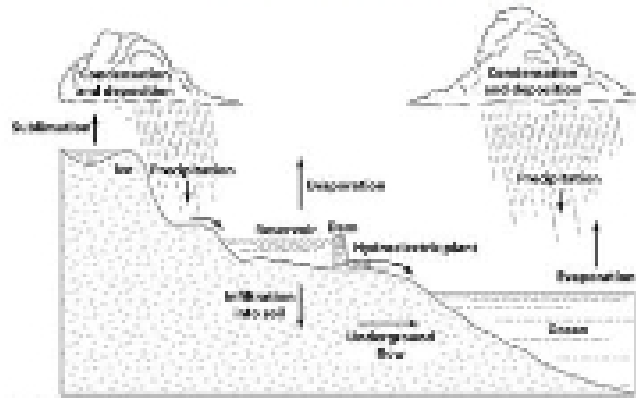


Hydroelectric

Sun heats water → evaporation → vapor lifted up → rain falls → flowing water goes downhill by gravity.

Nature's heat engine!



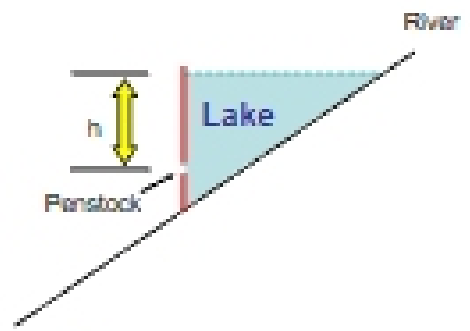
Gravitational Potential Energy

$$PE = mgh$$

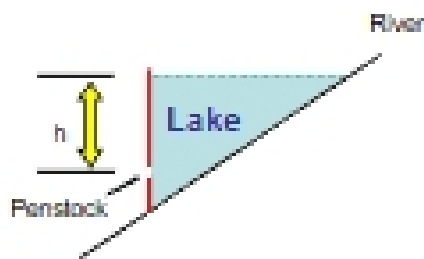
$$m = 10^3 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3} \times V \text{ m}^3$$

$$g = 9.8 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}^2}$$

$$PE = 9.8 \times 10^3 Vh$$



h = height in meters
V = Volume in meters³
Potential Energy = PE in Joules



Conversion of this gravitational potential energy to electrical energy can be very efficient (80-90%).

No significant pollutants or heat. Costs less than 1/3 of current fossil fuel plants per kiloWatt-hour of energy produced.

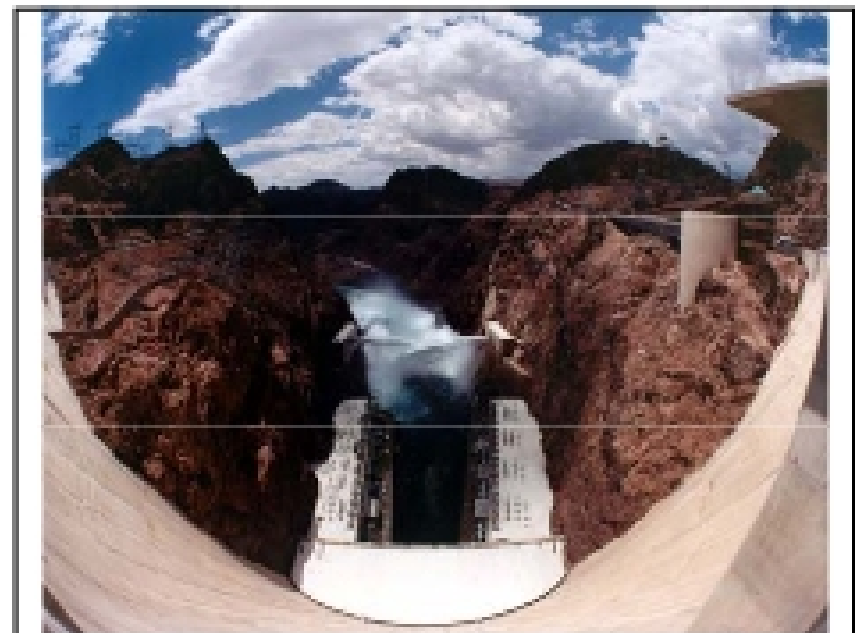
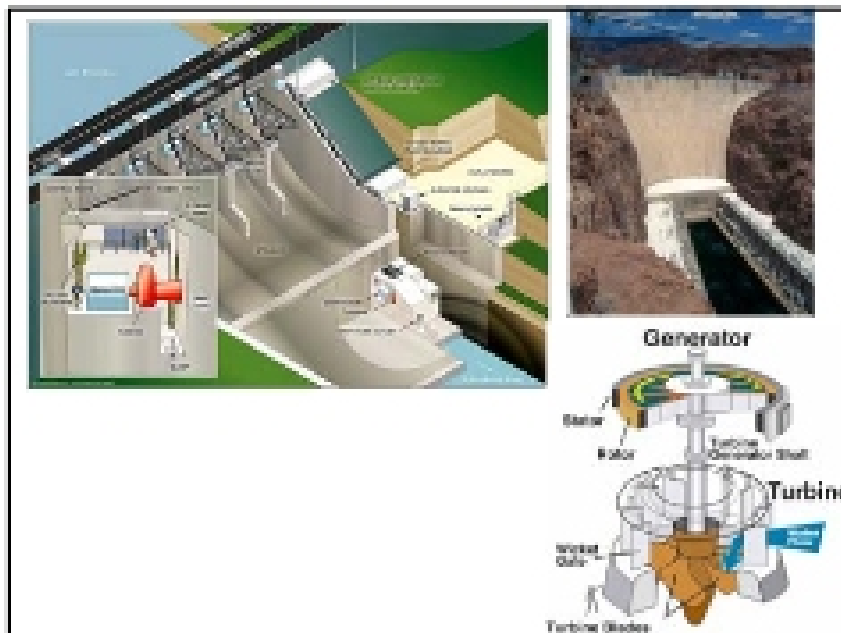
There is no thermodynamic limit for this conversion!
 Also, you can pump water uphill for storage of energy. This works if you have natural places and hills/mountains around.

