

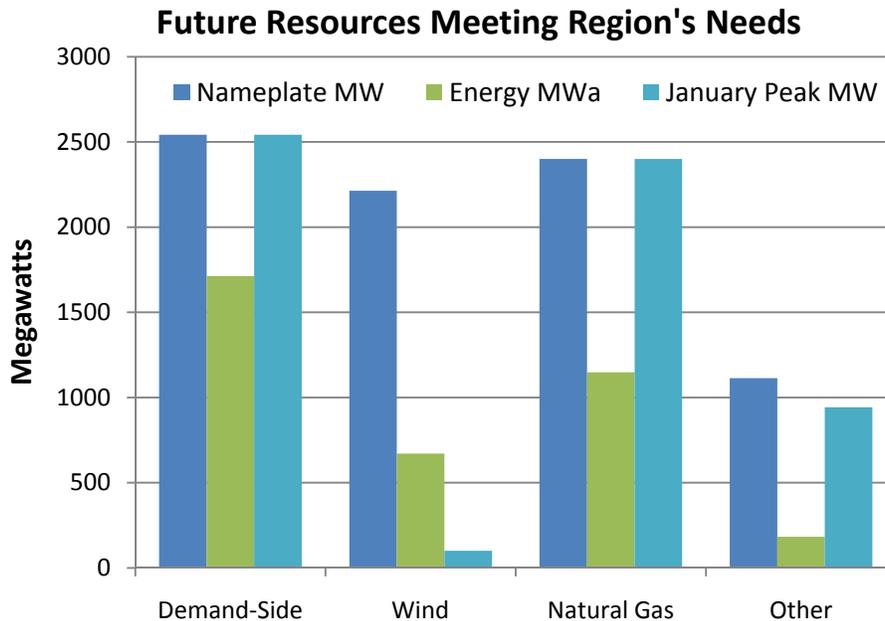


# Plan today. Power tomorrow.

a regional energy awareness project

## Fact: A Mix Technologies Meeting Demand

The Pacific Northwest is fortunate to have hydroelectricity as the centerpiece of its power system. While hydroelectricity remains the foundation of the region's energy supply, utility resource plans currently focus on more conservation/demand side-management efforts, renewable energy, and natural gas to meet new demand.



**Conservation.** Over the next decade, utilities envision demand-side management efforts will out do both wind and gas fired generation development in helping meet future needs. With 1,600 MWa of energy and 2,500 peak savings expected to be captured from new electricity savings programs. Conservation, also referred to as energy efficiency, is the cleanest way to add megawatts to our system and further constrain the region's carbon footprint.

**Renewables.** We also expect that about 2,400 MW of new renewable resources, primarily wind farms will be installed providing us about 750 MWa of energy. Wind has topped our list of renewable choices because it is a mature technology compared to other options. But there is a groundswell of interest in solar photovoltaic panels on rooftops and developing biogas and biomass projects that use wood, crop, manure and garbage waste to generate electricity. Utilities are also supporting research into wave, and tidal energy, and small nuclear power installations. These resources are still in their infancy, but have potential to be part of a low-carbon future.

**Natural Gas.** Utilities' plans call for almost one-third of the region's new power needs to come from natural gas turbines. Natural gas plants have the lowest carbon footprint of any of the fossil-fueled generating plants, and gas is affordable and reliable. Natural gas plants can be brought on line relatively quickly, and they can be used in several important ways to boost the reliability of the power system. They add megawatts when power demand surges in extreme hot or cold weather, and they provide backup power for intermittent resources such as wind and solar.

Check out the **Plan Today Power Tomorrow** regional energy project  
[www.PlanTodayPowerTomorrow.com](http://www.PlanTodayPowerTomorrow.com)