

Colorado Energy National Rankings 2022



U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) Overview (April 2022):

- Since 2010, Colorado's renewable electricity net generation has more than tripled and accounted for 35% of the state's total generation in 2021. Wind power accounted for almost four-fifth of the state's renewable electricity generation in 2021.
- Colorado ranks seventh among the states in total energy production, and its per capita total energy consumption is lower than two-thirds of the states.
- By 2025, 1,164 megawatts of coal-fired generating capacity in Colorado is scheduled to be retired.
- Renewable energy provided slightly more than one-third of the state's electricity net generation in 2021. Since 2010, Colorado's renewable electricity net generation has more than tripled.

Residential Electricity Rates:

- As of August 2022:
 - residential electricity rates in Colorado were 14.86 cents per kWh. This is below the national average of 15.95 cents per kWh and is the second highest in the eight-state Mountain West Region, which averages 13.22 cents per kWh;
 - commercial rates are 12.65 cents per kWh, less than the national average of 13.45 cents per kWh;
 - industrial rates averaged 9.91 cents, which is slightly higher than the national average of 9.72 cents (*Source: U.S. EIA data*).

Wind Energy:

- Colorado ranks 7th in the nation for growth in wind energy production since 2012 (*Source: Environment Colorado Research & Policy Center, October 6, 2022*).
- Colorado ranks 7th in the "Top 10 states generating the highest percentage of wind power" with 24.1% in September, 2022 (*Source: ChooseEnergy.com*).
- Cumulative wind power generating capacity has more than doubled since 2010 to reach more than 4,000 MW.
 - 2,878 wind turbines as of September, 2022.

Solar Energy:

- Colorado ranks 13th for cumulative installed solar electric capacity in 2022 (*Source: SEIA*).
- Colorado ranks 14th for growth in solar (CoPirg Foundation, 2022).
- Coloradans get 4.18% of their electricity from solar as of mid-2021 (*Source: SEIA*).
- 81,000 individual PV installations in 2021 (*Source: ElectricRate*).
- In 2021, Colorado ranked 13th among the states in utility-scale solar power-generating capacity with 1,054 megawatts installed, with an additional 750 megawatts of solar power capacity scheduled to come online by the end of 2022. (*Source: U.S. EIA*).



Natural Gas:

- Colorado has the seventh-largest natural gas reserves of any state, accounting for 4% of the U.S. total. It is the eighth-largest natural gas-producing state in the nation. Colorado is home to all or part of 11 of the nation's 100 largest natural gas fields. (Source: U.S. EIA).

Hydro Power:

- 2nd for small hydro installations (Source: Colorado Small Hydro-power Association).
- There are 28 hydroelectric power plants, including one under construction, at Reclamation projects in the Upper Colorado Region (Source: Power Office | Upper Colorado Basin—Bureau of Reclamation, February 15, 2022).
- In 2019, nearly 3% of the state's total electrical output came from more than 60 hydroelectric generating stations (Source: Colo. Small Hydropower Association. Assessment of Energy Potential at Public Drinking Water Systems, June 2018, page 2, Telluride/Kurt Johnson).

Alternative Natural Gas Electricity Generation:

- Colorado remains the #1 coalbed methane-producing state, accounting for almost two-fifths of U.S. production in 2020 (Source: EIA State Profile, March 18, 2021).

Battery Storage:

- In addition, Colorado ranks 23rd for growth in battery storage (CoPirg Foundation, 2022).
- Colorado is among the first states to give consumers the right to store energy the energy they generate from their solar panels (Source: The Denver Post March 22, 2018).

Energy Efficiency:

- Colorado ranks 8th in the Top 10 most energy efficient states in the U.S. according to Wallet Hub, 2022.

Buildings Efficiency:

- Colorado ranks #11 for Cumulative LEED-certified building surface area in the United States as of November 2022 with 207 million square feet (Source: Statista, 2022).

Grid Modernization:

- Colorado is ranked 8th as one of the “most active” in terms of Grid Modernization efforts according to the North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center, The 50 States of Grid Modernization: 2022 Review and Q4 2022 Quarterly Report, February 2021.

Electric Vehicles:

- Colorado ranks 7th and 8th in the nation for growth in electric vehicle charging ports and sales since 2012, respectively (Source: Environment Colorado Research & Policy Center. October 6, 2022).
- As of January 2022, Colorado had more than 3,500 public electric vehicle fast-charging ports, the eighth highest among the states (Source: U.S. EIA).

Cleantech Funding:

- Colorado ranks 4th nationally in cleantech job concentration and 8th in cleantech venture capital investment (Source: Colorado Cleantech Industries Association, CClA, 2022).

Renewable Energy Jobs:

- According to the 2021 Colorado Energy & Water Consumption report published by the Colorado Energy Office, the renewable energy industry in Colorado employed approximately 62,000 people in 2020. This includes jobs in wind, solar, hydro, geothermal, and biomass energy.
- Colorado's clean energy sector employed 61,179 workers by the end of 2021—an increase of 5.2 percent. The energy efficiency sector continued to lead the field, accounting for 56 percent of all state clean energy jobs, followed by renewable energy and clean vehicles (E2 Clean Jobs Report, 2022).



COLORADO

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