

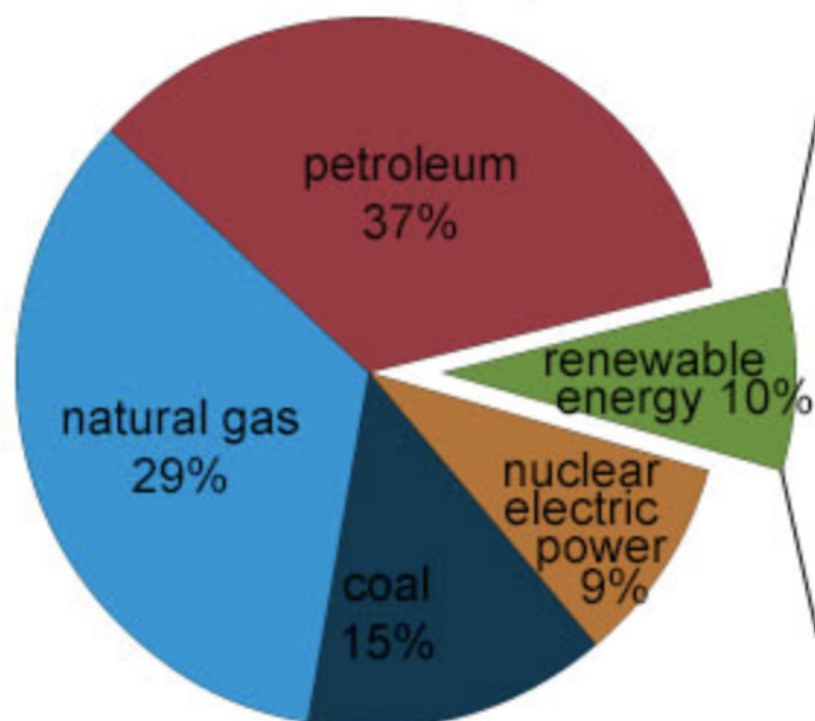


- AMERICAN
ENERGY
POLICIES

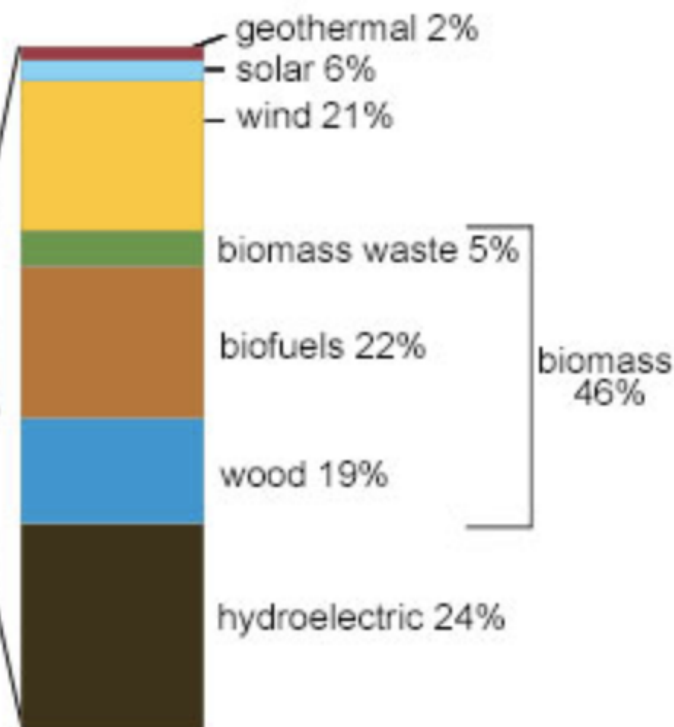
BridgeND 1.29.18

U.S. energy consumption by energy source, 2016

Total = 97.4 quadrillion
British thermal units (Btu)



Total = 10.2 quadrillion Btu



Note: Sum of components may not equal 100% because of independent rounding.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Monthly Energy Review*, Table 1.3 and 10.1, April 2017, preliminary data

TWO COAL-MINERS: TWO DIFFERENT STORIES

Tony Brunsack (from southwestern Pennsylvania, worked as a coal miner for 41 years) about life under Obama:

“Everybody was scared that they was going to lose their job. I felt [the government] was attacking me personally, me and my family... We all feel that way, and that’s why President Trump did so well in this area.”

