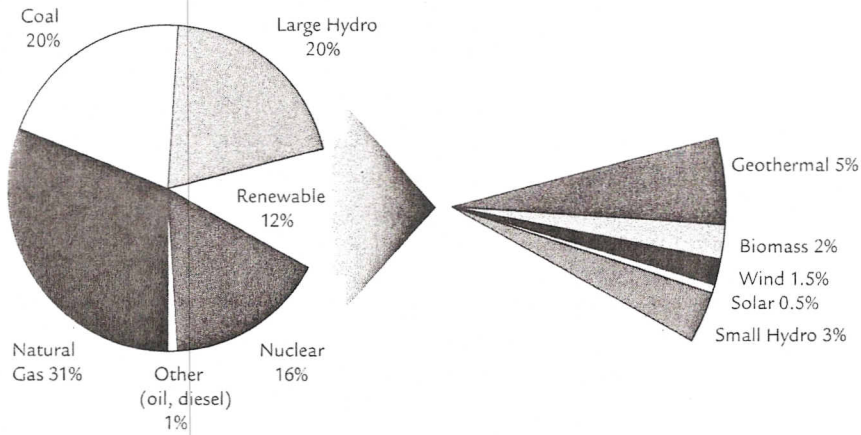


California sources for the generation of electricity. The state leads the nation in the development of renewable sources. (Based on data from the California Energy Commission.)

Davis in 2002 signed legislation requiring the state's utilities to obtain 20 percent of their power supplies from renewable energy sources by 2017. "California is now embarked on the world's most ambitious effort to save electricity and diversify its supply," commented a leading renewable energy proponent.

The nation's first solar thermal power project began generating electricity in 1982. Built for Southern California Edison in the Mojave Desert near Barstow, Solar One produced superheated steam to generate electricity. Soon communities throughout the state authorized the installation of rooftop *photovoltaic panels*, devices using connected solar cells to convert sunlight directly into electricity. The largest municipal solar installation in the nation was completed in 2004 atop the Moscone Convention Center in San Francisco. Two years later Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger won approval from the Public Utilities Commission for an ambitious plan to provide incentives for individual homeowners and businesses to install photovoltaic panels. His goal was a "million solar roofs" by the year 2017. Solar advocate and film actor Robert Redford hailed the governor's plan as "just the kind of forward-thinking leadership that California and the nation deserve." Meanwhile, the Energy Commission estimated that if California adopted the appropriate technology, sunlight could produce enough electricity to meet the state's entire electrical power needs. In spite of its enormous potential, solar energy was producing less than 1 percent of the state's total electricity in the early 2000s.

California's wind energy potential also far exceeded its development. During the early 1980s, the world's largest collection of windmills was built near Livermore in eastern Alameda County. Nearly 2000 wind turbines were installed at Altamont Pass in 10 strikingly different configurations. The windmills produced more than enough power to meet the electricity needs of all the households in the Livermore area. Over the next two decades, more than 13,000 wind turbine generators were installed throughout the state in such places as San Geronio Pass near Palm



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