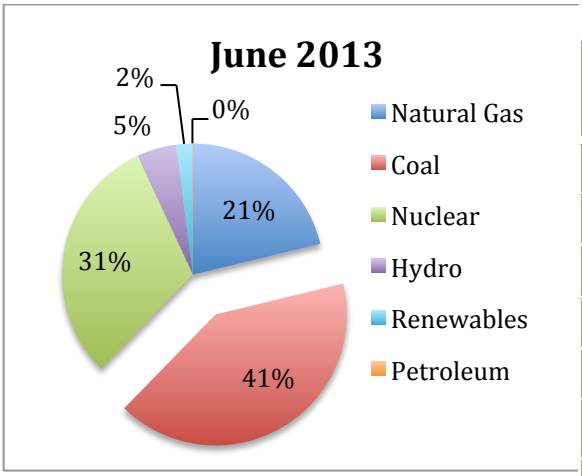
What's powering North Carolina?



Graph 1: Based on EIA Data

Although North Carolina's dependence on coal-fired power has declined over the last few years, coal is still a dominant part of the state's energy mix. From 2008 – 2012, North Carolina spent over $11.2 billion on out-of state coal purchases for use in its coal-fired power plants.[1] In 2010, North Carolina ranked 13th in the nation for overall carbon dioxide emissions (142.9 million metric tons).[2] In 2011, 51% of North Carolina's net electricity generation came from coal shipped by rail and truck from West Virginia and Kentucky[3] – two Southeastern states who have seen their landscape devastated by mountain top removal coal mining. In 2012, North Carolina's electricity sector was 8th in the country for contributing a disproportionate share of toxic emissions compared to other sources – emitting more than 14.6 million pounds of toxic air pollutants.[4]



Graph 2: Based on EIA Data

Coal ash contamination poses a significant threat to North Carolina's water supply, with more than 13 documented cases of contamination from coal ash impoundments. To learn more about the ongoing litigation around coal ash contamination and other coal ash issues, visit our North Carolina page at Southeastcoalash.org.

Status of Coal Plants in North Carolina

Name	County	Capacity (MW)	Average Age	# of Units	U	R	NA
Asheville	Buncombe	413.6	46	2	2		4
Belews Creek	Stokes	2160.2	39	2	2		
Buck	Rowan	250	66	4		4	
Cape Fear	Chatham	328.5	56	2		2	
Cliffside	Rutherford	1605.9	69 *	6	2		
Dan River	Rockingham	290	61	3		3	
GG Allen	Gaston	1155	54	5	5		
HF Lee	Wayne	402.4	48	3		3	
LV Sutton	New Hanover	671.6	50	3		3	
Marshall	Catawba	1996	46	4	4		
Mayo	Person	735.8	30	1	1		
Riverbend	Gaston	466	60	4		4	
Roxboro	Person	2558.2	40	6	6		
Weatherspoon	Robeson	165.5	63	3		3	

* Cliffside Unit 5 is 41 yrs old and Unit 6 is 2 yrs old.

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

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[1] http://www.ucsusa.org/bcbc2014update
[2] Rankings: US EIA, Total Carbon Dioxide Emissions, 2010, available at http://www.eia.gov/state/rankings/ - /series/226
[3] U.S. Energy Information Administration, North Carolina state fact page, available at http://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=nc
[4] National Resource Defense Counsel, "Toxic Power: How Power Plants Contaminate Our Air and States," available at http://www.nrdc.org/air/files/toxic-power-presentation.pdf.