

Your electricity



Fuel sources

Air emissions

Your choices

OTTER TAIL
POWER COMPANY

www.otpco.com

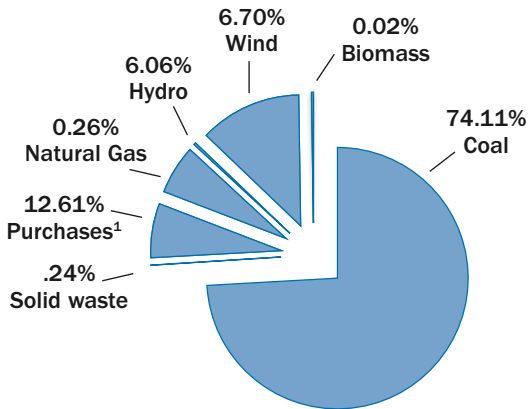
Use your electricity wisely to help the environment

Fuels used to generate electricity have different costs, reliability, and air emissions

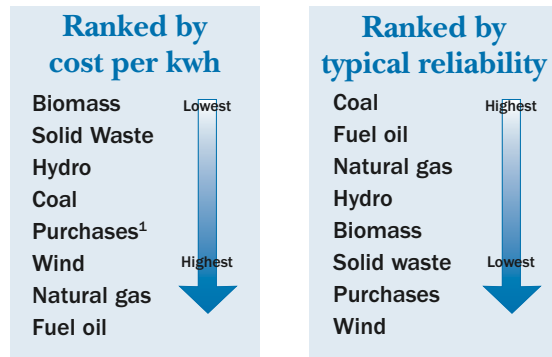


How are your electricity needs met?

The following chart shows the primary fuel sources used to produce your electricity in 2008.



Based on 2008 data, the following charts rank Otter Tail Power Company's energy sources on the basis of cost and reliability.



¹ We purchase electricity from various fuel sources throughout the region that may or may not include coal, hydro, fuel oil, nuclear, natural gas, or others. Otter Tail Power Company does not own any nuclear generating facilities, and we would not be likely to purchase nuclear-based electricity because utilities that own nuclear generating facilities typically use their lowest-cost resources, including nuclear, to serve their own customers.

What air emissions are produced?

Fuel type	Measured in pounds per 1,000 kilowatt-hours				
	Carbon dioxide	Sulfur dioxide	Nitrogen oxides	Particulate matter	Mercury
Coal	2,397	7.910	6.999	0.2388	0.00007730
Fuel oil	3,200	9.510	11.280	1.1500	0.0000090
Biomass	2,397	7.840	6.990	0.2400	0.00007700
Solid waste	2,397	7.840	6.990	0.2400	0.00007700
Purchases	1,824	5.863	3.575	0.3371	0.00003910
Natural gas	1,378	0.007	0.890	0.0800	0.00000001

How do air emissions affect the environment?

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the principal greenhouse gas linked to global warming. **Nitrogen oxides (NO_x)** and **sulfur dioxide (SO₂)** contribute to acid rain; nitrogen oxides also contribute to smog. **Particulate matter** (sometimes called soot) contributes to asthma attacks and other respiratory illness. **Mercury** accumulates in some fish to levels exceeding current health department guidelines. *The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is responsible for ensuring that emissions from utilities meet air-quality standards for nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and smog.*

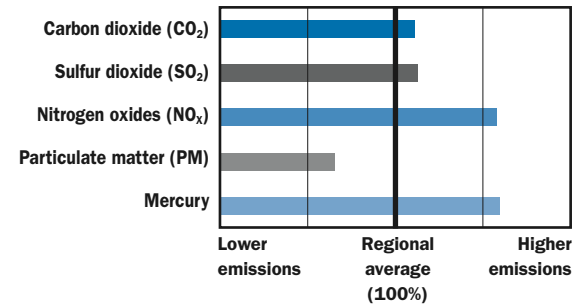
Wind and solar power produce none of these air emissions. Nuclear energy does not produce these air emissions but does produce both high- and low-level nuclear waste. Large hydropower may alter ecosystems and cultural resources, depending upon the location and design of the facility.

Statewide, coal-fired power plants in Minnesota generate 50 percent of all sulfur dioxide pollution, 35 percent of all carbon dioxide pollution, 43 percent of all mercury pollution, and 16 percent of all nitrogen oxides pollution.² All other generation sources contribute a small amount of pollution.

² Pollution is emitted from many places, such as industrial and commercial sources, cars, trucks, and home heating.

How does Otter Tail Power Company compare with the regional average?

The chart below shows how our company's air emissions compare with the regional average air emissions.



What can you do to help reduce air emissions?

You can participate in Otter Tail Power Company's energy-conservation programs. Minnesota customer participation in these programs between 1992 and 2008 reduced the need to produce 180,423,611 kilowatt-hours of electricity in 2008, a 4.17 percent savings. These annual savings resulted from both new and ongoing participation in our energy-conservation programs. By not producing this electricity, we avoided the following air emissions:

Air emission	Tons
Carbon dioxide	181,859
Sulfur dioxide	597
Nitrogen oxides	510
Particulate matter	20
Mercury	.010

Use electricity wisely, save money

Minnesota's Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) plays a key role in meeting the state's future electricity needs. As part of our CIP in 2009 we offer higher incentives and rebates than ever before to our customers who install energy-efficient systems.

Commercial/industrial programs

- Rebates and grants—Businesses may qualify for significant rebates for installing high-efficiency refrigeration, lighting, motors, heat pumps, adjustable-speed drives, or cooking equipment.
- Financing—Choose 1.9 percent financing in lieu of rebates, or choose 8.5 percent financing and take the rebates for qualified efficiency-improvement projects.

Residential programs

- House Therapy—Home weatherization for low-income households.
- HotPack—Free water-saver kits for customers who install an electric water heater.
- Heat pump—Higher rebates or 1.9 percent financing for customers who install a qualified air-source or geothermal heat pump.
- Residential demand control—A free RDC unit, a \$300 wiring rebate, and a lower rate for all household electricity for customers who let us control their electrical systems during peak periods.
- CoolSavings—\$7 monthly bill credit from June through September for customers who allow us to cycle their central cooling system during peak periods.
- Change a Light, Change the World—Fall in-store instant rebate promotion on compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- Appliance recycling—Cash for customers who recycle their old working refrigerators or freezers.

CFLs

- Use a third of the energy that standard incandescent bulbs use.
- Last up to ten times longer.
- Save an average of \$30 in energy costs and prevent 450 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions over the life of the CFL.

Energy-saving tips

- Close shades and blinds during the day to keep your home cooler and open them in the evening to take advantage of natural light.
- Replace your aging washing machine with a high-efficiency front-loading washer to reduce energy, water, and detergent use by up to 60 percent.
- Replace your old refrigerators with a more efficient model.
- Use your electric fry pan, toaster oven, and microwave oven when cooking single-dish meals.
- Plant shade trees on the south and west to block the summer sun's heat from your home.

TailWinds renewable wind energy

Emission-free wind-generated electricity is available from Otter Tail Power Company. For a few pennies a day you can support the advancement of wind power through TailWinds.



To learn more

Checkout these resources:

www.otpco.com or call 800-493-3299 for more information about the Otter Tail Power Company programs described here.

www.ConservingElectricity.com for energy-saving help for kids, homeowners, and businesses.

www.commerce.state.mn.us or call 800-657-3710 for energy-saving tips from the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

www.pca.state.mn.us/programs/electricity.html or call 651-297-2274 or 800-646-6247 for information about air emissions from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.



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