

1. Average Efficiency

Avg Efficiency % = AVERAGE('Data'[Efficiency_%])

2. Total Electrical Output

Total Electrical Output (MWh) =
SUM('Data'[Electrical_Output_MWh_per_hr])

3. Total Fuel Input Energy

Total Fuel Input (GJ) = SUM('Data'[Fuel_Input_Energy_GJ_per_hr])

4. Average Auxiliary Power

Avg Auxiliary Power % = AVERAGE('Data'[Auxiliary_Power_%])

5. Average Condenser Pressure

Avg Condenser Pressure = AVERAGE('Data'[Condenser_Pressure_bar])

These measures directly power the KPI cards you see at the top of the dashboard.

4. Designing the Dashboard Layout

One thing I learned while designing Looker Studio dashboards for Vectra International is the importance of hierarchy and visual flow. The same principles apply in Power BI.

Here's the exact layout structure I use:

Section 1 → KPI Cards (High-Level Metrics)

- Avg Auxiliary Power (%)
- Avg Condenser Pressure
- Avg Efficiency (%)
- Total Electrical Output
- Total Fuel Input Energy

These KPIs answer the question:

“What is happening at the fleet level?”

Section 2 → Breakdown Charts

- **Bar chart:** Avg Efficiency by Boiler Type
- **Column chart:** Avg Efficiency by Fuel Type
- **Donut chart:** Avg Efficiency by Ownership
- **Pie chart:** Avg Efficiency by Region
- **Bar chart:** Top 10 Power Plants by Efficiency
- **Scatter chart:** Output vs Efficiency (with Boiler Type legend)

This section addresses:

“Why is it happening?”

“Which plant types are performing better?”

Section 3 → Filter Panel

On the right side:

- Boiler Type
- Fuel Type
- Ownership
- Region
- Plant Name

This allows decision-makers to slice the entire dashboard instantly.

5. Building Each Visual (Step by Step)

Let's walk through the visuals just like I do during classroom training.

A. KPI Cards

Go to:

Visualizations → **Card**

Use these measures:

- Avg Auxiliary Power %
- Avg Condenser Pressure
- Avg Efficiency %
- Total Electrical Output
- Total Fuel Input

Format with:

- Bold headers
- No background or transparent
- Rounded corners
- Green color for good performance metrics

B. Avg Efficiency by Boiler Type (Bar Chart)

Steps:

1. Select **Clustered Bar Chart**
2. Axis → Boiler_Type
3. Values → Efficiency_% (Average)
4. Sort by descending efficiency

Observation (as seen in the dashboard):

- Ultra Supercritical → Highest efficiency
- Subcritical → Lowest

This mirrors real-world performance patterns.

C. Avg Efficiency by Fuel Type

Use a **Column Chart**.

Axis → Fuel_Type

Values → Efficiency_%

In real engineering scenarios, Biomass often appears more efficient due to specific plant designs—our chart reflects that pattern.

D. Avg Efficiency by Ownership (Donut Chart)

I prefer donut charts for categorical percentages when the dataset has only two categories (Public vs Private).

Steps:

- Visual: Donut
- Legend: Ownership
- Values: Average Efficiency

E. Avg Efficiency by Region (Pie Chart)

Steps:

- Visual: Pie chart
- Legend: Region
- Values: Average Efficiency

This also works well when you want a geographic slice without map visuals.

F. Top 10 Plants by Efficiency (Bar Chart)

Steps:

1. Select **Bar Chart**
2. Axis: Plant_Name
3. Values: Efficiency_%
4. Filter → Top N → 10 by Efficiency %

This instantly highlights high-performing plants.

G. Scatter Chart – Output vs Efficiency

This visual tells a powerful story.

Steps:

1. Visual: Scatter
2. X-Axis: Electrical Output
3. Y-Axis: Efficiency
4. Legend: Boiler Type
5. Add a Trend Line (Analytics → Trend Line)

In my digital marketing dashboards, scatter + trend lines help identify high-ROI campaigns; here they highlight high-output, high-efficiency plants.

6. Adding Slicers (Filters)

Go to **Visualizations** → **Slicer**

Create slicers for:

- Boiler_Type
- Fuel_Type
- Ownership
- Region
- Plant_Name

Use dropdown style for a clean, professional look.

7. Report theming and final touches

In my corporate dashboards (GA4, LI Insights, Meta Ads, CRM), branding and aesthetics matter just as much as analysis.

Apply these finishing touches:

Use a consistent color palette

Green for performance

Blue for outputs

Yellow/red for variations

Add borders & drop shadows for depth

Use a clean header

“Thermal Power Plants – Efficiency Analysis – Part 1”

Add your institute or brand tagline

“Created by Slidescope.com – Training Institute”

Small design details dramatically improve the dashboard’s impact.

8. Analyzing Insights (How to Read the Dashboard)

Key insight 1: Boiler Type Performance

Ultra Supercritical boilers show the highest average efficiency (~38%).

This is expected—higher pressure and temperature mean better thermodynamic performance.

Key insight 2: Fuel Type Variation

Biomass plants show the highest efficiency here.

Coal follows closely.

Key insight 3: Ownership Trends

Private plants tend to have slightly higher efficiencies, often due to better maintenance and modernization cycles.

Key insight 4: Regional Differences

Regions show different efficiency levels due to ambient temperature, cooling water availability, and plant age.

Key insight 5: Scatter Chart Trend

A positive trend line suggests that higher electrical output often correlates with better efficiency—common in large, modern plants.