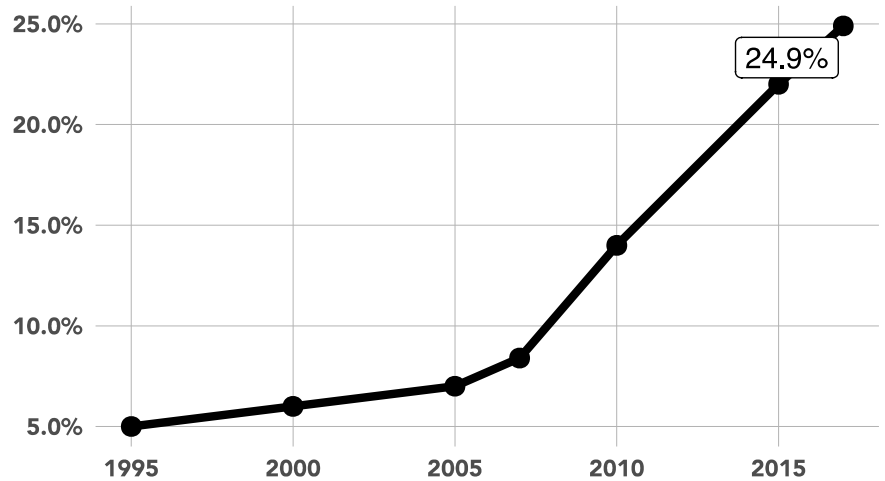


## Shifting Energy Infrastructure & Rural Minnesota

An energy transition from coal to renewables is occurring in the State of Minnesota, but not without some challenges.

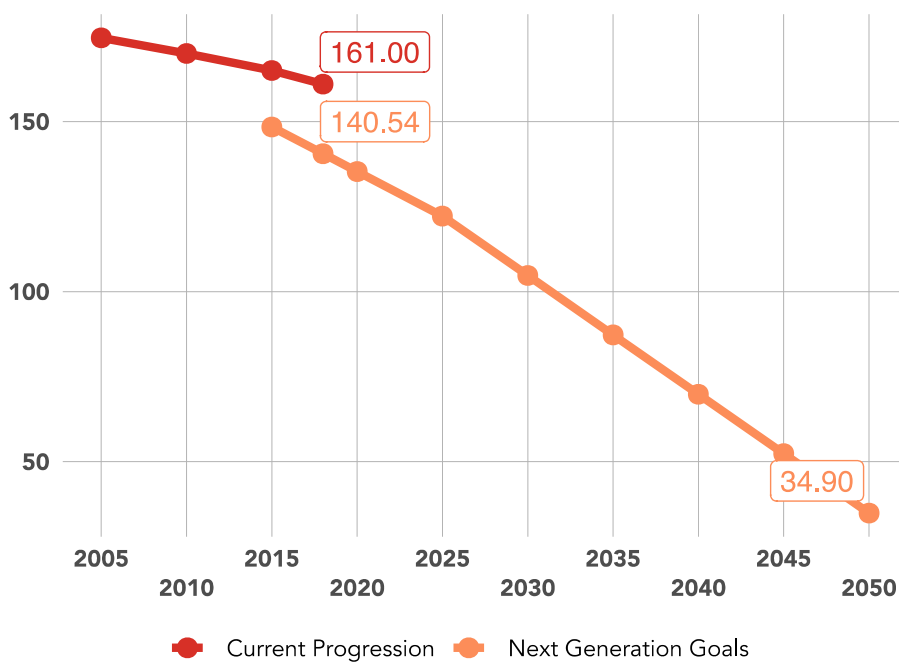
Although investor-owned utility providers are making significant progress achieving the state's carbon-reduction goals, rural cooperatives face larger barriers in implementing renewables.

MN renewable electricity generation



Three major barriers to a shift in the energy infrastructure for rural cooperatives include:

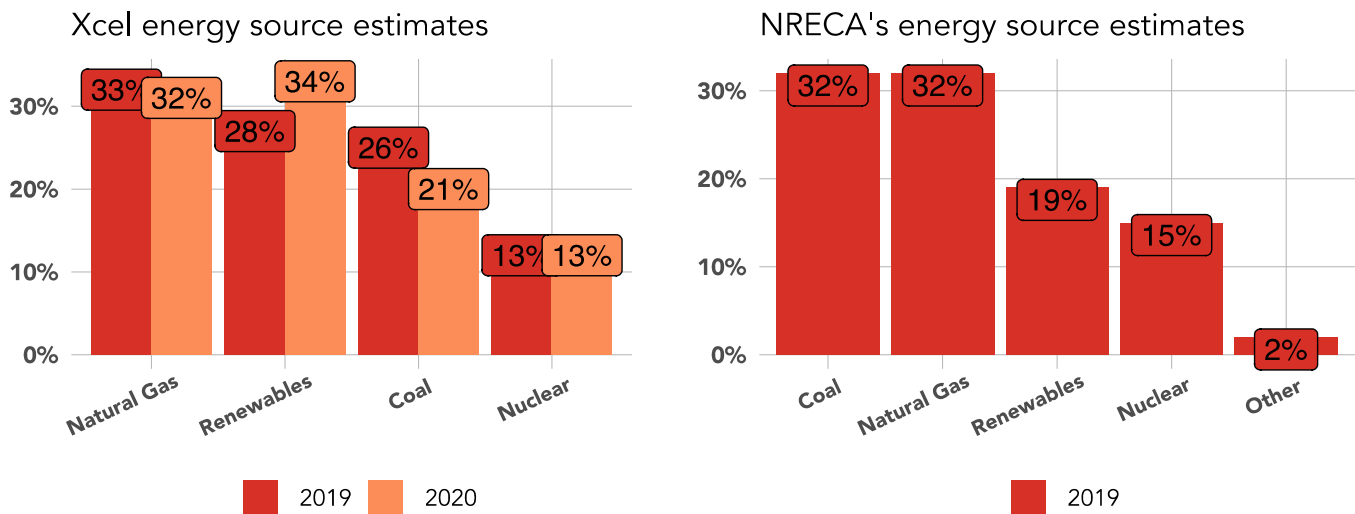
Minnesota is not on track to meet its carbon reduction



- Inability to take advantage of the energy tax credits** offered by the federal government due to their federal income tax exemption
- Outstanding debt tied to coal** power plants make it difficult to invest renewables
- Consumer price sensitivity and workforce concerns** which make the choice of raising rates and closing plants politically, economically, and socially challenging

To read the full report, visit our website at [ruralmn.org](http://ruralmn.org)

To achieve an 80% carbon-reduction by 2050, as outlined in the 2007 Next Generation Act, the state or federal government must aid utility providers to ease the impact of an infrastructure overhaul. While all utilities need assistance to implement renewable infrastructure, cooperatives are further behind in the energy transition.



In February 2021, the [Rural Power Coalition asked Congress to increase support for rural electric cooperatives](#) to spur recovery from COVID-19 and ensure an equitable energy transition. Their request for support includes:

1. Reform the Rural Utility Service Hardship Loan Program and direct \$100 billion to rural electric cooperatives so they can forgive unpaid residential utility bills, continue service for the hardest-hit families, and deliver more affordable power to rural households
2. Add \$17 billion to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program for residential electricity bill relief
3. Equal treatment in reform of renewable energy tax credits under The Moving Forward Act
4. Additional funding for rural economic development ([www.ruralpower.us](http://www.ruralpower.us))

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