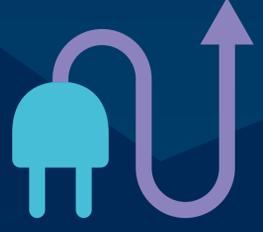


# FOSSIL FUELS FIGHT *the* **FREEZE**

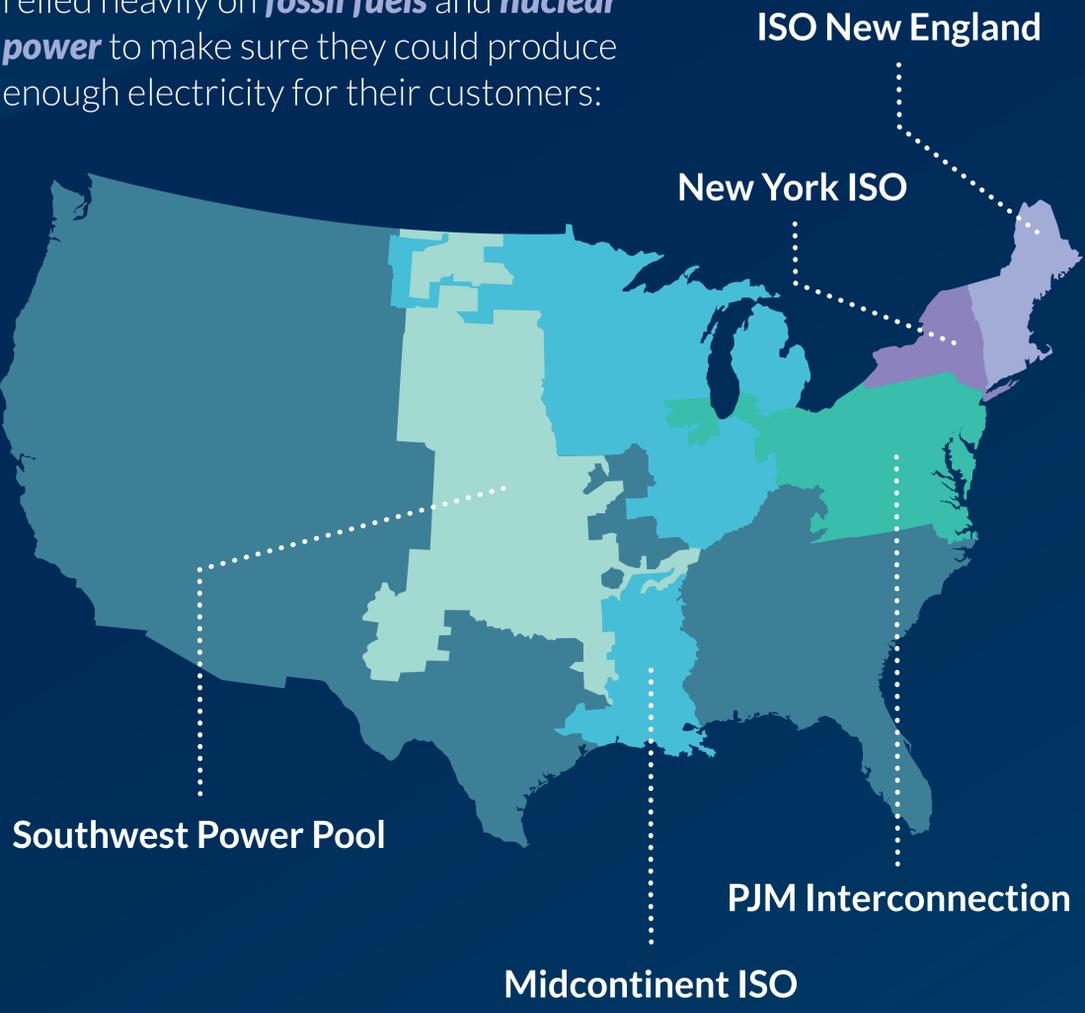
The New Year brought **PLUNGING TEMPERATURES** across the **Northeast**, the **Midwest**, and even the **South**, dropping thermometers into the single digits—and well below zero—in some areas.



These **FRIGID CONDITIONS** pushed independent system operators (ISOs) to meet the **increased demand for electricity**. (ISOs are organizations that control and maintain the running of an electrical power system, or grid, in a particular region.)



