

About the United States

In 1970 the United States consumed almost 1400 billion [kilowatt hours](#) of electricity. The Department of Energy predicts that by the year 2020 the US will consume over three times that amount or 4800 billion kilowatt hours of electricity.

To produce all of this electricity, the United States has roughly 5000 power plants with a generating capacity of 800,000 Megawatts. The USDOE predicts we will need to build a power plant a week to meet our projected electrical needs for the year 2020.

In 1999 the average amount of CO₂ released into the atmosphere for every kilowatt hour of electricity produced was 1.969 lbs. (USDOE) In the same year, natural gas, which is the least carbon intensive fossil fuel, released on average 1.321lbs per kilowatt hour.

