

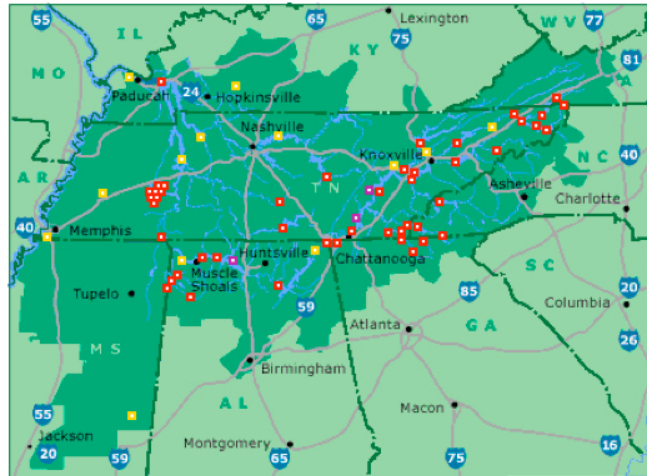
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FACT SHEET

What is TVA?

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is a federally owned corporation that provides a number of services to the southeastern United States. From managing the Tennessee River System and almost 300,000 acres of public lands, to providing electricity to almost 9 million people in seven southeastern states, TVA has an enormous impact on the Southeast's unique culture.

TVA's operation is similar to a private or investor owned corporation with a board of directors appointed by the president.

Seven of the nine Board members must be residents of the TVA service territory and each member must have some experience with running large organizations and be committed to the TVA's mission to serve the Valley through energy, environment and economic development.



source: www.tva.gov

■ = TVA Dam; ■ = TVA nuclear plant; ■ = TVA fossil fuel power plant

Is TVA doing a good job?

Yes and no. On the one hand, TVA has done a good job of controlling flooding along the Tennessee River, preserving federally owned lands for public enjoyment, and in providing reliable electricity to the residents and businesses of the Tennessee Valley.

On the other hand, TVA has not done a good job of protecting our environment from numerous pollutants that result from TVA's over-reliance on fossil fuels for its power production. More than 60% of TVA's power supply comes from coal while renewable energy accounts for less than one quarter of 1%.

TVA's over-dependence on coal results in air pollution that is damaging our health and environment and contributes significantly to global warming. TVA facilities emit more than 107 million tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere each year, almost exclusively from the burning of coal.

In addition to greenhouse gas emissions, the burning of coal produces nitrous- and sulfur-oxides that destroy air quality and millions of tons of coal ash, the storage and disposal of which threatens surrounding communities and ecosystems.

Can TVA provide electricity without coal?

Absolutely! While it can't happen overnight, TVA should begin now to fully develop the energy efficiency and renewable energy resources of the Tennessee Valley. Energy efficiency is the fastest, cleanest, and cheapest energy resource we have, but the Tennessee Valley is one of the least efficiency regions in the country. This isn't because we can't do efficiency, it's because we haven't made it a priority. If TVA gets serious about energy efficiency, it can cost-effectively meet the Valley's growing energy demand without building costly new power plants.



The December, 2008 coal ash spill in Harriman, TN with TVA's Kingston coal plant in the background.

The Tennessee Valley is also rich in renewable energy resources such as wind, solar and biomass. If fully developed, these resources can generate enough electricity that TVA can begin shutting down its outdated coal-fired facilities. Beyond the environmental benefits, the development of energy efficiency and renewable energy will keep energy investments in the region, create thousands of jobs, and reduce our energy bills.

What is Southern Alliance for Clean Energy doing to promote clean energy?

The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy works at the local, state and federal level to advocate for clean energy solutions. We are engaging with TVA to make sure they are giving full consideration to energy efficiency and renewable energy options. At that same time, we are making sure that southeastern states are doing their part through measures such as updating building codes and retrofitting public buildings.

What can you do?

- ✓ **Join the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy.** Support our efforts to promote clean energy solutions throughout the Southeast and protect our way of life.
- ✓ **Contact your state and federal representatives.** Make sure your voice is heard! Contact your state and federal representatives and tell them that energy efficiency and renewable energy are important to you and that TVA needs to do its part.
- ✓ **Tell TVA that it should make energy efficiency and renewable energy a top priority.** Check the TVA website at www.tva.gov for public listening sessions or comment sessions where the public can participate and give their opinions.