

Power Economics and Emissions

Student Notebook



TCIP Educational Development
TCIP: Trustworthy Cyber Infrastructure for the
Power Grid

Name _____

Lesson 1 Power Economics and Emissions

Communities and Payments

Use the applet at <http://tcip.mste.uiuc.edu/applet3.html> to explore some of the economics of generating and using electricity. In the applet there are five different types of generators delivering electricity to three communities. You can see the total payments per hour for each of the communities and the costs and emissions per hour for each of the generators.

1. Adjust the amount of electricity each of the communities is demanding. What else can you change?

When the applet opens or you press the **Reset System** button, the communities are paying \$90 per megawatt per hour for the electricity they are using. The amount a customer pays depends on the rate, the amount of power used and the number of hours it is used.

Notice the power demand from the three communities. Residenceburg is demanding 1,700 MW; Commerceton, 850 MW; and Industryville, 850 MW. These three locations are the consumers of the electricity. That is, they are the customers that purchase power from the system.

2. How much are the total payments to the power producers from Industryville, Commerceton, and Residenceburg each hour ? _____
3. Click on the up or down arrow under the Commerceton image to change the demand for electricity from this community. What happens when you click the up arrow? What happens when you click the down arrow?
4. How much is Commerceton's payment per hour when the MW demand is 500 MW?

5. What happens when you increase the demand from Residenceburg to 2000 MW? What about 2050?



Name _____

Lesson 2 Power Economics and Emissions

Generation Costs and Emissions

Use the applet at <http://tcip.mste.uiuc.edu/applet3.html> to explore some of the economics of generating and using electricity.

1. Press the **reset system** button and then complete this chart.

Power Source	Cost of operation (dollars per hour)	Amount of CO ₂ Emissions (tons per hour)	On-line or Off-line?	Output (MW)
Coal				
Nuclear				
Wind				
Hydroelectric				
Natural Gas				
External Systems				
Totals				

2. All of the generators have operation costs whether they are on-line or off-line. Why might that be? Which generators have the largest off-line costs? Is this related to the maximum capacity of the generator?

Name _____

Lesson 2a Power Economics and Emissions

Generation Costs and Emissions

When the applet at <http://tcip.mste.uiuc.edu/applet3.html> opens or the **Reset System** button is clicked, two generators are producing electricity and the coal generator is producing carbon dioxide emissions. There are also emissions associated with the power from the external system. We do not always know the source of this power so the applet uses an average based on representative generation types for the U. S.

1. The applet shows costs and emissions information for each generator. Click the up and down arrows under the coal generator to change the production. What else changes.?

2. Complete the chart using information from the coal generator. How do the costs and emissions increase with the increase in power production?

Coal Generator Costs and Emissions

Power produced (MW)	Costs (\$ per hour)	CO ₂ emissions (tons per hour)
300		
400		
500		
600		
700		

3. Switch the coal generator offline. What are the costs and emissions now?

4. When a generator is offline, there are no emissions or fuel costs, but there are still fixed costs associated with operating and maintaining the generator.

What are the fixed costs for each generator? Coal _____ Natural gas _____
Hydropower _____ Wind _____ Nuclear _____



Name _____

Lesson 2b Power Economics and Emissions

Generation Costs and Emissions

Press the Reset button.

Look at the coal generator. Notice that it is producing 600MW at a cost of \$14,000/hr. Change the amount of power the generator is producing and notice what happens to the cost per hour.

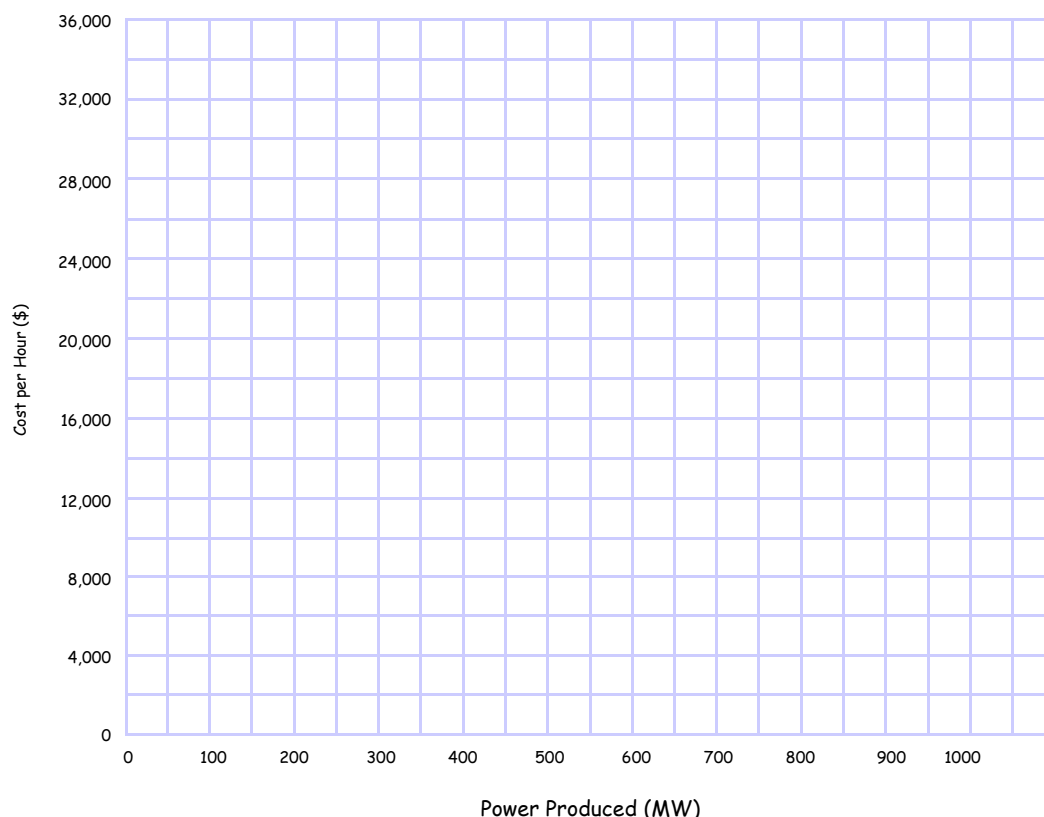
1. Complete this table that compares the power produced to the cost per hour for the coal generator.

