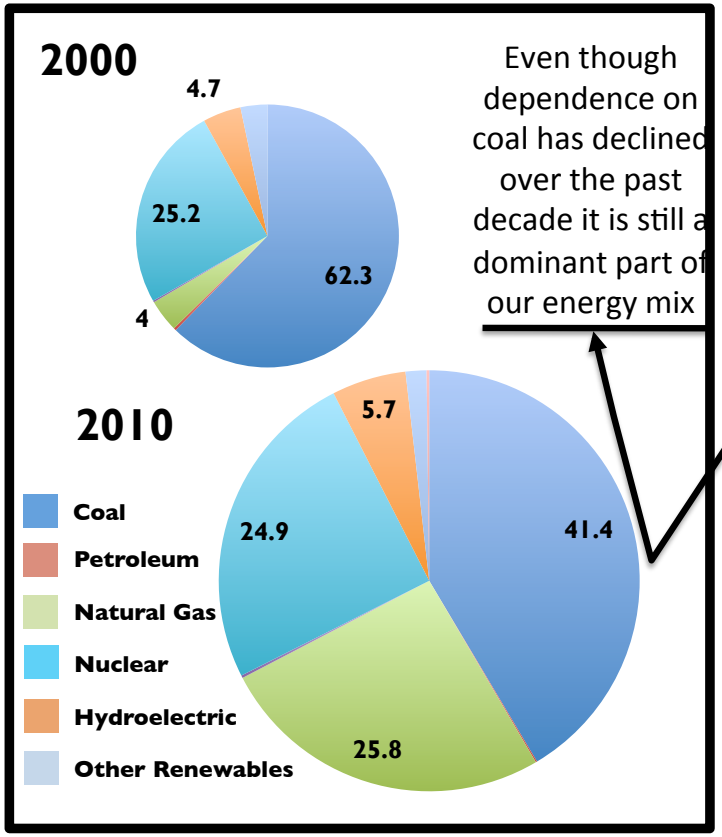
What's powering Alabama?



Even though dependence on coal has declined over the past decade it is still a dominant part of our energy mix

Why Should I Care?
Coal is one of the oldest and dirtiest sources of energy. While reliance on coal historically kept power rates low, the true cost of coal is extraordinary when we account for the human health and environmental damages associated with mining coal, mountain top removal, transportation of coal from mine to plant, air pollution, water quality degradation and coal waste storage.

How does it affect me?
Alabama utilities spend a total of about **$1.53 billion** on coal each year[1] and the state appears at number 15 in the list of the top 15 states for coal health impacts in 2010.[2] There were **340 hospitalizations, 640 heart attacks and 499 deaths** related to pollution from coal plants in Alabama.[3] The economic cost of hospital bills, missed work, missed school and ongoing health care is rarely considered when balancing the costs of coal.

Status of Coal Plants in Alabama

Key
U = Number of units upgraded with advanced environmental controls
R = Number of units retired or planned for retirement
NA = No action taken to upgrade or retire

Name	County	Capacity (MW)	Years	Units	U	R	NA
Barry	Mobile	1770.7	1954-1971	5	1		4
Lowman	Washington	538	1969-1980	3	3		
Colbert	Colbert	1350	1955-1965	5	1		4
EC Gaston	Shelby	2012.8	1960-1974	5	1		4
Gadsden	Etowah	138	1949	2			2
Gorgas	Walker	1416.7	1951-1972	5	3		2
Greene County	Greene	568.4	1965-1966	2			2
Miller	Jefferson	2822	1978-1991	4	4		
Widows Creek	Jackson	1968.6	1952-1965	8	2	6	

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[1]Union of Concerned Scientists, Burning Coal Burning Cash (2010). Data from 2008.
[2]Clean Air Task Force, Toll From Coal (2010).
[3]*Id.*