During the cold snap, **FIVE ISOs** relied heavily on **fossil fuels** and **nuclear power** to make sure they could produce enough electricity for their customers:



**Coal** came to the rescue—supplying an average of almost **40%** of the power generation mix during peak energy times across the affected regions.



**Coal** and **nuclear power** combined provided **58%**—almost 3/5—of all power generated.



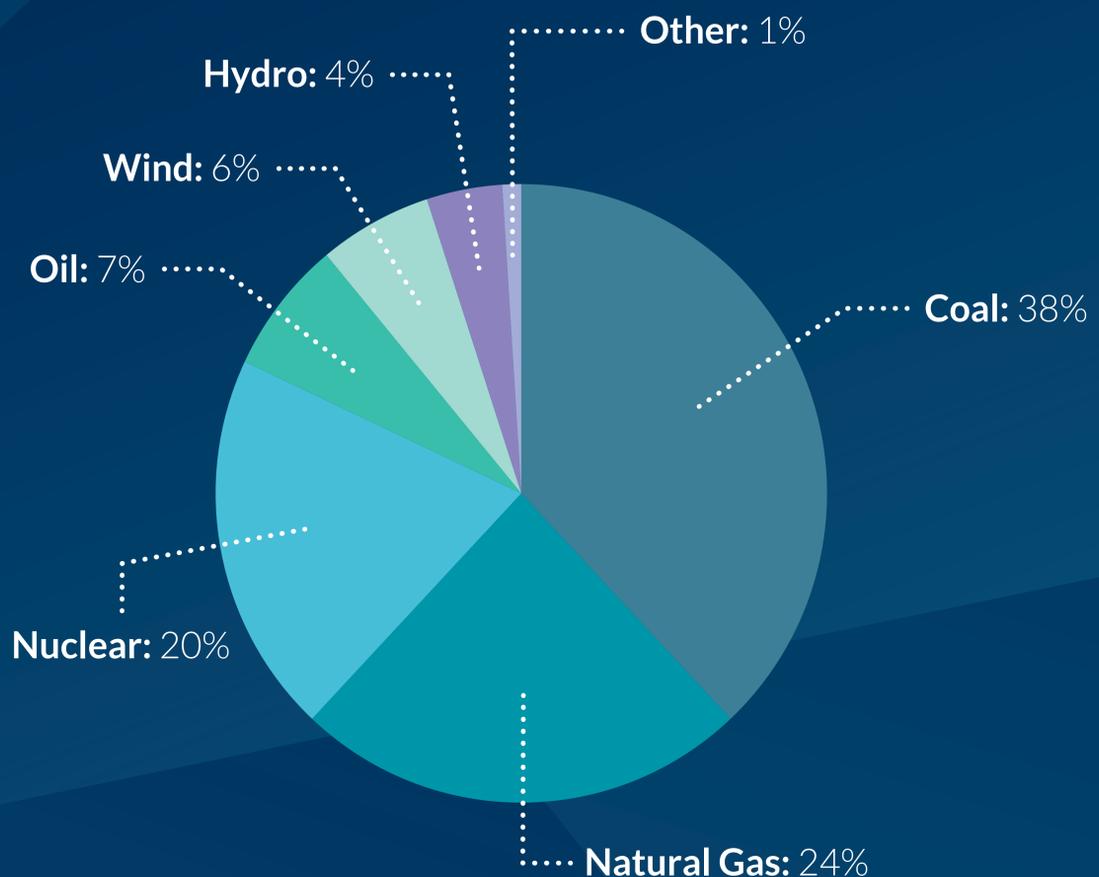
Compared to a typical winter day, **coal-** and **oil-fired plants** supplied nearly **15%** more power at peak times of electricity usage.



On average, the ISOs depended on **coal**, **nuclear**, and **natural gas** for almost **82%** of the electricity produced for the times of highest electricity usage each day.



In fact, the **AVERAGE GENERATION MIX** at peak times of electricity usage was:



Source: Data from ISOs' public websites compiled by NETL.

During the cold snap, **ISOs** were able to **produce more electricity** because they had additional resources—like coal, gas, oil, and nuclear—available.

This **FUEL DIVERSITY** saved the day. In the future, we will continue to need a diverse energy mix to ensure that the grid can **respond to challenges** and **provide reliable, affordable electricity**.