Coal Generator Costs	
Power produced (MW)	Cost per hour (\$ per hour)
0	
300	
400	
500	
600	\$14,000
700	

2. Write a sentence to describe the relationship between the power produced and the cost per hour.

3. Write an algebraic equation to describe the relationship between the power produced and the cost per hour.

Graph this function.



Name _____

Lesson 2b, pg 2 Power Economics and Emissions

Generation Costs and Emissions

Complete these tables that compare the power produced to the cost per hour for the

4. **Hydroelectric Generator Costs**

Power produced (MW)	Cost per hour (\$ per hour)
0	
500	
600	
700	
800	
900	
1,000	\$4,500

hydroelectric generator, the natural gas generator and the external system. For each, write a sentence to describe the relationship between the power produced and the cost per hour. Write algebraic equations for each to describe the relationship between the power produced and the cost per hour and graph each on the grid on page 3.

4. Sentence describing relationship:

Algebraic equation: _____

5. **Natural Gas Generator Costs**

Power produced (MW)	Costs (\$ per hour)
0	
100	
200	
300	
400	
500	

5. Sentence describing relationship:

Algebraic equation: _____

6. **External System Costs**

Power produced (MW)	Costs (\$ per hour)
0	
100	
200	
600	
900	27,000
1200	

6. Sentence describing relationship:

Algebraic equation: _____



Name _____

Lesson 2b, pg 3 **Power Economics and Emissions**

Generation Costs and Emissions

Use the graphs you made to answer these questions.

7. How does this graph help explain the cost of running the three types of generators? What information can be learned by studying this graph?

8. How does the cost of power from the external system compare to the costs associated with the generators in this system?

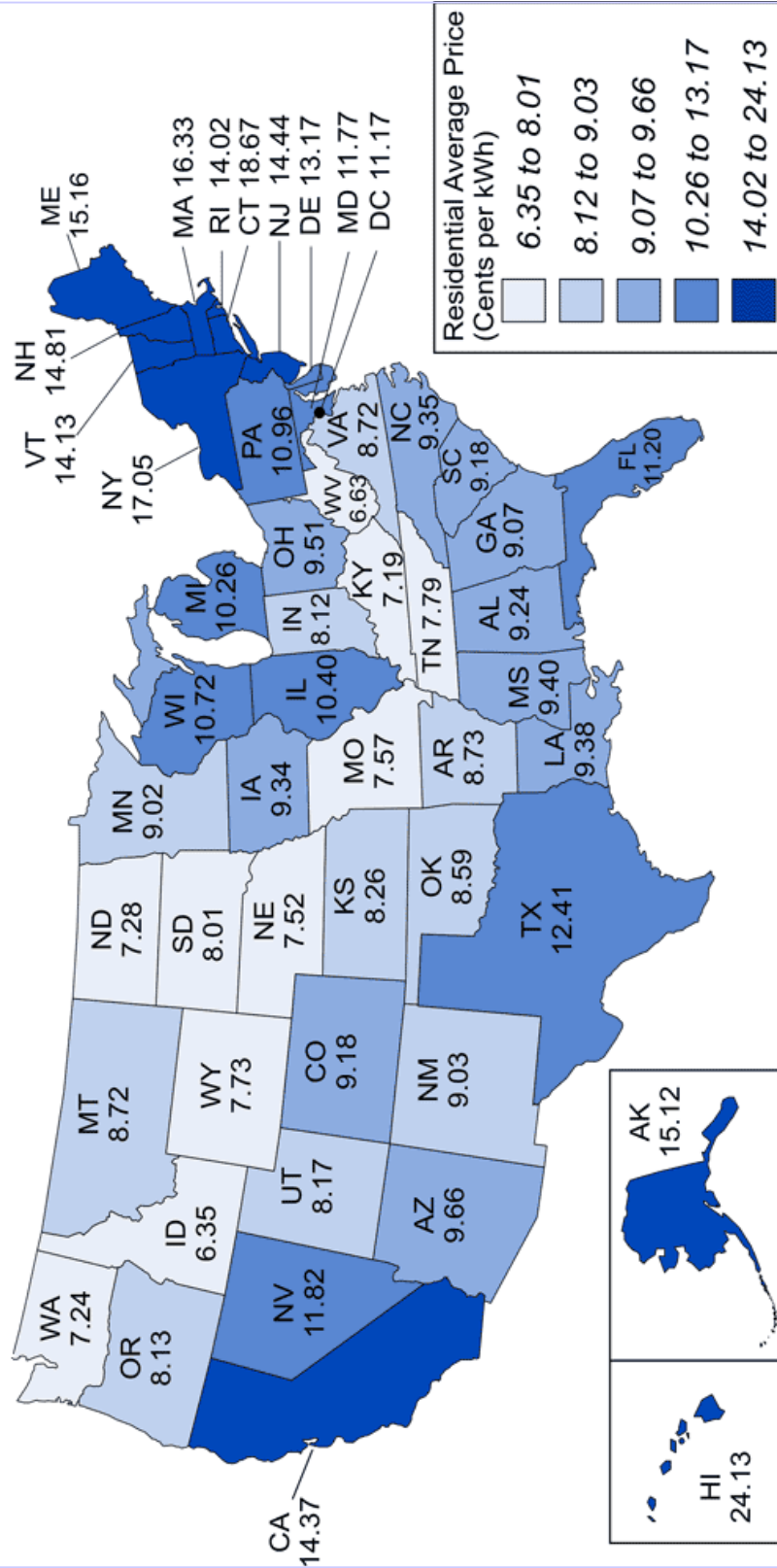
9. If 500 MW of power is needed, what is the cost of running each of these three generators or getting the power from the external system?

10. Compare the natural gas generator to the other generators. When might you use the natural gas generator? Why does the cost of using the natural gas generator increase so quickly? What could be some reasons for using natural gas instead of coal or hydroelectric generators?

11. What characteristics of the wind generators and the nuclear generator prevent them from being graphed on the graph you created?



The U.S. average residential retail price of electricity was 10.64 cents per kilowatt-hour in 2007.



Source: Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-826, "Monthly Electric Sales and Revenue with State Distributions Report."