Pumped Storage

Like pumped, pumped storage is a method of storing energy in water. Pumped storage is water pumped to a reservoir above the generator in a time when excess demand for energy is low, such as during the middle of the night. The water is then allowed to flow back through the turbine/generator in time when demand is high and a large load is placed on the system.

The reservoir can provide a backup energy source in the case of a power outage because it can store energy and produce power when needed. Pumped storage is a good way to store energy and produce power when needed. It is a good way to store energy and produce power when needed.

The use of pumped storage is a good way to store energy and produce power when needed. It is a good way to store energy and produce power when needed.

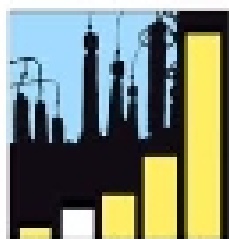


Long history (dating back to water wheels)...



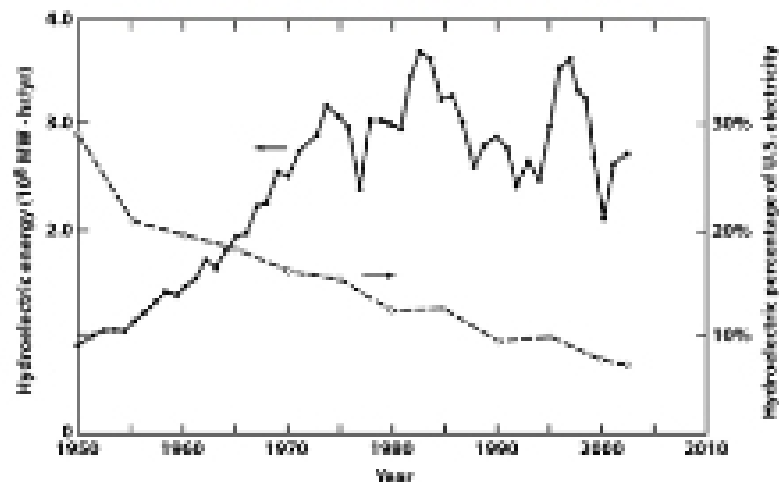
Some countries have major resources for hydroelectricity generation.

Norway: 99% of electricity! (10 GigaWatts)
 Brazil: 93% of electricity
 Canada: 58% of electricity
 USA: 10% of electricity



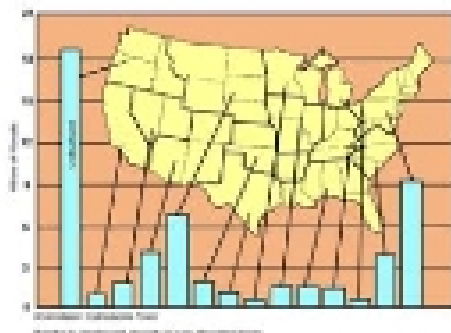
Globally: 24% of total electricity production.

Trends in US Hydroelectric Generation



US has tapped most of the potential. Some room for growth, but large environmental and cost issues now.

Energy policies in the US are largely shaped by several agencies devoted to energy engineering efforts. Nevertheless, a relatively independent, or at least separate, from the engineering business perspective, influence to the overall system is frequently sought over different and the state can be greater than those imposed by others. Developing the full potential of hydroelectricity requires coordination and collaboration of many stakeholders.



In the United States we are not building any new large scale hydroelectric generating facilities (dams). Some small scale projects are promising (e.g. Boulder hyrdol).

Aswan High Dam

White Nile (Lake Victoria) + Blue Nile (Ethiopia)= Nile (Khartoum)
 Aswan Low Dam (1889, 1912, 1933)

Aswan high dam (1952, ...)

Good News ☺
 12 x 175 MW= 2100 MegaWatts
 Brought electricity to some areas for the first time
 Controls very damaging floods

Bad News ☹
 4 Million tons of sediment per year not delivered down stream and accumulating behind the dam.
 Significant ecological damage to the Nile delta region

"The upper Nile region, which will be submerged by the water behind this dam, contains many sites of historical and archeological importance, including the temples at Abu Simbel and the town of Syene, where Eratosthenes first proved that the Earth was round ..."



"Every square meter of this country is significant historically or archeologically. If we preserved every antiquity we could never build anything ..."

