



"Assessment of Waterpower Potential and Development Needs" By the Numbers

A quick look at the growth potential of hydropower by the year 2025, as detailed in the March 2007 report released by the Electric Power Research Institute.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- **270,000 GWH** - existing hydropower generation in the United States (75 percent of U.S. renewable energy generation—the largest renewable source)
- **90,000 MW** - overall water potential available
- **23,000 MW** - potential capacity increase by 2025

BY 2025, CONVENTIONAL POTENTIAL

- **10,000 MW** - overall potential increase
 - **2,700 MW** - from new small and low-power conventional hydropower
 - **2,300 MW** - from capacity gains and efficiency improvements at existing hydropower facilities
 - **5,000 MW** - from new hydro at existing non-powered dams

By 2025, NEW WATERPOWER TECHNOLOGY POTENTIAL

- **10,000 MW** - increase from ocean and wave energy devices
- **3,000 MW** - increase from new hydrokinetic technologies



Copies of the EPRI report
are available at
www.wpri.com. Search
for report #1014762.

Hydropower is a domestic source of renewable, reliable, and affordable electricity. No other energy source offers so many advantages.

Demand-driven and Secure

Our nation's rivers and streams provide more than 90% of our water supply, yet the descriptions from hydroelectricity's most vocal critics sound like doomsday scenarios:



Renewable

Water is clean, abundant, and plentiful. Hydroelectric power is a naturally renewable and non-depleted source of energy. Because it is a clean, renewable, and secure source of electricity, it is the best choice for our country's future.

Popular
Nationally, 93% of individuals believe hydroelectric power is important or very important to meeting future electricity needs.

The hydroelectric power industry is growing rapidly.



Efficient

Today's hydropower turbines are capable of converting more than 90% of available energy into electricity, which is more efficient than any other form of generation (the best fossil fuel power plant is only about 50% efficient).

Clean

Hydro power uses water to generate electricity. It is clean, it is reliable, and it does not produce air pollution or toxic by-products.

HydroPOWER the power of moving water

Clean power for a secure energy future

Any moving water has the potential to make power



Water used for power is returned to the water cycle

The hydrologic cycle

Source: <http://hydroweb.org/pubs/hydro101.htm#water>

Delicate

Hydroelectric power can go from one extreme to the next in a matter of just a few hours. When demand for electricity increases, hydropower plants must respond quickly to meet that demand. When demand decreases, hydropower plants must release water quickly to prevent flooding. This makes hydropower unique among other sources of power because water is used and released quickly.



Flexible

Hydroelectric power is the most flexible, to allow for quick generation of electricity when demand increases. Unlike fossil fuel power plants, which take days to build up to full capacity, hydroelectric power plants can increase their output within minutes. This allows hydroelectric power to complement other power sources that are less flexible, such as natural gas and wind power.



Non-power benefits

Hydroelectric projects do more than just produce electricity; they also benefit the environment and the people who live near them. Many hydroelectric dams have been converted to fish ladders to help salmon and other fish species return to their spawning grounds. Other dams have been converted to fish ladders to help salmon and other fish species return to their spawning grounds. Other dams have been converted to fish ladders to help salmon and other fish species return to their spawning grounds.



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