



New Hampshire's Dependence on Imported Coal



The cost of importing coal is a major drain on the economies of many states that rely heavily on coal-fired power. Thirty-eight states were net importers of coal in 2008, from other states and, increasingly, other nations. *Burning Coal, Burning Cash* ranks the states that are the most dependent on imported coal. This fact sheet shows the scale of this annual drain on New Hampshire ratepayers, and discusses ways to keep more of that money in-state through investments in energy efficiency and homegrown renewable energy.

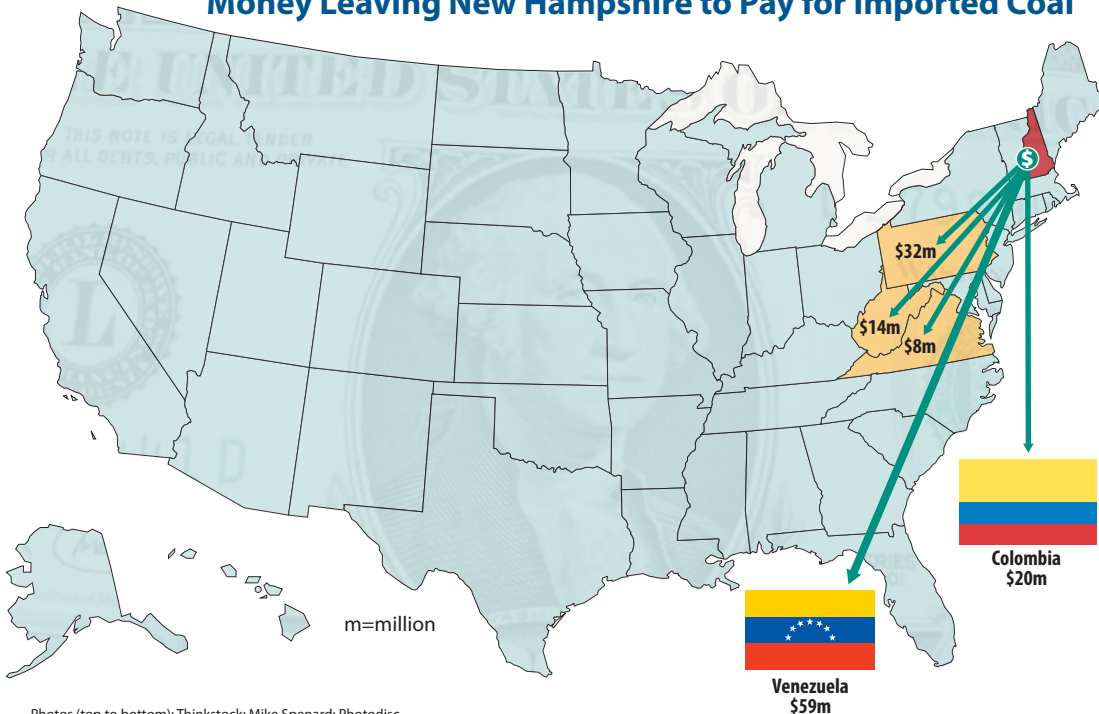
New Hampshire imported all the coal its power plants burned in 2008—much of it from South America. To pay for those imports, New Hampshire sent **\$133 million** out of state.

The Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH), the largest provider of electricity services in the state, purchased all that imported coal. PSNH's Merrimack Station plant, in Bow, spent \$79 million on coal imports—more than any other plant in the state.

Manchester, New Hampshire. The cost of importing coal to fuel power plants is a drain on New Hampshire's economy. Investments in energy efficiency and homegrown renewable energy can help stimulate the economy by redirecting funds into local economic development—funds that would otherwise leave the state.



Money Leaving New Hampshire to Pay for Imported Coal

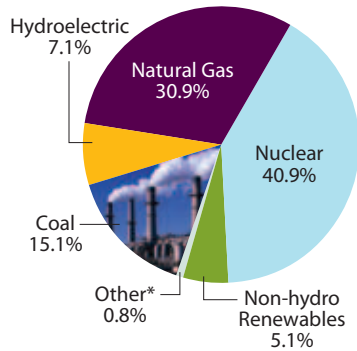


Compared with other states, New Hampshire:

- Spent the 8th most on international imports: \$79 million

Note: Not all these funds will necessarily land in the state or nation where the mining occurs. Mine owners may divert the profits to parent companies in other locations, for example. Amounts also include the cost of transportation.

New Hampshire's Mix of Electricity Sources (2008)



Despite having no in-state coal supplies, New Hampshire relies on coal for about 15 percent of its in-state electricity generation. New Hampshire produces twice as much electricity as retail customers buy. That suggests in-state coal plants may export some of their power.

* "Other" includes oil, municipal solid waste, tires, propane, or other manufactured and waste gases from fossil fuel.

New Hampshire has excellent potential for developing in-state renewable energy resources, which can help reduce the state's dependence on imported coal while creating jobs and other benefits. For example, the Northern Wood Power Project in Portsmouth uses waste-wood material from the region's forestry industry to produce electricity equivalent to the needs of about 50,000 typical homes.

Photos (top to bottom): Photodisc; Keith Shields/NH Public Radio

Clean Energy Solutions Can Boost New Hampshire's Energy Independence

Investing in energy efficiency is one of the quickest and most affordable ways to replace coal-fired power while boosting the local economy. New Hampshire spent more than \$14 per person on rate-payer-funded electricity efficiency programs in 2007, reducing electricity use by 0.7 percent. That is well above the efficiency spending of most states—but still about seven times less than the state spends on imported coal.

New Hampshire could expand its efforts by joining the growing list of states that have adopted energy efficiency resource standards, which require utilities to meet annual targets for saving electricity. Twenty-three states have adopted such standards, most of which require utilities to achieve annual electricity savings of at least 1 percent (a target some states are already achieving). Leading states require annual cuts of 2 percent or more.

Fortunately, New Hampshire is beginning to reduce its dependence on imported coal by tapping its wealth of renewable energy resources. In 2006, PSNH converted one of the units at its coal-fired Schiller Station facility in Portsmouth to burn waste-wood material from the region's forestry industry. Known as the Northern Wood Power Project, this facility produces enough electricity to power about 50,000 typical homes.

New Hampshire has the technical potential to generate all its 2008 electricity needs from renewable energy, led primarily by wind and bioenergy. Though economic and physical barriers will curb some of that potential, the state has made a significant commitment to deploying renewable energy. Utilities must rely on renewable resources to supply about 24 percent of the state's power needs by 2025. Twenty-eight other states and the District of Columbia have adopted such renewable electricity standards.



Citizens and Scientists for Environmental Solutions

This fact sheet is based on the findings of *Burning Coal, Burning Cash: Ranking the States That Import the Most Coal*, a report by the Union of Concerned Scientists. The fully referenced report, along with other state profiles, is available on the UCS website at www.ucsusa.org/burningcoalburningcash.

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