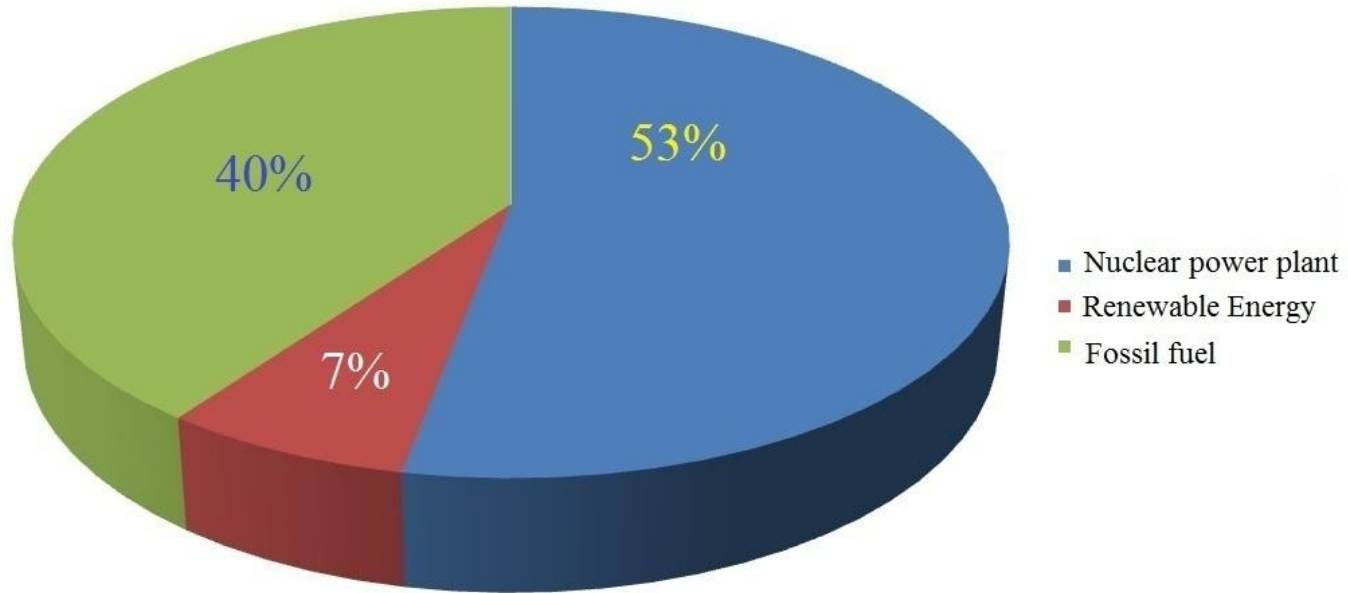


Belgium's Power industry



Source of electricity



Nuclear power plants



- Nuclear power typically contributes between 50% and 60% of the electricity produced domestically
- Belgium has two nuclear power plants:
- Nuclear Plant Doel with four reactors of 392, 433, 1006 and 1008 MWe (1975)
- Nuclear Plant Tihange with three reactors of 962, 1008 and 1015 MWe (1975)

Fossil Fuel

The use of coal in thermal power plants has been decreasing, in 2000 it was still used to produce 14.25% of electricity, by 2006 this had dropped to about 10%.

In 2010 it was down to 6.3%. The conventional coal units of the thermal power plants in Mol and Kalle were closed. Oil is also playing an increasingly less prominent role

This reduction is mostly compensated by a rise of popularity of natural gas. Where in 2000 gas only accounted for 23% it was up to 33% of gross electricity generated in 2010. Natural gas power plants are less polluting and have a short start-up time,



Wind Energy



- At the start of 2012, there were 498 operational wind turbines in Belgium, with a capacity of 1080 MW. The amount of electricity generated from wind energy has surpassed 2 TWh per year.
- There are seven large-scale offshore wind farm projects. Northwind (216MW), Thorntonbank Wind Farm (325 MW), Belwind Wind Farm (330 MW) are operational. The others are in various stages of planning.
- On Sunday 6 February 2011, due to high winds and lower electricity consumption, 12% of the country's consumed electricity was generated by wind turbines.

Hydroelectric power



- Belgium has two pumped storage hydroelectric power stations: Coo-Trois-Ponts (1164 MW) and Plate-Taille (143 MW). Pumped storage stations are a net consumer of electricity, but they contributed 1.4% to the gross electricity production in 2010.
- With a combined capacity of about 100 MW. Contributing 0.3% of gross domestic production in 2010.

Annual electricity net generation in Belgium

