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# How much coal, natural gas, or petroleum is used to generate a kilowatthour of electricity?

The annual average amounts of coal, natural gas, and petroleum fuels used to generate a kilowatthour (kWh) of electricity by U.S. electric utilities and independent power producers in 2021 were:

- Coal—1.12 pounds/kWh
- Natural gas—7.36 cubic feet/kWh
- Petroleum liquids—0.08 gallons/kWh
- Petroleum coke—0.82 pounds/kWh
- 1 pound of carbon combines with 2.66 pounds of oxygen to produce 3.667 pounds of carbon dioxide. Hence 1.12 pounds of coal produces 4.1 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub>. 19.3% production rate times 4.1 = 0.7913 CO<sub>2</sub>

Gasoline GGE per kwh = 0.029678483099753

1 gallon of gasoline burned produces 20 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Hence, 0.0296784...x20 #CO<sub>2</sub> = 0.593568#CO<sub>2</sub>

1 kwh of coal produces 0.793 lbs. CO<sub>2</sub>

1 kwh of gasoline produces 0.593568 lbs CO<sub>2</sub>

## FROM EIA (U.S. ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Gasoline produces less CO<sub>2</sub>.

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Do you have an email address I could forward it to?

Thanks, Hank

