The energy landscape in Minnesota is fast-changing. Fresh Energy is a nonprofit leader shaping and advocating for the strongest possible momentum for clean energy now and into the future. Fresh Energy is working to solidify the transition away from coal and natural gas and toward clean, low-cost, zero-carbon options. Research for this infographic was done by Ethan Culver, Minnesota Capitol Pathways intern with Fresh Energy. Learn more about Fresh Energy at fresh-energy.org.

Next Generation Minnesota Act
In 2007, with bipartisan support in the legislature and under Republican Governor Tim Pawlenty’s leadership, Minnesota adopted ambitious statewide goals to reduce carbon emissions across all sectors of the economy.

The bill passed in the House with a vote of 125-9 and in the Senate 59-5.

In the act, the Minnesota legislature established specific goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Statewide Carbon Emissions from 1990-2016 and Next Generation Energy Act Goals

In 2015, we missed our first goal.

The Goals:
1. 15% Lower Emissions than 2005 by 2015
2. 30% Lower Emissions than 2005 by 2025
3. 80% Lower Emissions than 2005 by 2050

In 2015, the transportation sector became the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions for the first time since 1976, emitting 40 million tons of CO₂.

Minnesota In-State Electricity Generation
Accounting for 46,595,136 MWh in 2019

- 31% from Coal
- 26% from Renewables
- 24% from Nuclear
- 18% from Natural Gas
- 1% from Other

After factoring in electricity imports, wind power accounts for about 18% of the electricity consumed in MN, up from 2% in 2003.

Renewable Energy Production Tax Program
This program was created in 2004 for wind energy and solar projects were added in 2016. All renewable energy projects greater than 1 MW pay a production tax credit to counties, which supports schools and other essential services.

Since the 1970s, MN has been a net importer of electricity. In 2020 we still import around 20% of our electricity from North Dakota—most of which comes from coal-fired power plants.

Data gathered from the 2019 EIA Energy Generation Report

Data collected from MPCA

Fresh Energy At-A-Glance

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