

Electricity Generation in Montana by Fuel, 1970-2016

Electricity generation within Montana was dominated by hydroelectric power until the mid-1970s. The first large hydroelectric plants were built on the Missouri River in the early 1900s to power the mining industry in Butte. Since then, electricity generated has diversified. By the mid-1980s coal power generation overtook hydro generation as the leading fuel production source, mostly from the four units at Colstrip. Since 2005, natural gas, wind, petroleum coke, solar and biomass have made up increasing shares of generation, although coal and hydro still dominate the overall mix.