Total kWh	02/14/2008	6153.0000	Non-Summer kWh	02/14/2008	
	6153.0000				
ELECTRIC SERVICE BILLING DETAIL					
DS - Residential (DS-1)	Service From 01/15/2008 to 02/14/2008				
Former Space Ht Acct 15k And Over					
Customer Charge			\$6.30		
Meter Charge			\$3.62		
Distribution Deliv Chg Non-Summer	6,153.00 kWh @	\$0.01998000		\$122.94	
Electric Environmental Adj	6,153.00 kWh @	\$0.00096420		\$5.93	
Instrument Funding Charge	6,153.00 kWh @	\$0.00670000		\$41.23	
Instrument Funding Credit				-\$41.23	
Total Delivery Service Amount				\$138.79	
Electric Supply (BGS-1)	Service From 01/15/2008 to 02/14/2008				
Non-Summer (0-800 kWh)	800.00 kWh @	\$0.07957000		\$63.66	
Non-Summer (Over 800 kWh)	5,353.00 kWh @	\$0.01024000		\$54.81	
Market Value Adj	6,153.00 kWh @	\$0.00004400		\$0.27	
Supply Cost Adj	6,153.00 kWh @	\$0.00074000		\$4.55	
Transmission Service Charge	6,153.00 kWh @	\$0.00247000		\$15.20	
Total Supply Amount				\$138.49	
Taxes	Service From 01/15/2008 to 02/14/2008				
Illinois State Electricity Excise Tax				\$19.85	
Total Tax Related Charges				\$19.85	
Total Electric Charges					\$297.13

Total kWh	08/13/2008	2989.0000	Summer kWh	08/13/2008	2989.0000
ELECTRIC SERVICE BILLING DETAIL					
DS - Residential (DS-1)	Service From 07/17/2008 to 08/13/2008				
Former Space Ht Acct 15k And Over					
Customer Charge			\$6.29		
Meter Charge			\$3.62		
Distribution Deliv Chg Summer	2,989.00 kWh @	\$0.03203000		\$95.74	
Electric Environmental Adj	2,989.00 kWh @	\$0.00081680		\$2.44	
Instrument Funding Charge	2,989.00 kWh @	\$0.00690000		\$20.62	
Instrument Funding Credit				\$20.62	
Rider EDR Charge	2,989.00 kWh @	\$0.00037859		\$1.13	
Total Delivery Service Amount				\$109.22	
Electric Supply (BGS-1)	Service From 07/17/2008 to 08/13/2008				
Purch Elec Summer	2,989.00 kWh @	\$0.06385000		\$190.85	
Market Value Adj	2,989.00 kWh @	\$0.00150110		\$4.49	
Rider PER Supply Cost Adj	2,989.00 kWh @	\$0.00070000		\$2.09	
Transmission Service Charge	2,989.00 kWh @	\$0.00318000		\$9.51	
Total Supply Amount				\$206.94	
Taxes	Service From 07/17/2008 to 08/13/2008				
Illinois State Electricity Excise Tax				\$9.75	
Total Tax Related Charges				\$9.75	
Total Electric Charges					\$325.91



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Lesson 3 Power Economics and Emissions

Payments

Use the applet at <http://tcip.mste.uiuc.edu/applet3.html> to explore some of the factors that contribute to the price of electricity. When the applet opens or you press the **Reset System** button the **Load Payment** slider is set at \$90/MWh.

1. What changes when you move the slider?

The Load Payment slider on the applet shows the payment per MWh. To change \$0.1064 per kWh to dollars per MWh multiply by 1,000. (1,000 kWh = 1 MWh).

The map of the United States on page 8, shows average residential retail prices in 2007, in cents per kWh of electricity for the entire U.S. and for individual states.

Move the **Load Payment** slider to represent the U.S. average of \$0.1064. (Round to the nearest whole dollar per MWh).

2. If one million people in Residenceburg each use an amount of electricity equal to two 100 watt light bulbs, the demand from the community is 200 MW. What is the per hour payment from Residenceburg for this electricity? _____

1,000,000 people demanding 200 watts makes the demand 200,000,000 watts. 200,000,000 w = 200,000 kw = 200 MW With the Load Payment slider set at \$106, adjust the demand from Residenceburg to 200 MW to see the per hour payment.

3. If Residenceburg is in MN, then what is the per hour payment from Residenceburg if the demand is 200 MW? _____

4. If three million users in Oklahoma each turn on televisions that demand 200 watts

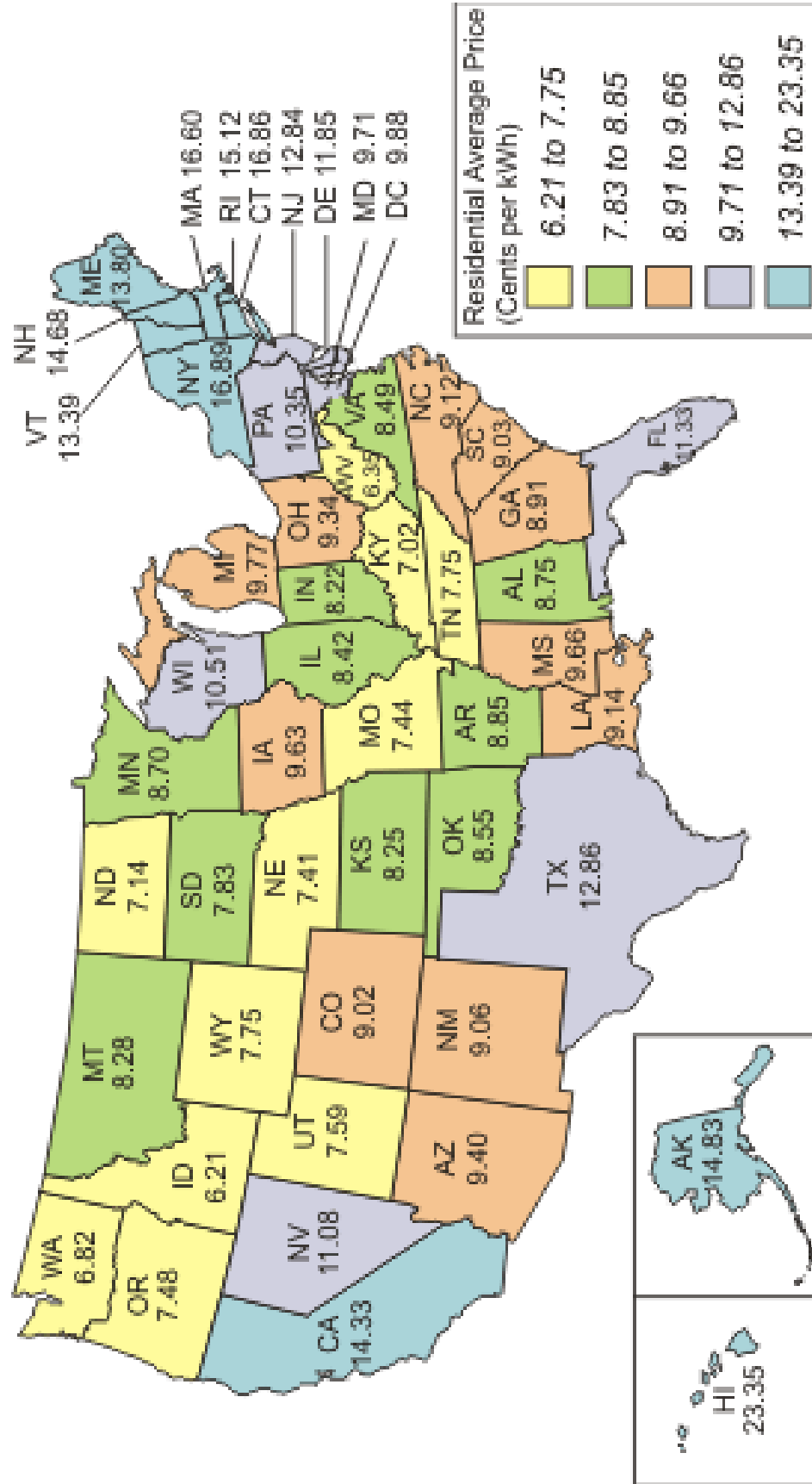
4. Move the **Load Payment** slider to represent the retail price of electricity in your state. What is the per hour payment for Residenceburg if the demand is 1800 MW? _____

