The U.S. has more coal than any other country.

FIVE STATES produce over 70% of the nation’s coal.

30.4% of our electricity is coal-generated.

BENEFICIAL BYPRODUCTS of coal-use include rare earth elements and hydrogen.

There are a variety of ways to cleanly convert coal into electricity.

CLEAN COAL stimulates the economy and strengthens energy security.

We have an estimated 477 billion short tons of coal in the United States. Our coal resources are larger than our remaining oil and natural gas resources.

Fossil fuels make up about 65% of electricity generation. Coal is the second most used energy source to generate electricity after natural gas, which consists of 33.8% of U.S. electricity generation. With new technologies, CO₂ from coal-fired power plants can be used in enhanced oil recovery and to help make valuable products like plastics and chemicals.

These byproducts have valuable uses. Rare earth elements are used to make high-technology products, including smart phones, lasers, DVDs, and LEDs. The hydrogen and other coal gases can be used in automobiles, power-generating fuel cells, fuel power-generating turbines, or as chemical "building blocks" for a wide range of commercial products. Additionally, coal is vital for making products like steel.

The Department of Energy has a long history of developing technologies that make coal use cleaner. These processes include coal gasification, advanced coal-energy conversion technologies, and advanced emissions control systems.

Using coal cleanly reduces our dependence on other countries for natural resources, which boosts our national energy security. Additionally, clean coal can create new jobs and grow economy, particularly in high coal producing states.

Click here for more information on the Office of Fossil Energy’s clean coal research.