



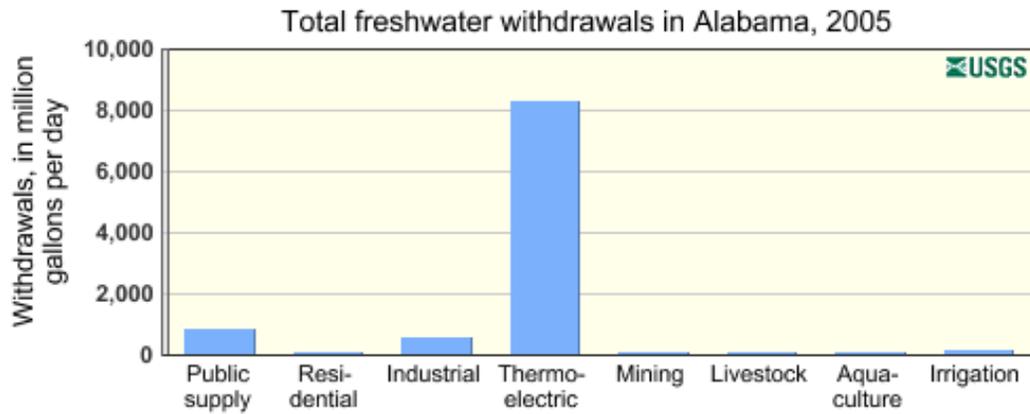
Alabama Rivers Alliance
Water Is Life

ENERGY & WATER

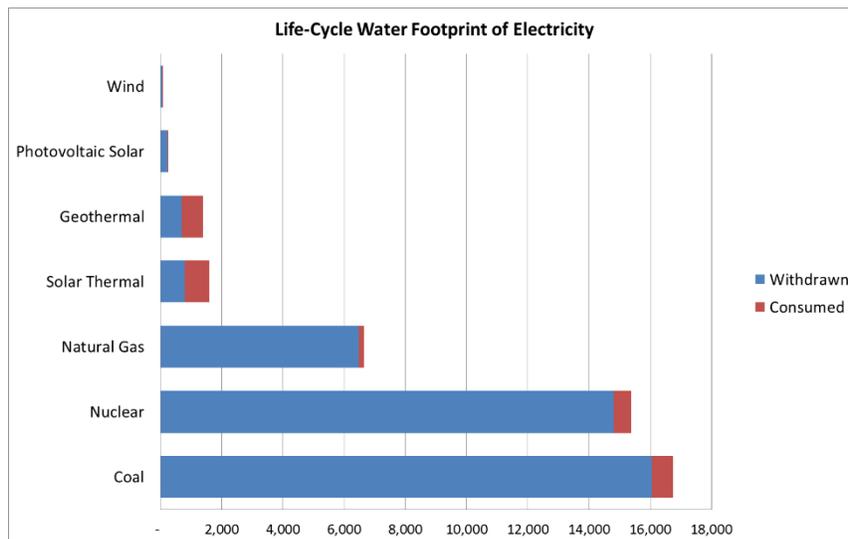
Water Quantity Impacts - Fossil Fuels Use Large Amounts of Water

More than half of Alabama's electricity comes from coal and nuclear power plants.

83% of water taken out of our rivers in Alabama is used for cooling coal and nuclear power plants. Most of it gets returned, but it is hotter. Fish and wildlife can be harmed when the water is pulled in and by the hotter temperatures coming out.



Renewable energy, such as distributed solar uses virtually NO water to create electricity.



Water Quality Impacts of Energy in Alabama - Coal is Dirty!

Coal Extraction - Strip mining (a.k.a. surface mining) and longwall mining (a.k.a. underground mining) are the methods of choice for coal extraction in Alabama. As a result, many streams are polluted. Coal mines transform the landscape and alter streams forever. Coal mines from the past have left a dirty legacy for our generation and future generations to clean up. These old coal mines were not properly reclaimed, resulting in hundreds of acid mine drainage (AMD) sites. AMD sites pollute streams with heavy metals, sediment, and acids.



Coal Ash - Coal ash is the waste left over after coal is burned to generate power. Coal ash contains arsenic, lead, mercury, chromium, and a range of harmful heavy metals and toxic pollutants that poison the air and drinking water supplies of communities living near coal ash dumpsites. Coal ash threatens the respiratory, cardiovascular, and neurological systems of people living near more than 1400 dump sites across the nation. Alabama has nine coal-fired power plants with at least 44 coal ash ponds resting on rivers and creeks throughout the state.

Coal Burning - Burning coal for electricity produces air emissions containing toxic pollution, such as Mercury. Mercury in the air, eventually ends up in the water and is consumed by fish. When Mercury gets in the fish, it makes it unsafe for people to eat the fish. In 2014, the Alabama Department of Public Health issued Fish Consumption Advisories for 75 water-bodies in Alabama.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- ✓ Saving energy saves water! Use less energy and be energy efficient in your home and at work
- ✓ Use water wisely and be water efficient in your home and at work
- ✓ Support Solar! Renewable energy, like solar, is much better for our rivers. It uses less water and causes less pollution.
- ✓ Join organizations like the Alabama Rivers Alliance and help us advocate for clean energy that protects rivers and people.

Learn more and become a member at

www.AlabamaRivers.org