5. Which state has the highest price for electricity? Which has the lowest? Why do you think the state's rates vary so much?

Utilities may have different rates for their business and industrial customers and may also vary their rates with the season. Look at some sample utility bills to learn about load payments. You may be able to get sample bills and guideline about how to read them from your local electric utility.



U.S. Electric Industry Residential Average Retail Price of Electricity by State, 2006 (Cents per kWh)



Source: Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-861, Annual Electric Power Industry Report.

Name _____

Lesson 3a **Power Economics and Emissions**

Payments

The map on page 11 shows the average cost of electricity for residential customers across the United States in 2006.

1. How does it compare with the map on page 8 that shows similar information for 2007?
2. Name five states that had a decrease in price.
3. Name five states that had an increase in price.
4. Did the average retail price for Texas increase or decrease? Why might that have happened?

Use the information from the 2006 map on page 11 to answer the following questions.

5. Create a stem and leaf plot showing the average cost per kWh.
6. Find the mean, median, mode, and range?
7. Which states costs are shown as outliers? Can you explain why?



Name _____

Lesson 4 Power Economics and Emissions

Costs

When the applet at <http://tcip.mste.uiuc.edu/applet3.html> opens or the **Reset System** button is pressed, two generators are producing electricity and three are not.

1. How much power is each generator producing? Coal _____ Natural gas _____
Hydropower _____ Wind _____ Nuclear _____

2. How much is the total power production? _____

3. How much total power are the three communities demanding? _____

4. Since these generators are not producing as much power as the communities are demanding, the system needs to import power from the external system. How much power is the external system providing? _____

5. How much are the supply costs per hour (generator and external system)?

Coal _____ Natural gas _____ Hydropower _____ Wind _____

Nuclear _____ External system total _____

6. What is the cost for **Transmission and Distribution**? _____

7. What are the producer's total costs? That is, how much per hour is the producer spending altogether to provide power to these three locations? _____

8. Are the power provider's costs more or less than the payments from the communities? _____

How much is the provider's profit or loss? _____

9. What happens when you switch on the nuclear power plant?

Now how much is the provider's profit or loss? _____

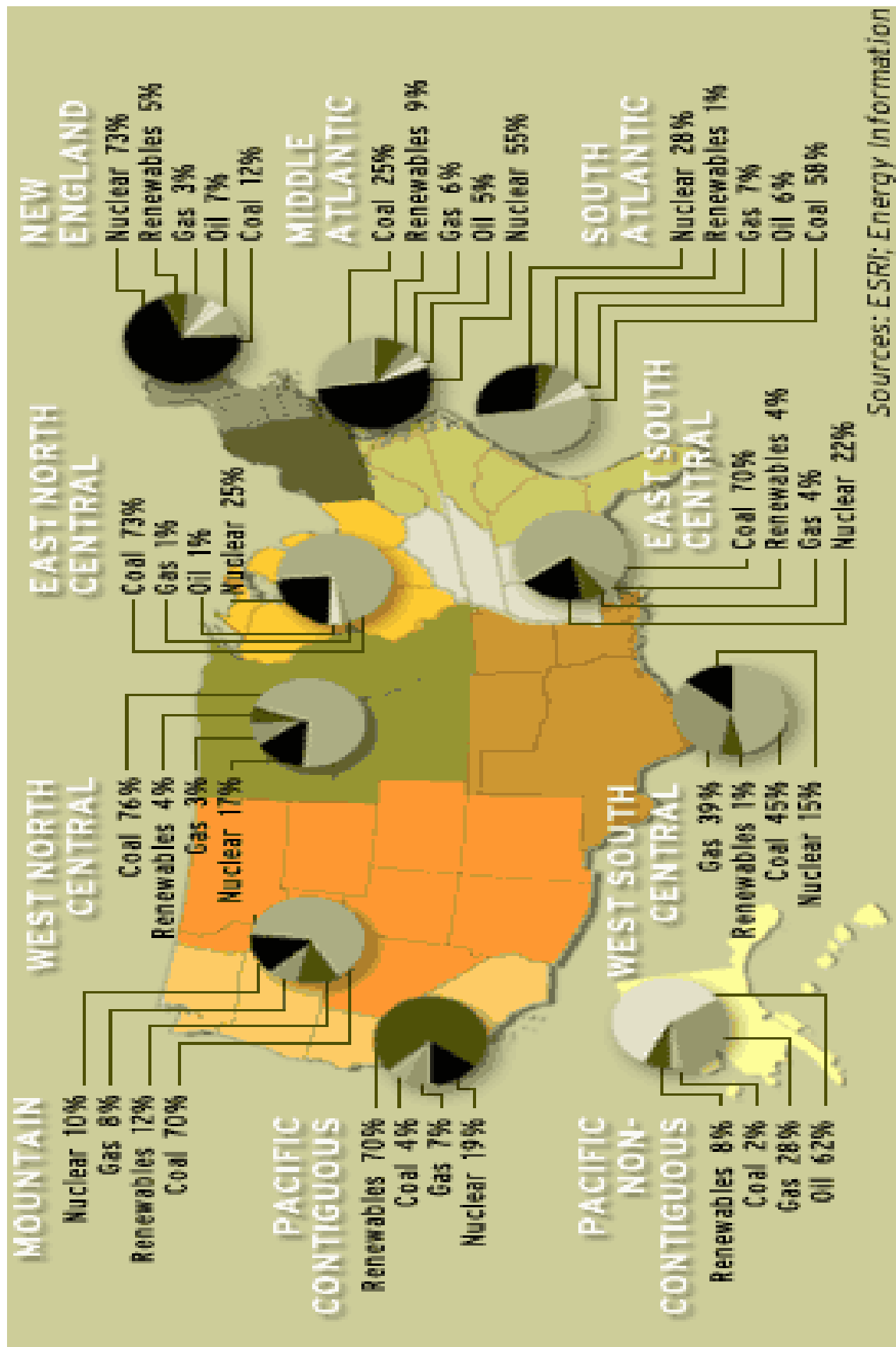
10. What happens when you switch on the wind farm?

