



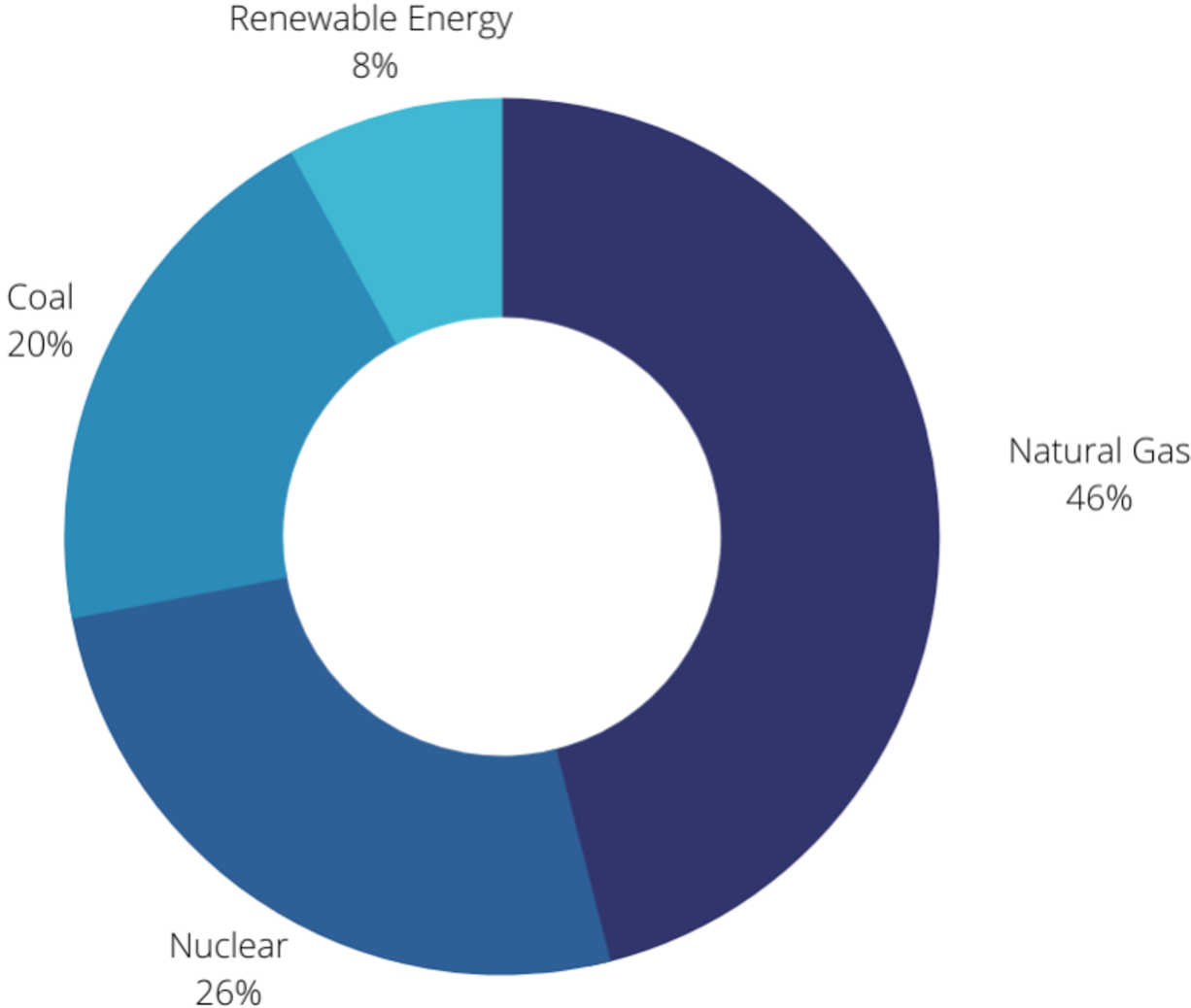
The Story of Just and Unjust Energy

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Georgia's Energy Generating Sources - 2019

