Vermont

- Energy generated from fossil fuels: 0.4% (the lowest)
- Energy generated from renewable sources: 99.6% (the highest)
- Green industry employment: 16.9% (18th lowest)
- Average daily particle pollution: 7.7 ug/m3 (7th lowest)

Vermont is definitely one of the leading states in the usage of renewable sources right now. Nearly all of its electricity comes from renewable sources.

The USA as a whole has increased its usage of renewable energy sources, like wind and solar, in the last decade. In 2017, 18% of electricity was produced by renewable sources. And solar power is one of the 10 most growing industries in the USA in 2020.

Although it ranks the 18th lowest on Green Industry employment, Vermont's economy actually transformed due to the abundance of jobs in solar panel installations. It might rank lower because the other industries haven't gone green yet. But as it's also clear in its ranking in particle pollution, Vermont is on its way to being super eco-friendly.

Idaho

- Energy generated from fossil fuels: 17.8% (3rd lowest)
- Energy generated from renewable sources: 81.8% (2nd highest)
- Green industry employment: 20.0% (9th highest)
- Average daily particle pollution: 8.4 ug/m3 (16th lowest)

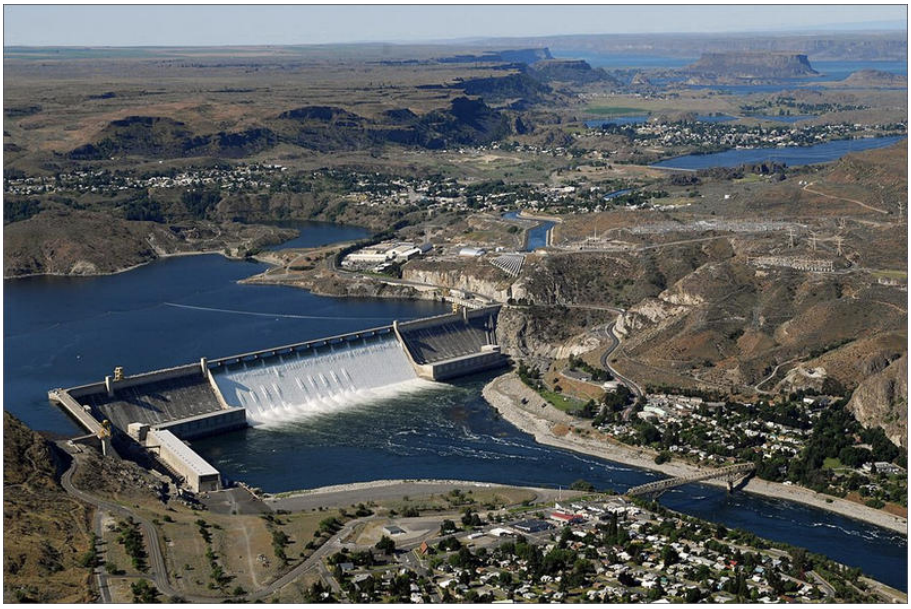
Idaho gets only 0.1% of its energy from coal, which is less than any other state in the country. However, it still generates almost 18% of its energy from other fossil fuels.

But this is forgiven as Idaho’s support of renewable energy is clear. It’s only second to Vermont in its generation of clean energy.

Washington

- Energy generated from fossil fuels: 14.1% (2nd lowest)
- Energy generated from renewable sources: 78.5% (3rd highest)
- Green industry employment: 22.9% (2nd highest)
- Average daily particle pollution: 8.1 ug/m3 (11th lowest)

Washington is where the Grand Coulee Dam is located, which is actually the largest hydroelectric plant in the United States. Through this, Washington became the 3rd highest generator of clean energy. It has very little reliance on fossil fuels.



CREDIT: U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Washington is responsible for **25% of all hydroelectric energy** generated in the USA.

In addition, almost 23% of Washington's workers are in green careers. This is a sign of how Washington's industries are striving high to become green.

The state's Governor, Jay Inslee, is an outspoken advocate for environmental protection and fighting climate change.

South Dakota

- Energy generated from fossil fuels: 24.9% (6th lowest)
- Energy generated from renewable sources: 75.1% (4th highest)
- Green industry employment: 15.3% (8th lowest)
- Average daily particle pollution: 8.1 ug/m3 (12th lowest)

South Dakota has over 500 wind turbines and 4 major dams for hydroelectric power. In fact, hydroelectric energy is one of the main energy sources in the state.

Through this, it manages to rank the 4th in the generation of renewable sources. Although, it still uses nearly 25% of its energy from fossil fuels.

The progress made by the state over the last decade shouldn’t be overlooked. South Dakota’s burning of coal **fell from over 51% to 21%** over the last ten years.

Maine

- Energy generated from fossil fuels: 21.6% (4th lowest)
- Energy generated from renewable sources: 74.8% (5th highest)
- Green industry employment: 17.8% (19th highest)
- Average daily particle pollution: 7.9 ug/m3 (8th lowest)

Like its four predecessors, Maine generates the majority of its energy from renewable sources.

Oregon

- Energy generated from fossil fuels: 26.8% (7th lowest)
- Energy generated from renewable sources: 73.1% (6th highest)
- Green industry employment: 23.3% (the highest)
- Average daily particle pollution: 8.5 ug/m3 (18th lowest)

Oregon is balancing well between gradually reducing its fossil fuel burning and its generation of clean energy. It passed the Clean Electricity and Coal Transition Act in 2016 that requires companies to get *at least* half of their energy from renewable sources.