How much is the provider's profit or loss now? _____

11. Without changing the demand from the communities, maximize the provider's profits. How much is the provider's profit? _____

12. What did you do to maximize the profits?





Sources: ESR; Energy Information

Name _____

Lesson 4a **Power Economics and Emissions**

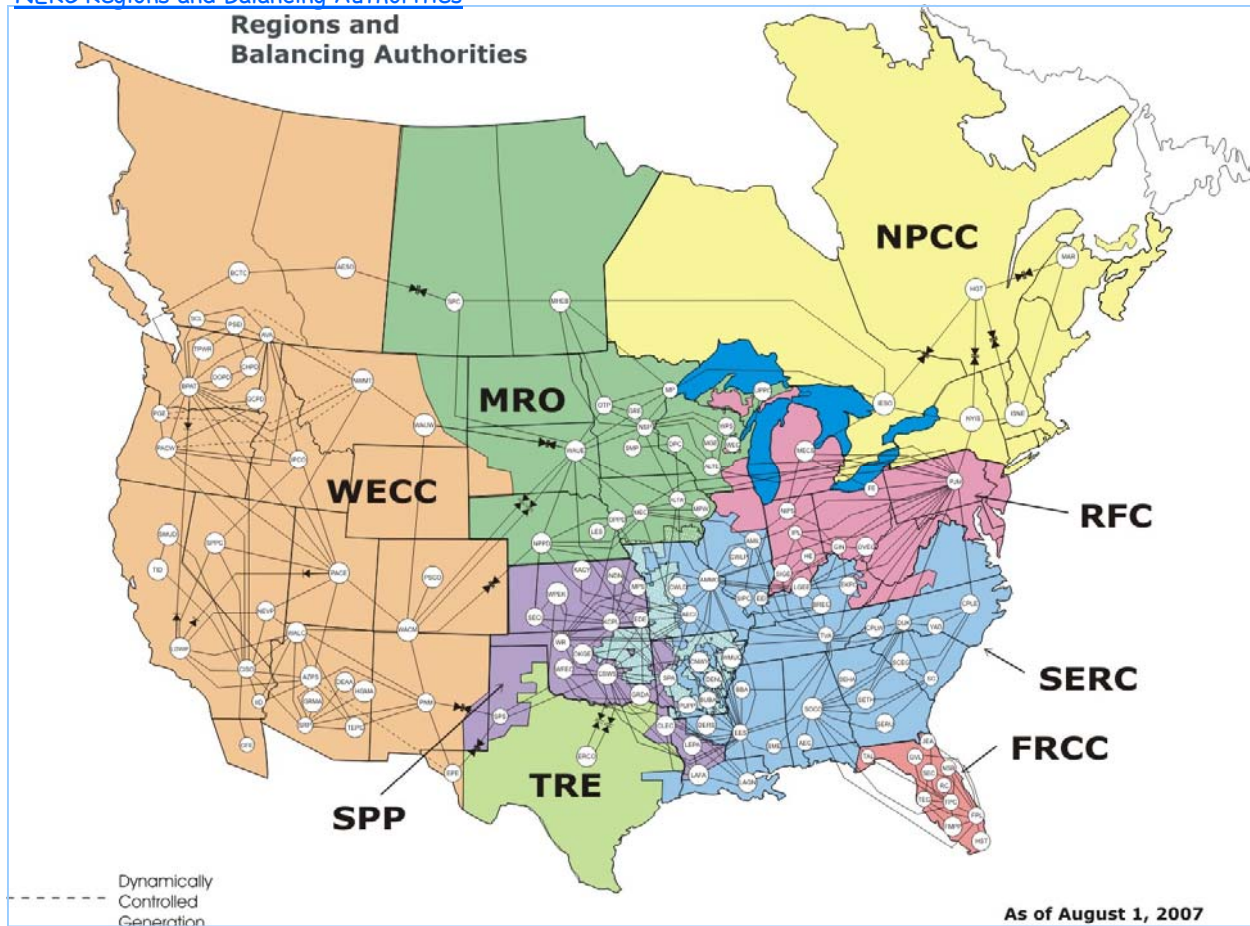
Costs

The map on the previous page shows energy sources used for production of electricity for various regions of the United States.

