

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



How much of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions are associated with electricity generation?

In 2017, emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) by the U.S. [electric power sector](#) were 1,744 million metric tons, or about 34% of the total U.S. energy-related CO₂ emissions of 5,140 million metric tons.¹

CO₂ emissions by U.S. electric power sector by source, 2017

Source	Million metric tons	Share of sector total
Coal	1,207	69%
Natural gas	506	29%
Petroleum	19	1%
Other ²	12	<1%
Total	1,744	

¹ Preliminary data for 2017.

² Includes CO₂ emissions from the combustion of miscellaneous waste materials made from fossil fuels and by some types of geothermal power generation.

Learn more:

[Monthly Energy Review](#), Tables [12.1](#) and [12.6](#) contain the most recent estimates of monthly and annual U.S. energy-related CO₂ emissions, total and by the electric power sector.

[Energy Explained: Energy and the Environment—Greenhouse gases](#)

[Energy Explained: Where Greenhouse Gases Come From](#)

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