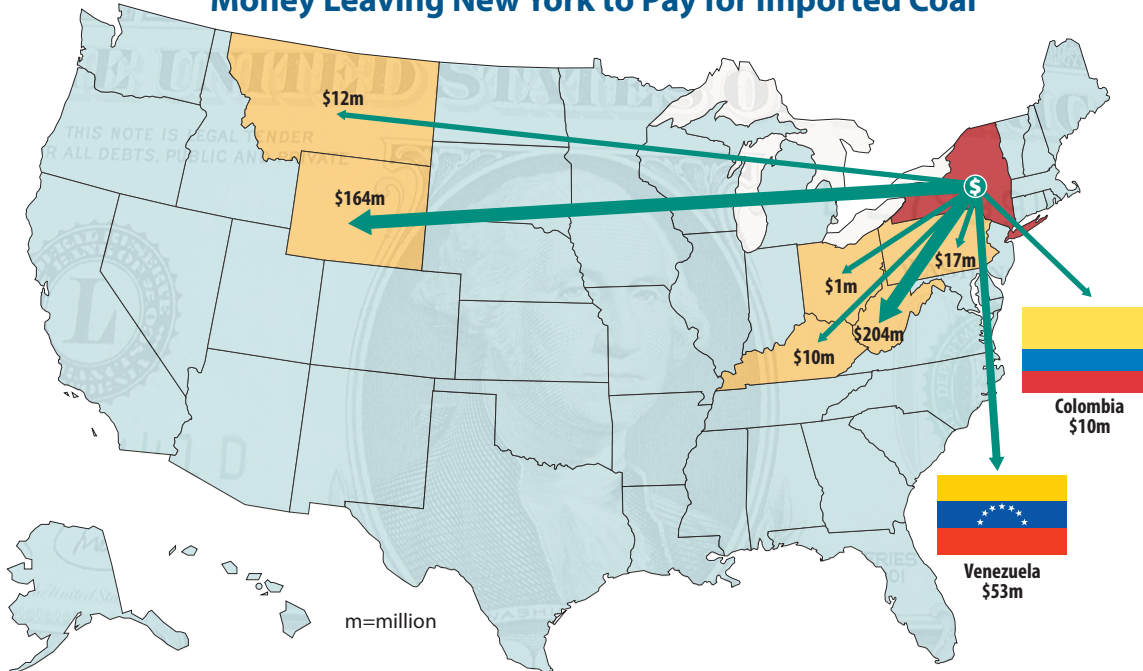


# New York's Dependence on Imported Coal

New York imported all the coal its power plants burned in 2008—some from as far away as South America. To pay for those imports, New York sent **\$472 million** out of state.

## Money Leaving New York to Pay for Imported Coal

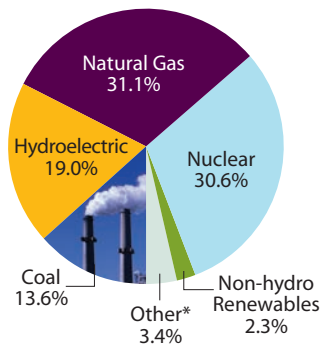


**Compared with other states, New York:**

- Spent the 10th most on international imports: \$63 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. In addition, the origin of coal imports worth \$1 million was not reported to the Energy Information Administration.

## New York's Mix of Electricity Sources (2008)



**New York relies on coal for 14 percent of its in-state electricity generation, and imports all the coal it uses.**

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

## How New York Is Boosting Energy Independence with Clean Energy Solutions

Investing in energy efficiency is one of the quickest and most affordable ways to replace coal-fired power while boosting the local economy. New York spent about \$12.50 per person on ratepayer-funded electricity efficiency programs in 2007, saving 0.36 percent of electricity sales that year. That is more than the efficiency spending of most states, but still only about half as much as the state spent on imported coal. In 2008, New York adopted a strong energy efficiency resource standard, requiring utilities to reduce power demand by nearly 2 percent each year beginning in 2011. Twenty-two other states have adopted such targets, with several committing to annual savings of 2 percent or more.

New York is already poised to reduce its dependence on imported coal by tapping its own wealth of renewable energy resources. The state has the technical potential to produce 83 percent of its 2008 electricity needs from renewable energy, led primarily by wind, solar, and bioenergy. Though economic and physical barriers will curb some of that potential, New York has made a significant commitment to deploying renewable energy. Utilities must rely on renewable resources to supply 30 percent of the state's power needs by 2015. Twenty-eight other states and the District of Columbia have adopted such renewable electricity standards.



**Union of Concerned Scientists**

Citizens and Scientists for Environmental Solutions

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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](http://www.ucsusa.org/burningcoalburningcash). The Union of Concerned Scientists is the leading science-based nonprofit working for a healthy environment and safer world.

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