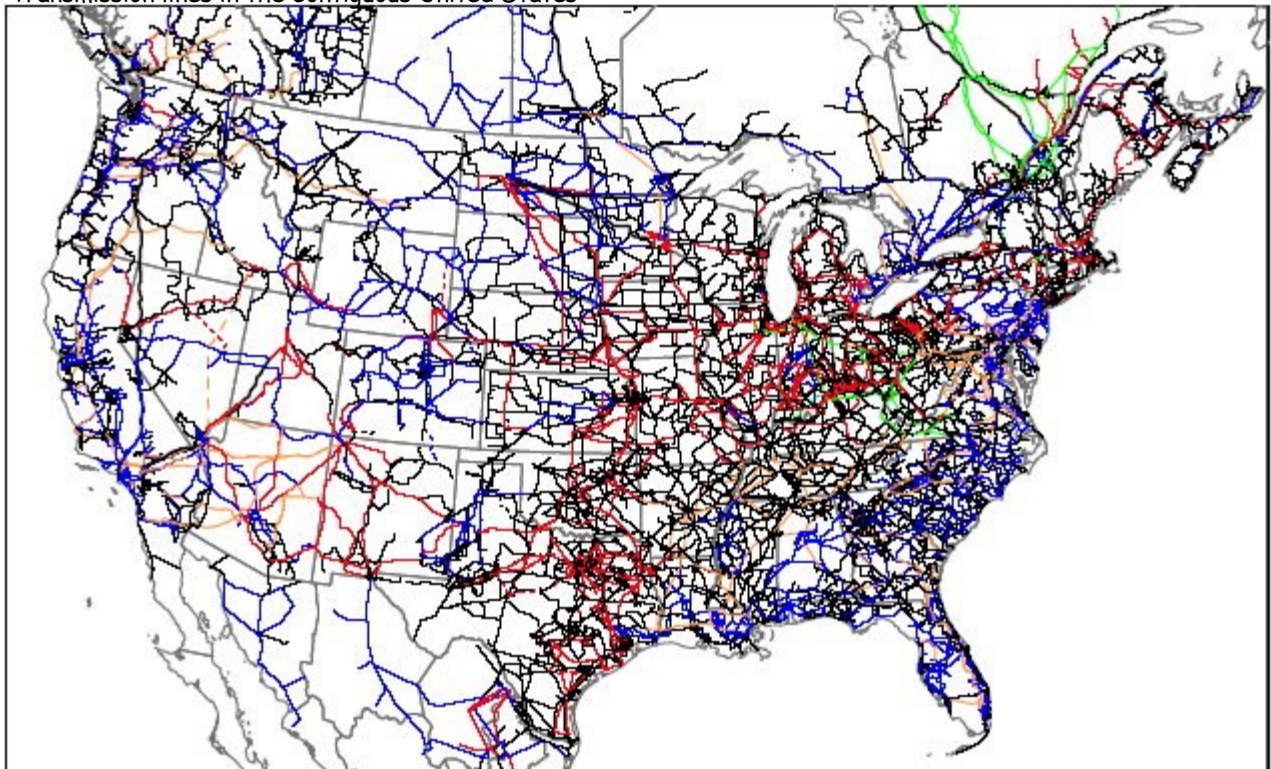
1. Which regions use coal for more than 50% of their electricity production?
2. Which region has the highest percentage of nuclear generation?
3. Find out more about renewable energy at <http://www.nrel.gov/rredc/>. What energy sources are included in "renewables?"
4. What might explain the 70% renewable sources for the Pacific Contiguous region?
5. Compare this map with the map on page 7. What do you notice? Is there a relationship between the energy sources and the price of electricity?
6. How do available resources and public policies influence energy sources used for generation of electricity?
7. The U.S. Energy Information Administration publishes state energy profiles on their website at <http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/state/index.cfm>. How and why do states' energy sources differ?



NERC Regions and Balancing Authorities



Transmission lines in the Contiguous United States



Name _____

Lesson 5 Power Economics and Emissions

Types of Generation

Use the applet at <http://tcip.mste.uiuc.edu/applet3.html> to explore how systems of electricity are interconnected. When the applet opens or you press the **Reset System** button, Residenceburg is using 1,700 MW per hour, Commercetown is using 850 MW per hour, and Industryville is using 850 MW per hour.

1. What happens to the External System cost when each of these three locations increases the amount of power they need?
2. What could cause each of these locations to have to increase the amount of energy they need?
3. What could cause each of these locations to have a decrease in the amount of energy they need?
4. Press the **Reset System** button. Currently, the system is spending \$54,000 to purchase energy from external systems. Can you find a way to set the system so that the power grid does not have to rely on external systems to meet the needs of its customers?
5. Complete these charts to show what changes you make to the system so that no power is going to or from the External System. How much of a profit or loss does your system have? _____ What are the emissions? _____

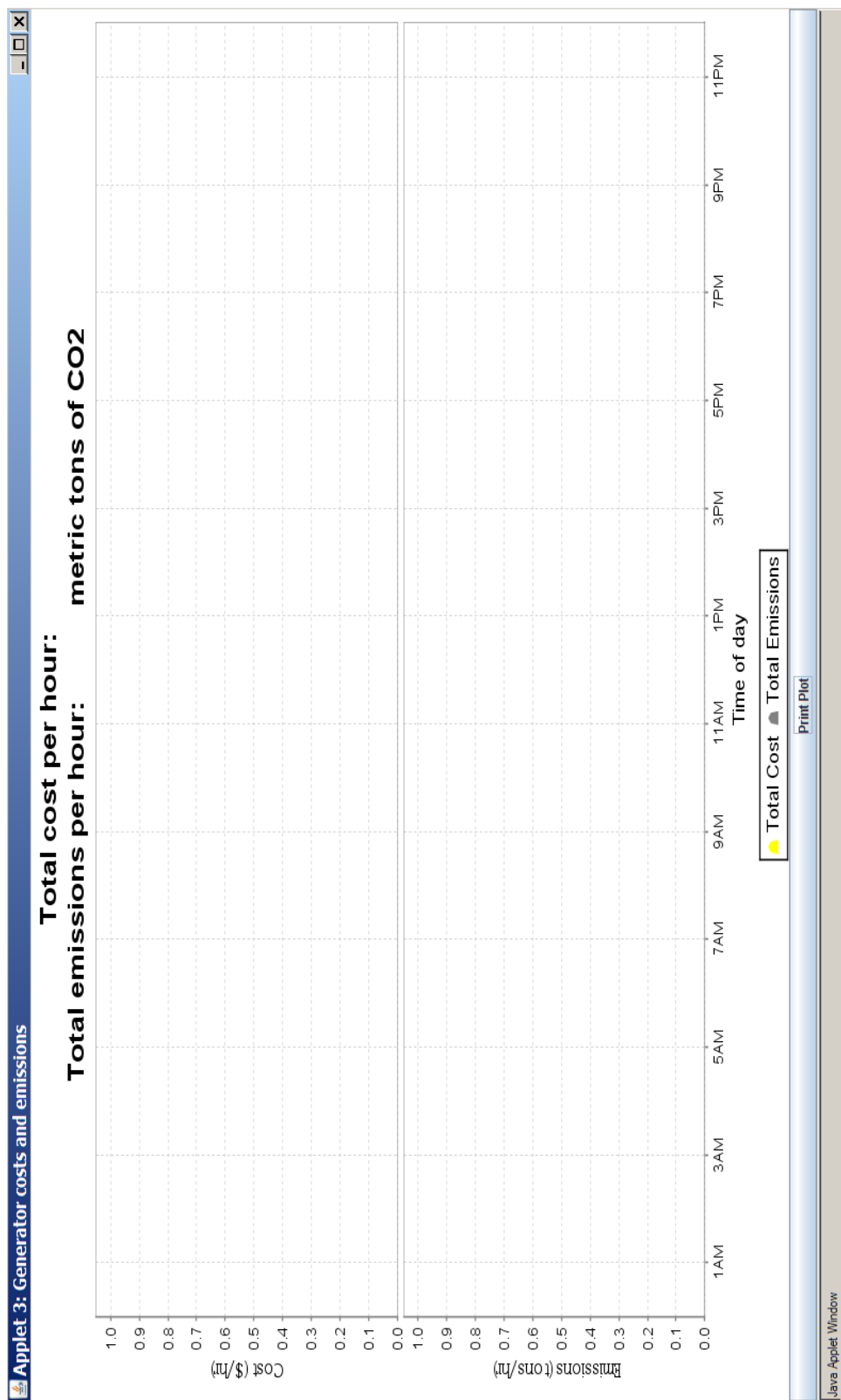
Power Source	Cost of operation (dollars per hour)	Amount of CO ₂ Emissions (tons per hour)	On-line or Off-line?	Output (MW)
Coal				
Nuclear				
Wind				
Hydroelectric				
Natural Gas				
External Systems				

