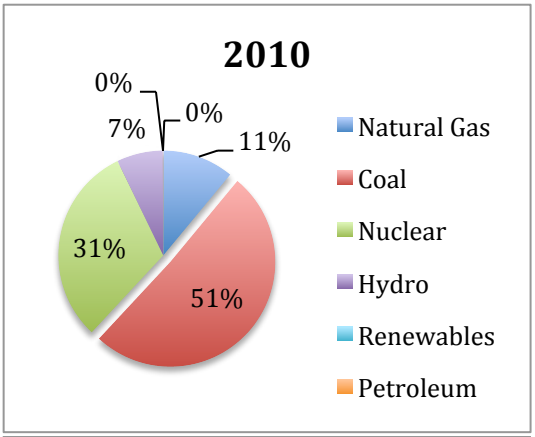
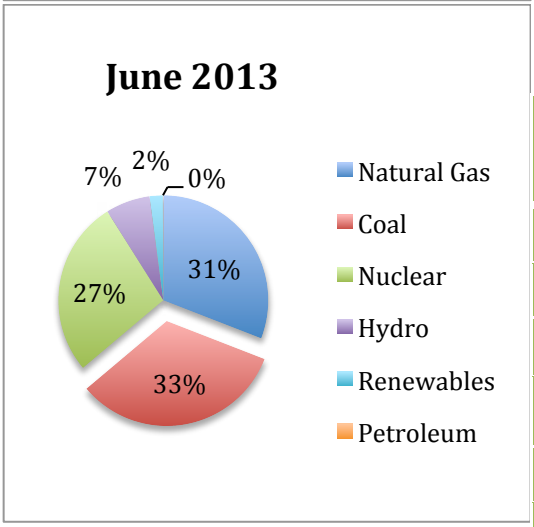
What's powering Alabama?





Graph 1 and 2: Based on EIA Data

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]

Status of Coal Plants in Alabama

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	

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

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 to learn more about coal ash issues in Alabama.

cleanenergy.org Southern Alliance for Clean Energy

[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] 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