

Electric Power Vital Statistics



Wattage for Your Cottage

Facts and figures on generating electricity

- Alberta has added 4,000 MW of new capacity since 1999, representing roughly \$4 billion in new investment.
- Alberta's demand for power, known as "load," has grown 4% annually since 1999, one of the fastest-growing loads in North America.

Source: Independent Power Producers Society of Alberta

Deregulation: A Field Guide

Until 2001, the electricity system in Alberta was made up of three main utilities. Today, the system is a complex web of generators, transmitters, distributors and retailers. Here is a sampling of the major players in each segment of the supply chain:

GENERATORS

About half of Alberta's electricity is generated from coal-fired generation plants, with natural gas, wind power and other renewable sources making up the rest.

- Enmax Corporation
- Atco Power
- TransAlta Corp.
- Epcor

TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION

Electricity travels across the province via high-voltage transmission lines. Before it can be used in your home or business, transformers along these lines reduce the voltage and the electricity then travels over distribution lines, which may be owned by a different company.

- AltaLink LP
- Atco Electric
- Epcor
- FortisAlberta

PROVIDERS

There are two types of energy providers: regulated providers and competitive retailers. There are currently more than 20 retailers vying to sell power to commercial and industrial users in Alberta.

Regulated providers:

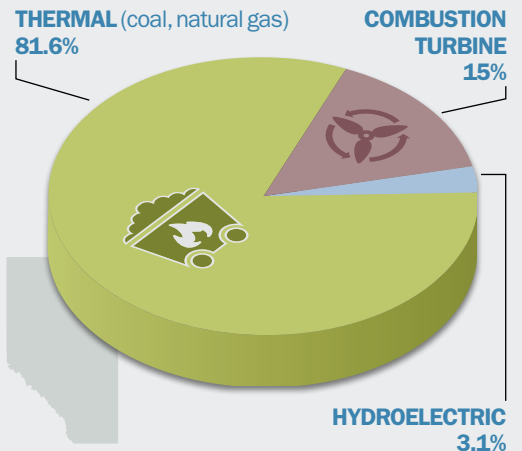
- AltaGas Utilities
- Epcor
- Direct Energy Regulated Services
- Enmax Power Corp.

Competitive retailers:

- Alberta Energy Savings
- Direct Energy
- Enmax Energy Corp.

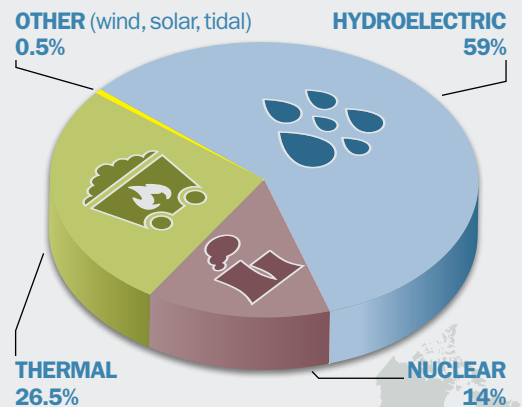
Nuts & Volts

ELECTRICITY GENERATION IN ALBERTA, 2003



Source: Industry Canada

ELECTRICITY GENERATION IN CANADA, 2005



Source: Statistics Canada

TRANSMISSION LINES IN OPERATION, 2008