Customers	Energy Demand (MW)
Residenceburg	
Commercetown	
Industryville	

Dollars received from customers	
Expense to provide power to customers (Be sure to include the transmission and distribution costs!)	
Total Emissions/hour	



Name _____



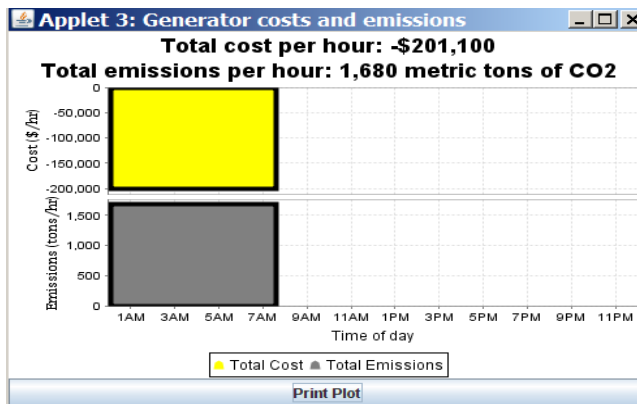
Name _____

Lesson 6

Power Economics and Emissions

Utility Profits and Emissions

1. Use the applet at <http://tcip.mste.uiuc.edu/applet3.html> to explore some of the economics of generating and using electricity. Press the **Reset System** button, then press the **Reset Time** button and the **Show Plot** button. Let the system run until the graph shows several hours. Press **Pause Time**. You should see a plot that looks like the one below. What does it show?



The yellow upper part of the graph shows the cost per hour to the utility. When the cost is negative, the utility's costs are less than the payments from the communities and it is making a profit. 2. How much profit per hour does the graph show for the utility?

_____ Is this the same as you calculated in the previous lesson? _____

3. The grey lower part of the graph shows the carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions produced per hour. How much CO_2 is the system producing? _____

4. The plots show costs and emissions for about eight hours. During that time period how much profit did the utility make? _____ and how many metric tons of CO_2 were released into the atmosphere? _____ Why are we concerned about both costs and emissions?

5. Press the **Reset Time** button. Keep the power demand from Residenceburg at 1700 MW and from Commercetown and Industryville at 850 MW. Adjust the system so that the utility is making a profit and the CO_2 emissions are lower than 1000 metric tons per hour. Then press the **Show Plot** button, and let the system run until the graph shows several hours. Then press **Pause Time**. Shade the plot to look like what you see. Complete this chart for the system.

Generator	Power Production	CO_2
Coal		
Wind		
Natural Gas		
Hydropower		
Nuclear		
External system sources		



Name _____

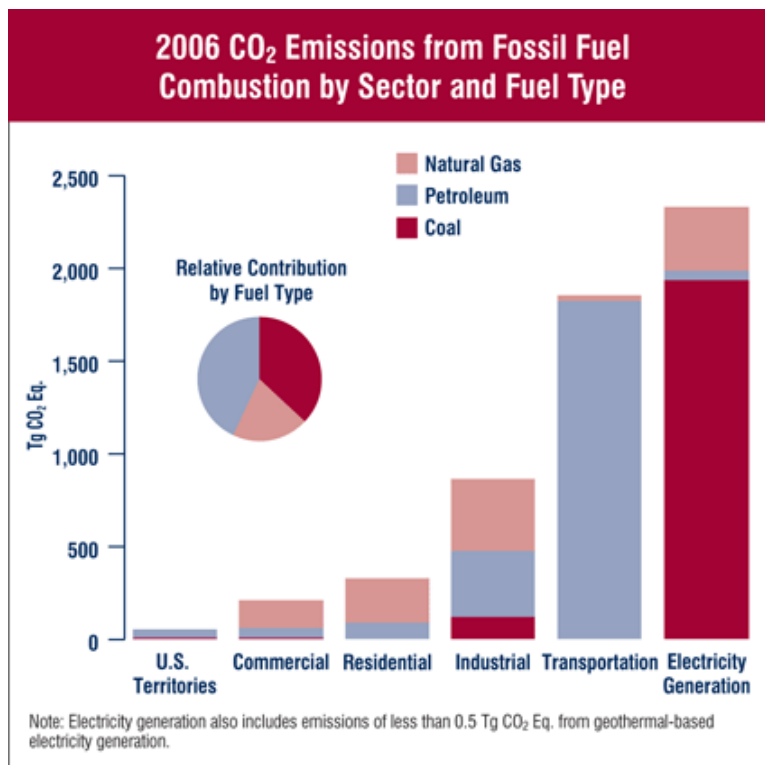
Lesson 7

Power Economics and Emissions

Emissions and Climate Change

Use the applet at <http://tcip.mste.uiuc.edu/applet3.html> to explore carbon dioxide emissions produced when generating electricity. Press the **Reset System** button. Then turn on the Natural Gas, Nuclear and Wind Generators so all of the generators are producing.

