

Our Power is Water ad facts

“Half of our local energy would disappear...”

According to the [Northwest Power and Conservation Council's page on Power Supply](#), hydropower accounts for 53.9% of the Pacific Northwest's generating capacity, and 48.1% of the generating capability. Further, on an average annual basis, hydropower makes up roughly half of the total energy generated.

“80% of the renewable energy that we rely on would be gone...”

The [Northwest Power and Conservation Council](#) has confirmed that hydropower makes up between 80-85% of the carbon-free energy currently on the Northwest's grid. The other 15-20% consists of a mix of mostly solar, wind, and nuclear.

“Our electric bills would have nowhere to go, but up...”

Several studies (nwriverpartners.org/resources) confirm that the removal of just the lower Snake River dams would result in a direct increase in energy rates for community-owned, not-for-profit utilities and their customers. Further, our ad hypothetically asks what would happen if hydropower was “suddenly” removed from the grid, which would require an enormous amount of energy to be purchased, and with the current rate of renewable energy buildouts, that energy would come from carbon-emitting resources like coal and natural gas.

“34 billion watts...”

The total generating capacity of Northwest hydropower is rated at 34,652 megawatts (MW). When converted to regular watts, that number is 34 billion.