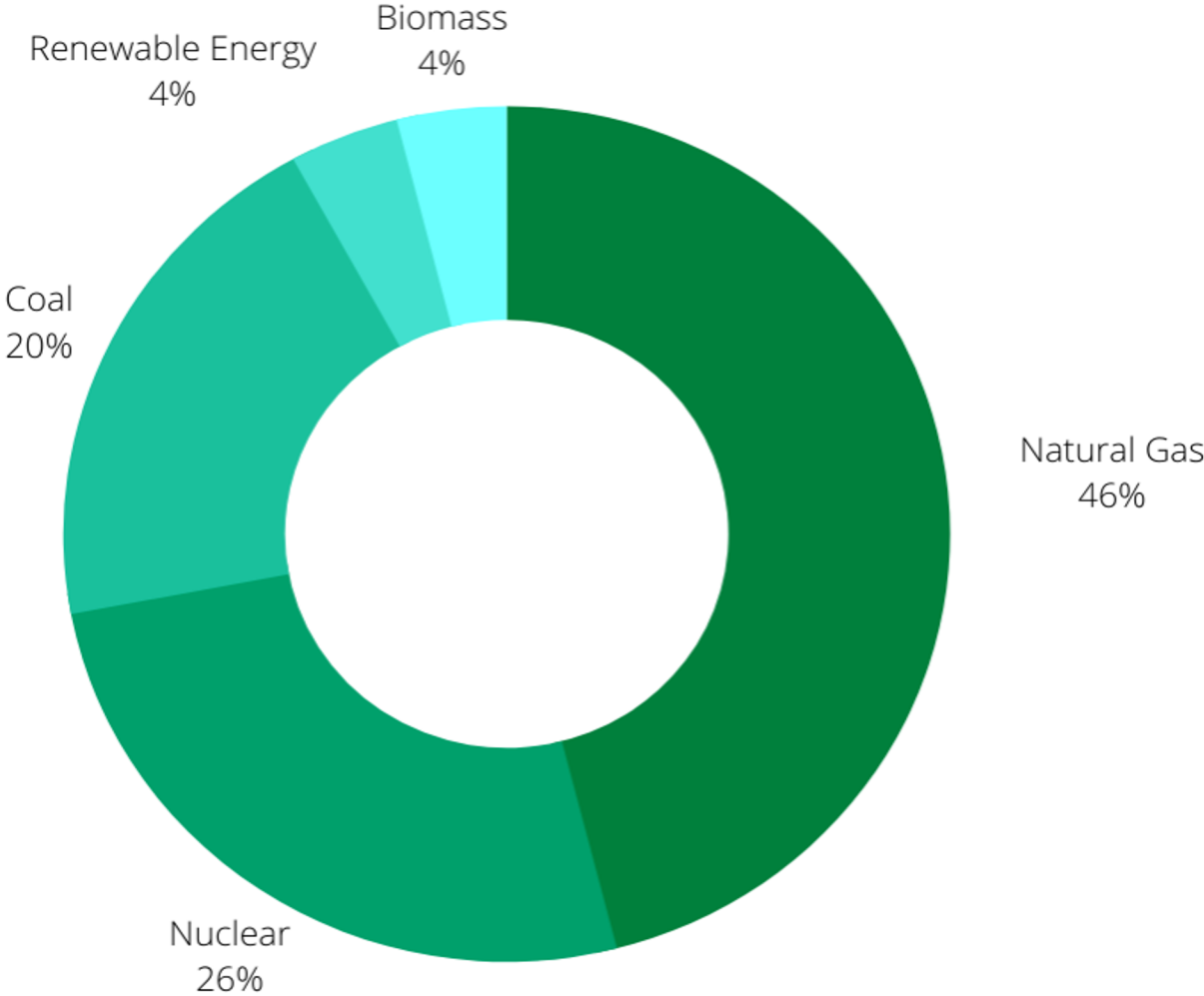
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Data from: <https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=GA>

Georgia's Energy Generating Sources - 2019

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Environmental Impacts

Oil, gas, coal, and biomass generate toxic air and water pollution

In particular, hazardous air pollutants comes from the extraction and processing of oil, gas, biomass and from coal-fired power plants. By using these energy sources in GA we are harming the communities where natural gas is extracted, coal is mined and wood pellet facilities are located.