1. Look at the Coal Generator. Notice the Coal Generator power output is 600MW and it has carbon dioxide emissions of 600 tons per hour. Change the amount of power produced. How do the emissions change?
2. The emissions shown in this applet are carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas. Which generators produce CO_2 emissions?
3. How do the emissions for the Coal Generator compare to the emissions for the each of the other generators?
4. How do the emissions change as the power production changes?



5. This graph shows sources of CO_2 emissions for the United States in 2006. What information does the graph give you?

Source: [U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory](http://www.epa.gov/greenhouse/gas-emissions-inventory) (y-axis units are teragrams of CO_2 equivalent).
Read more at: http://www.policyalmanac.org/environment/archive/acid_rain.shtml.

Name _____

Lesson 8

Power Economics and Emissions

Off the Grid

Some remote parts of the United States are a long way from the interconnected power grid in the 48 contiguous states and Canada. Most consumers of electricity in Alaska are not linked to any large grid. Areas near Fairbanks and Anchorage have their own isolated grid, but remote or rural locations such as [Galena, Alaska](#) rely on their own generators. The city of Galena has six diesel powered generators with 4300 kw capacity. The town is located on the Yukon River about 270 miles west of Fairbanks and 550 miles north of Anchorage. Its population is about 700 people.



During the winter large volumes of fuel cannot be shipped to Galena because of its remote location. That means that any fuel the town may need must be shipped and stored during the summer months. Shipping and storing the 3 million gallons of fuel the town needs over the winter greatly increases the cost of electricity. Residences pay over \$.30 per kWh.

1. How does this cost compare to the average that you calculated for the United States on page 12?

Town leaders in Galena, AK conducted a study to determine what could be done to reduce the cost of electricity. Their study included the advantages and disadvantages of hydroelectric, coal, wind, solar, and nuclear generators.

2. Can you think of the problems each of these types would have that would eliminate it as a solution for their high costs of electric?

Type of Generator	Problem
Hydroelectric Generator	
Coal Generator	
Wind Generator	
Solar Generator	
Nuclear Generators	

Name _____

Lesson 8a Power Economics and Emissions

Off the Grid

In 2004, the people of Galena decided on a partnership with Toshiba and the Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry ([CRIEPI](#)) of Japan. The nuclear power system they hope to build is a new technology called Toshiba 4S. The Toshiba 4S stands for Super, Safe, Small and Simple. Under this partnership, the company will construct the 10 MW plant free of charge, but the town must assume operation costs. It is estimated that the cost of electricity for Galena residences might decrease to \$.10 kWh when this plant is on-line. This plant is still in the planning stages and has not been approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission yet. If the Nuclear Regulatory Commission approves this project it will be the first approval in more than twenty years. Galena is hoping that the nuclear generator could be operating by 2012 or 2013.

1. Why do you think this process has taken so long?
2. How would this new price per kwh of electricity compare to the U.S. average?
3. How does the power capacity of this small nuclear generator compare with other generators that we have been looking at? How does it compare with a single wind turbine.?
4. Consider the population size of Galena. Will this small nuclear generator supply enough power for the town?
5. Why do you think the Japanese company would be willing to pay for the cost of constructing the Toshiba 4S?

Read more about this project at:

- http://www.atomicinsights.com/AI_03-20-05.html
- <http://www.primidi.com/2005/02/06.html>
- <http://www.utnl.jp/~rohonbu/PBNC/1-1.pdf>



Name _____

Lesson 8b

Power Economics and Emissions

Off the Grid

Another remote location in Alaska is the state's capitol, Juneau. Juneau is inaccessible except by air or water. The [Mendenhall Glacier](#) cuts off all land routes to Juneau. Juneau's Alaska Electric Light & Power Co. provides electricity to Juneau through a hydroelectric generator.

In March, 2008, an avalanche cut transmission lines between the plant and the city. While repairs were being made Juneau was getting its electricity from a diesel fueled generator. The price of electricity increased from \$.11 kWh to \$.53 kWh. The people in the city of Juneau reacted by decreasing electricity use by 30% in just a few weeks. These are a few of the things people did to reduce their use of electricity:

- Unscrewing or replacing light bulbs with fluorescent bulbs
- Turning the heat down to 60 degrees F
- Drying clothes on clothes lines instead of using a dryer (This is difficult because Juneau is in the middle of a rain forest and it rains 220 days a year.)
- Turning off runway lights at the airport when no planes are landing
- Turning off televisions and computer games

Avalanche Knocks Out Hydropower



Courtesy Of Mike Laudert / Alaska Electric Light & Power Co.
Power disaster: Above, an electric transmission tower that was caught in the avalanche is shown Wednesday about three miles from the Snettisham Power House, about 40 miles south of Juneau. Electric rates in Juneau are expected to rise sharply as Alaska Electric Light & Power Co. switches to diesel power while the structures are repaired.

For more information about Juneau's power outage go to:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/14/us/14juneau.html>

http://www.juneauempire.com/stories/051808/loc_280270110.shtml

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/districts/mendenhall/webcam.html>

Name _____

Lesson 8c

Power Economics and Emissions

Off the Grid

Use the applet at <http://tcip.mste.uiuc.edu/applet3.html> to take another look at the power used by the communities. Press the **Reset System** button.

1. Look at the amount of power demanded by Industryville, Commerceton, and Residenceburg. How would this change if each of these locations were to follow Juneau's lead and cut their electricity by 30%?

Location	Current power demand (MW)	Power demand after 30% reduction
Industryville		
Commerceton		
Residenceburg		

2. Adjust the demand for these three locations to the amount used when use is cut 30%. How does this affect the utility's cost to produce electricity?

Utilities are regulated by state public utility commissions and typically cannot arbitrarily change the amount they charge their customers. The emergency need for the Alaska Electric Light & Power Co. to change their generation source permitted the price increase.

3. The cost of electricity in Juneau went up from \$.11 to \$.53. Approximately, what percent increase is this?
4. Currently, the communities in the applet are paying \$90/ MWh. What would the communities pay if their rate increased by this same percent?

Extra:

- Conduct a survey of families in your class or school. Would they be willing to increase the price they pay for electricity if the amount of pollution created by the production of electricity was decreased?
- How does the cost of electricity for your home compare to the cost of the average in your state? How does it compare to the national average?
- How much electrical energy does your family typically use each month?





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<http://tcip.mste.uiuc.edu/>

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