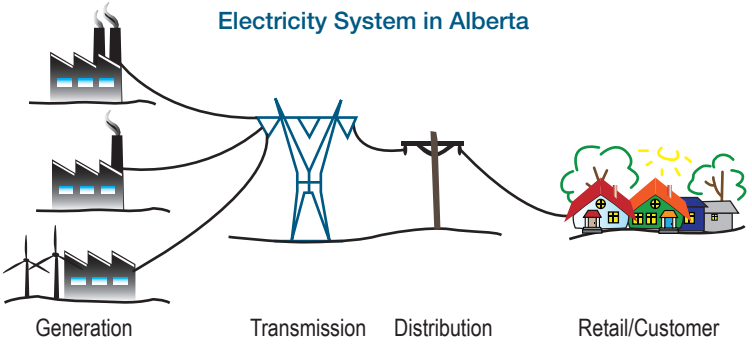


# Electricity

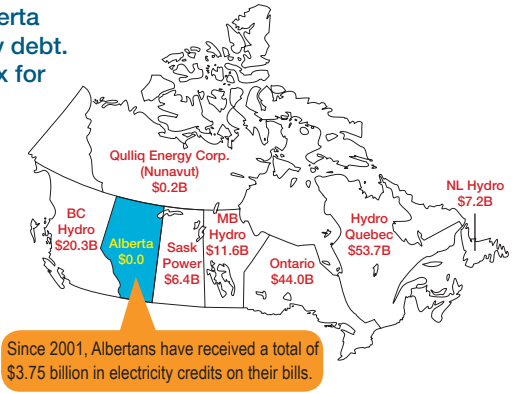
## Electricity System in Alberta



The Government of Alberta carries no electric utility debt. This means no utility tax for Albertans.

## Canadian Electric Utilities Debt

(Figures are in Canadian billions of dollars)

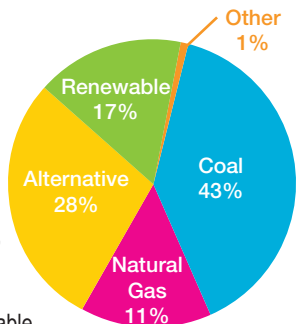


Source: London Economics, 2014

## Generation Sources

Approximately 45 per cent of Alberta's electricity generation capacity comes from alternative and renewable energy sources, comprising 17 per cent from renewables (i.e., wind, hydro, and biomass generation) and 28 per cent from alternatives (i.e., natural gas cogeneration).

- Since building Canada's first commercial wind farm in 1994, Alberta has grown with more than 1,100 MW of wind power generation (approximately 8 per cent of total installed capacity). Today, Alberta has the third largest amount of wind power capacity of any Canadian province, following Ontario and Quebec.
- Alberta does not offer subsidies for alternative and renewable power. This strong growth has occurred without incurring public debt or consumer rate increases.
- Alberta is a leader in developing energy efficient cogeneration in North America, with more than 4,000 MW installed. Most of Alberta's cogeneration projects are co-located with oil sands development, simultaneously producing electricity and heat for industrial processes. Cogeneration dramatically increases the efficiency of fuel use and provides stable baseload power to Alberta's electricity grid.
- Generation from coal has been consistently dropping every year. In 2013, actual **generation** from coal was 52 per cent of the total generation mix; while installed **capacity** was 43 per cent. Installed capacity is the maximum generating capability. Of Alberta's current 18 coal-fired units, 12 are scheduled to close in the next 15 years and 6 units are due to close between 2036 and 2061. Under federal regulations, coal plants can remain open beyond 50 years if they meet a clean as natural gas standard as defined by the federal government.



In 2012, **emissions** from coal-fired electricity were 14 per cent of the total emissions in Alberta from all sectors.



## Purchasing Electricity

- For information about purchasing electricity consumers can contact the **Utilities Consumer Advocate (UCA)**.

The UCA provides a list of licensed retailers as well as information about Alberta's electricity and natural gas markets.

[www.ucahelps.gov.ab.ca](http://www.ucahelps.gov.ab.ca) or call **310-4-UCA (310-4822)**.

- Albertans can choose to buy their electricity from retailers offering various products and payment plans. Albertans who do not wish to sign a contract can go with the regulated rate option (RRO), which is the monthly default electric energy price.

- **Are there alternatives to the RRO?**

Yes. Alberta consumers have the option to consider retail products and services being offered by licensed competitive retailers in Alberta. There are no deadlines for making this choice.

Alberta's electricity market has been able to meet demand and support a high standard of living for Albertans by enabling economic growth.