The inefficient use of electricity and natural gas in our buildings makes up more than 30% of global greenhouse gas emissions

Public Health Impacts

In 2018 in the United States, there were roughly 355,000 premature deaths due to fossil fuel-linked air pollution.

Exposure to oil and gas activity has been linked with elevated cancer risk, pregnancy complications, and respiratory and cardiovascular disease.

People of Color and low-income communities are found to bear a disproportionately high burden of fossil fuel pollution across the United States. African-American communities have 1.54 times the exposure to particulate matter compared to the overall population

<https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/reports/fossil-fuel-racism/#processing-transport>

COAL ASH

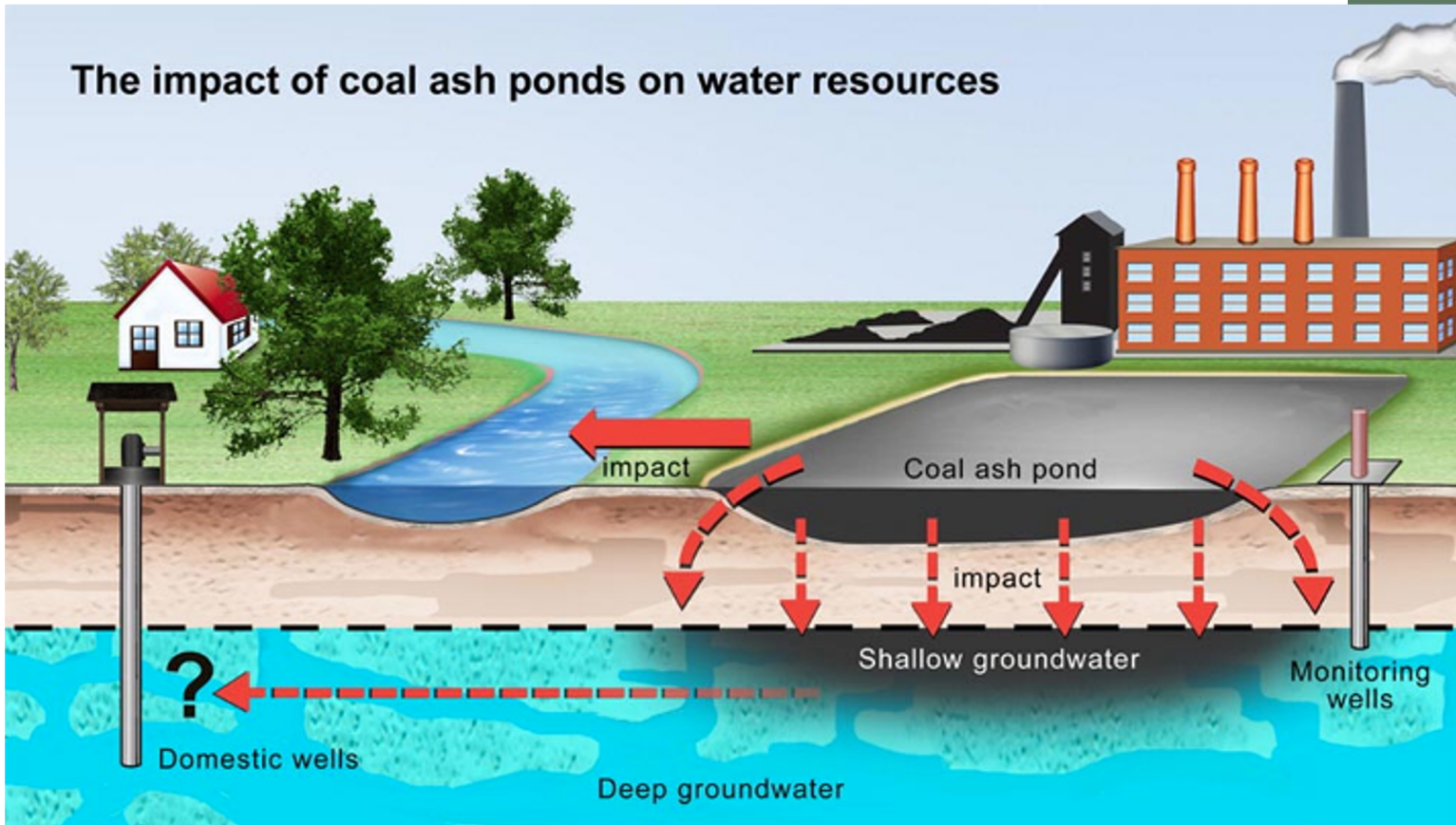


Image: Duke University Journal of Env'tl. Science & Technology

BIOMASS

WHAT IS BIOMASS? Energy generated or produced by living or once-living organisms.

WHAT IS THE MAIN SOURCE OF BIOMASS? Wood pellets produced from whole trees



WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS WITH BIOMASS?

Deforestation: the biomass industry's wood sourcing practices are unsustainable and contribute to forest degradation

Not carbon neutral: when biomass is removed from forests and burned for electricity, the result is an increase in carbon dioxide even when new trees are replanted immediately

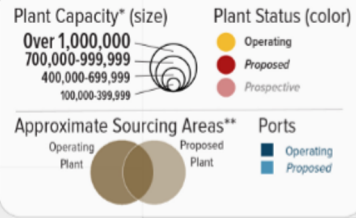
Pollution: burning biomass releases carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and other pollutants

Environmental Justice: Overall, EJ communities are twice as likely to have a wood biomass pellet production facility

Expensive: biomass plants are far more expensive than other renewable sources such as wind or solar