Oregon is also a leading state in the reduction of vehicle miles traveled. Its goal is to have vehicles to drive an average of 20% less by 2035. This is definitely a brilliant initiative, as vehicles are a significant contributor to air pollution.

California

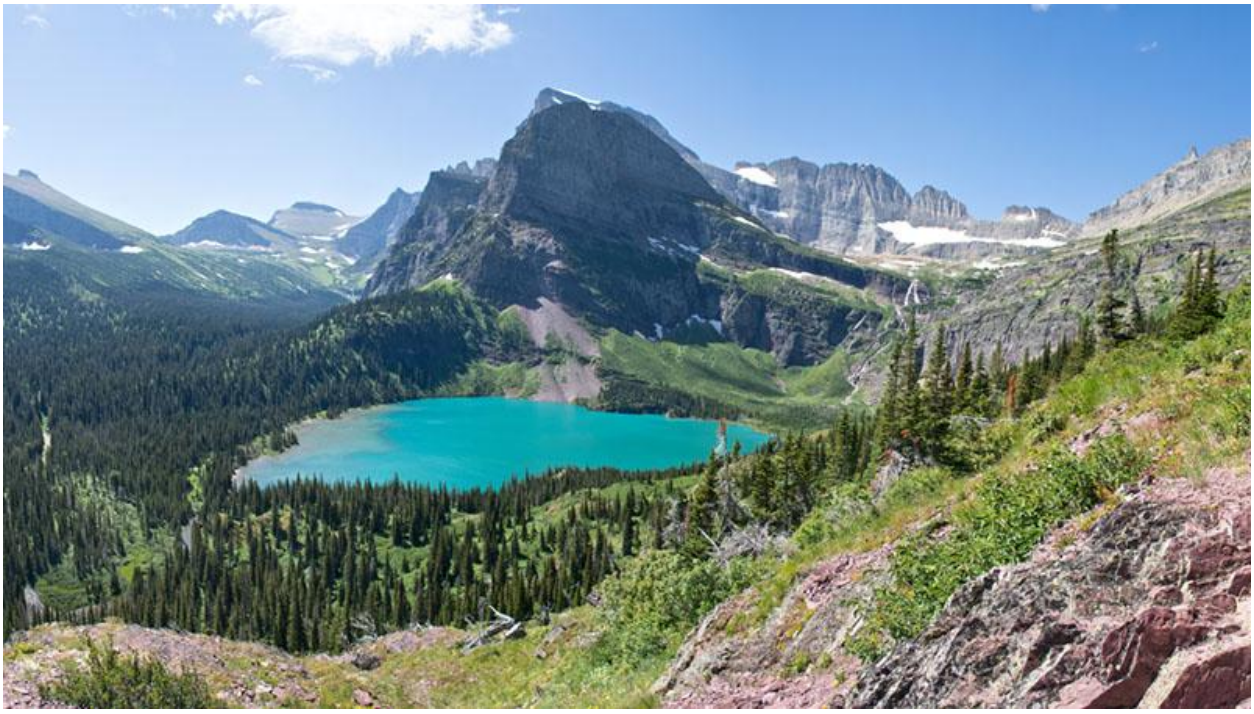
- Energy generated from fossil fuels: 43.0% (12th lowest)
- Energy generated from renewable sources: 47.0% (7th highest)
- Green industry employment: 21.5% (4th highest)
- Average daily particle pollution: 11.6 ug/m3 (3rd highest)

Even though California generates only 50% of its energy from renewable sources, it’s considered one of the most environmentally-friendly states. This goes back to its overall effort. California, for instance, has the third-lowest energy consumption per capita of all of the states.

Additionally, the green industry in California is thriving. Nearly 1 in every 5 employees works in a green industry. California is also the second-largest producer of hydroelectricity.

Montana

- Energy generated from fossil fuels: 52.2% (19th lowest)
- Energy generated from renewable sources: 46.5% (8th highest)
- Green industry employment: 17.8% (18th highest)
- Average daily particle pollution: 6.8 ug/m3 (4th lowest)



Besides its reliance for half of its energy on clean sources, Montana also has the 4th lowest average daily particle pollution. This means it has the 4th cleanest air to breathe in the entire country.

New York

- Energy generated from fossil fuels: 38.0% (8th lowest)
- Energy generated from renewable sources: 28.7% (13th highest)
- Green industry employment: 19.0% (10th highest)
- Average daily particle pollution: 9.5 ug/m3 (23rd lowest)

New York has a good balance between its various efforts in helping the environment. However, it’s clear that it falls short in some points. This is justified by New York’s energy conservation plans. The state has plans to decrease its greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030.

Minnesota

- Energy generated from fossil fuels: 50.3% (16th lowest)
- Energy generated from renewable sources: 25.4% (15th highest)
- Green industry employment: 17.7% (20th highest)
- Average daily particle pollution: 10.5 ug/m3 (8th highest)

Minnesota might not seem as impressive with its numbers compared to the above-mentioned states. But, it’s definitely impressive on a strong positive trajectory. In 2014, nearly 50% of energy was produced with coal alone. By 2017, this number fell by 10% which is no easy feat.