

## Georgia Power: Energy on a Grand Scale

Georgia Power is the largest energy provider in Georgia, supplying over 2 million people with electricity, and generating over 7 billion dollars in revenue. A division of Southern Company, Georgia Power boasts energy costs below the national average, using a variety of energy generation processes to meet the needs of a growing population.

The largest sources of energy production in Georgia are coal, nuclear energy, and natural gas respectively. Over half (61%), of all electricity in the state is produced by coal burning power plants. Natural gas accounts for 12% of energy produced, and continues to rise in popularity and availability. The percentage of power generated using the resource is expected to increase in coming years as coal power is scaled back. Already a number of Georgia's coal fired plants are being converted to utilize cleaner burning natural gas. Nuclear energy accounts for 23% of energy production, with Georgia being the first state in decades to begin new reactor construction. Plant Vogtle's new reactors 3 and 4 are slated to go online in the 2016-2017 year.

One of Georgia Power's main concerns is developing clean, sustainable, energy production methods. Burning fossil fuels and the consequent pollution have led government agencies to draft legislation regulating acceptable pollution levels. Compliance with these laws, while maintaining production levels, is a challenge faced by large-scale energy producers like Georgia Power. To promote sustainability, the company has adopted initiatives like the solar energy buy back program, encouraging customers to produce their own solar energy, which can be sold back to Georgia Power. The company will also pay customers to replace old appliances with new more energy efficient ones, including appliance removal and disposal. Georgia Power's goal is to reduce pollution and waste while providing an efficient and affordable energy supply to the citizens of Georgia.