Nick Mullins (fifth generation coal miner from southwestern Virginia) on the future of coal and President Trump’s policies:

“Whenever Trump says that he’s going to bring coal jobs back, all that’s doing is giving people false hope and keeping people from working towards better alternatives...”

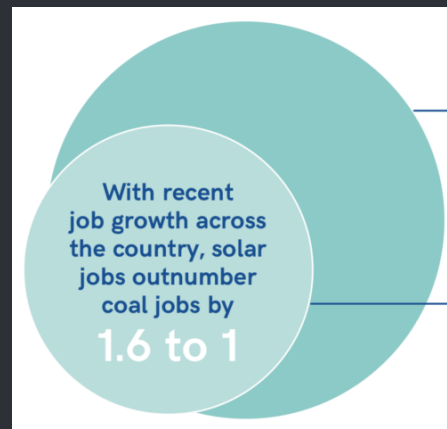
Energy Dependence:

- 2016, U.S. petroleum net imports were ~25% of U.S. [petroleum consumption](#). Slightly up from 24% in 2015, which was the lowest level since 1970. - Energy Information Administration

Petroleum includes

- crude oil
- gasoline
- diesel fuel
- heating oil
- jet fuel
- Much more

Economic Worries



◦ Coal's Decline

- 38% drop in coal production over last decade
- VP of Operations for Mepco Holding: “It’s just come to a point where the mine is not economical to continue”
- Expected to hurt: unemployment rate, tax revenue, jobs, housing market

◦ Solar Alternative

- 30% tariff expected to block 7.6 gigawatts of solar installation through 2022
 - Cost: 23,000 jobs

● Trump and the future of offshore drilling

- Trump administration's 5 year plan
- Several things stand in the way of this happening:
 - Local and state politics
 - CA, OR, WA, VA are likely to give strong pushback
 - Both the Bush and Obama administrations tried to expand drilling, but were shut down (GWB denied FL drilling by his brother, Jeb and Obama pulled plan after BP spill)
- Some regions are not that worth drilling
 - NE
 - SoCal
 - AL
 - FL
- Logistics: most money has gone to on-shore drilling in recent years anyway, companies are very hesitant to push for big expansions offshore

Source: <http://www.petroleum-economist.com/articles/upstream/exploration-production/2018/trumps-offshore-oil-bonanza>

● Trump and the future of offshore drilling

- Some regions are not that worth drilling
 - NE does not promise high R.O.I.
 - SoCal may have significant potential, but opposition there would be very high
 - AL is promising and govt is unlikely to give big pushback, but expansion would be costly, especially with oil sitting at \$60/barrel
 - FL might be valuable, but significant pushback because of tourism industry
- Logistics: most money has gone to on-shore drilling in recent years anyway, companies are very hesitant to push for big expansions offshore





Conversation Questions

1. Do you think the President is hypocritical with his attempts to save jobs in the coal industry, but limit growth in the solar industry?
2. Do you see a future where traditional energy sources like coal and new systems like solar panels can function together, or will renewable sources force the end of traditional ones?
3. If Nick Mullins is right about the impossibility of restoring coal jobs, what role (if any) does the federal government have in helping now-unemployed coal miners find new jobs? How do you see that process play out?



Conversation Questions

4. Appalachia is one of the poorest regions in the country, and is also home to most of America's coal production. Do you think the region could become a renewable energy hub, or do you think too many political/geographic/etc. challenges stand in the way?

5. What is the best discourse for the government to promote energy independence while also promoting clean, renewable energy?