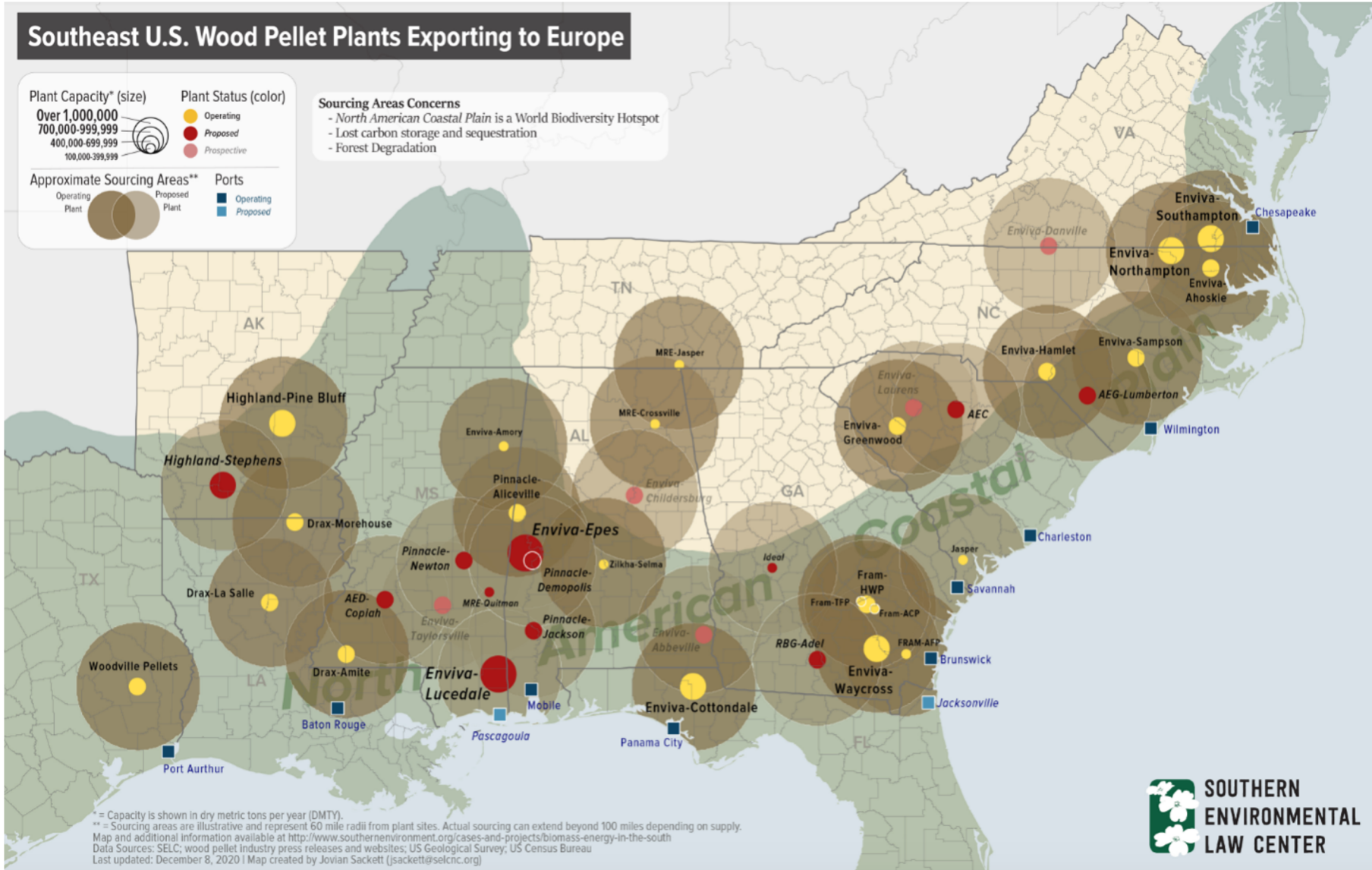


Southeast U.S. Wood Pellet Plants Exporting to Europe



Sourcing Areas Concerns

- North American Coastal Plain is a World Biodiversity Hotspot
- Lost carbon storage and sequestration
- Forest Degradation



* = Capacity is shown in dry metric tons per year (DMTY).
 ** = Sourcing areas are illustrative and represent 60 mile radii from plant sites. Actual sourcing can extend beyond 100 miles depending on supply.
 Map and additional information available at <http://www.southernenvironment.org/cases-and-projects/biomass-energy-in-the-south>
 Data Sources: SELC; wood pellet industry press releases and websites; US Geological Survey; US Census Bureau
 Last updated: December 8, 2020 | Map created by Jovian Sackett (jsackett@selcnc.org)

WHAT IS ENERGY BURDEN?

ENERGY BURDEN is the percentage of gross household income spent on energy costs.

Energy burden = Annual utility bills ÷ Annual household income

Energy Burden above

6%

is considered “unaffordable”

The national average energy burden for low-income households is

8.6%,

three times higher than for non-low-income households which is estimated at 3%.

African-American households experience a median energy burden

64% greater than white households

Latino households have a median burden

24% higher than white households.

ENERGY BURDEN IN GEORGIA



Atlanta ranks **4th** highest in the country in median energy burden levels

Factors affecting Energy Burden in GA include:

- 5th highest average temperature
- 41st in per capita income
- Lack of state investments and energy efficiency programs
- GA's homes are larger than U.S. average

Data from Georgia Tech research team:
https://cepl.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/EE%20Phase%201_4-13-18.pdf

Price Hikes from Georgia Power:

In December 2019, the regulators at the Public Service Commission granted Georgia Power's request to raise its base rates over the next three years as well as impose a fee to be used for coal ash cleanup.

Georgia Power customer's monthly base fee increased by \$2 in 2021 and will increase by another \$2 in 2022.

Plant Vogtle

NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN BURKE COUNTY MORE THAN \$15 BILLION DOLLARS OVER BUDGET

Georgia Power has already collected \$2 billion from customers, most of which is shareholder profit.

THIS PROJECT INCREASES GEORGIA RESIDENT'S ENERGY BURDEN

SOLUTIONS

Ask the Public Service Commission to:

1. Hold Georgia Power accountable for this project;
2. Pursue cheaper clean energy solutions like solar;
3. Invest in energy-efficiencies for all customers, especially low-income customers, and those experiencing the highest energy burden.