
RETIREMENT OF COAL-FIRED ELECTRIC GENERATING UNITS¹

As of June 17, 2017

- Since 2010, utilities have announced the retirement of a large number of coal-fired electric generating units.² In addition to units that are shutting down, some coal-fired units are converting to other fuels. Most of these retirements and conversions have been attributed to EPA policies, although other factors — such as low natural gas prices and market conditions — play a role too.³
- **Table 1** lists 37 states with retirements and conversions that have been attributed to EPA policies. These retirements and conversions total 454 units and represent 75,700 megawatts (MW) of electric generating capacity. Approximately 13,000 MW (one-fifth of the total) are converting to other fuels. As of the date of this paper, almost 54,000 MW of coal-fired electric generating capacity had actually retired or converted to another fuel because of EPA policies.
- **Table 2** lists all announced retirements and conversions, regardless of cause, through 2030. (Table 2 includes the units in Table 1 plus additional retirements and conversions that have not been attributed to EPA policies.) Table 2 shows that 586 units — totaling 101,000 MW — have retired or converted or plan to retire or convert. These units are located in 43 states and represent approximately one third of the U.S. coal fleet that existed in 2010.
- As of June 2017, approximately 66,000 MW of coal-fired generating capacity had retired or converted due to all causes. Between 2018 and 2020, an additional 19,000 MW (75 units) are expected to retire or convert; the majority of these are due to EPA policies.⁴

¹ These retirements and conversions is based primarily on public announcements by the owners of the coal units. We also use other information sources that are highly reliable. These retirements and conversions are *not* based on modeling projections. We do not include small (less than 25 MW) cogeneration units.

² In 2010, according to EIA, the U.S. coal-fired electric generating fleet was comprised of 1,396 electric generating units located at 580 power plants for a total generating capacity of approximately 317,000 MW.

³ EPA policies include EPA regulations, as well as settlement agreements resulting from EPA's New Source Review enforcement activities.

⁴ Between 2018 and 2020, 44 units totaling 10,962 MW are expected to retire or convert due to EPA policies.

TABLE 1. Coal Units Closing or Converting Because of EPA Policies⁵

	MW CLOSING OR CONVERTING	UNITS CLOSING OR CONVERTING
1. Ohio	6,421	40
2. Indiana	6,129	34
3. Pennsylvania	5,548	30
4. Alabama	5,166	26
5. Michigan	4,075	31
6. Arizona	3,482	8
7. Kentucky	3,471	16
8. Georgia	3,249	15
9. Illinois	3,076	14
10. North Carolina	2,783	20
11. West Virginia	2,740	18
12. Tennessee	2,659	17
13. Missouri	2,355	23
14. Virginia	2,354	16
15. Minnesota	2,150	15
16. Oklahoma	1,954	4
17. South Carolina	1,768	14
18. Colorado	1,699	13
19. Arkansas	1,659	2
20. Florida	1,568	7
21. Iowa	1,564	28
22. Massachusetts	1,408	6
23. Texas	1,399	3
24. New Mexico	1,375	5
25. Wisconsin	1,287	16
26. Mississippi	706	2
27. Nebraska	637	5
28. Oregon	585	1
29. Louisiana	575	1
30. Kansas	478	6
31. New York	475	3
32. Utah	272	5
33. New Jersey	268	2
34. Montana	154	1
35. Maryland	115	2
36. Wyoming	49	4
37. South Dakota	22	1
37 STATES	75,675 MW	454 UNITS

⁵ Most of the coal units listed in Table 1 are retiring; 77 units representing 12,938 MW are converting to natural gas, biomass, or another fuel.

TABLE 2. Coal Units Closing or Converting Regardless of Cause⁶

	MW CLOSING OR CONVERTING	UNITS CLOSING OR CONVERTING
1. Ohio	11,491	58
2. Indiana	6,569	39
3. Illinois	6,173	22
4. Pennsylvania	5,737	33
5. Alabama	5,166	26
6. Michigan	4,500	39
7. North Carolina	4,404	35
8. Kentucky	3,896	18
9. Georgia	3,752	17
10. Arizona	3,482	8
11. Florida	3,150	10
12. Virginia	3,120	27
13. West Virginia	2,740	18
14. Nevada	2,689	8
15. Tennessee	2,659	17
16. Missouri	2,372	24
17. Minnesota	2,288	17
18. Utah	2,072	7
19. Oklahoma	1,954	4
20. Iowa	1,832	32
21. South Carolina	1,768	14
22. Colorado	1,745	14
23. Massachusetts	1,663	8
24. Arkansas	1,659	2
25. New York	1,588	13
26. New Jersey	1,543	6
27. Wisconsin	1,525	23
28. Texas	1,399	3
29. Washington	1,376	2
30. New Mexico	1,375	5
31. Montana	768	3
32. Nebraska	757	6
33. Mississippi	706	2
34. Oregon	585	1
35. Louisiana	575	1
36. Connecticut	566	2
37. Kansas	478	6
38. Delaware	360	4
39. Maryland	250	3
40. North Dakota	189	1
41. California	129	3
42. Wyoming	49	4
43. South Dakota	22	1
43 STATES	101,121 MW	586 UNITS

⁶ Most of the coal units in Table 2 are retiring; 99 units representing 14,352 MW are converting to natural gas, biomass, or another fuel.