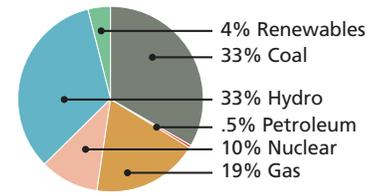


Status of Renewable Energy Development in the West

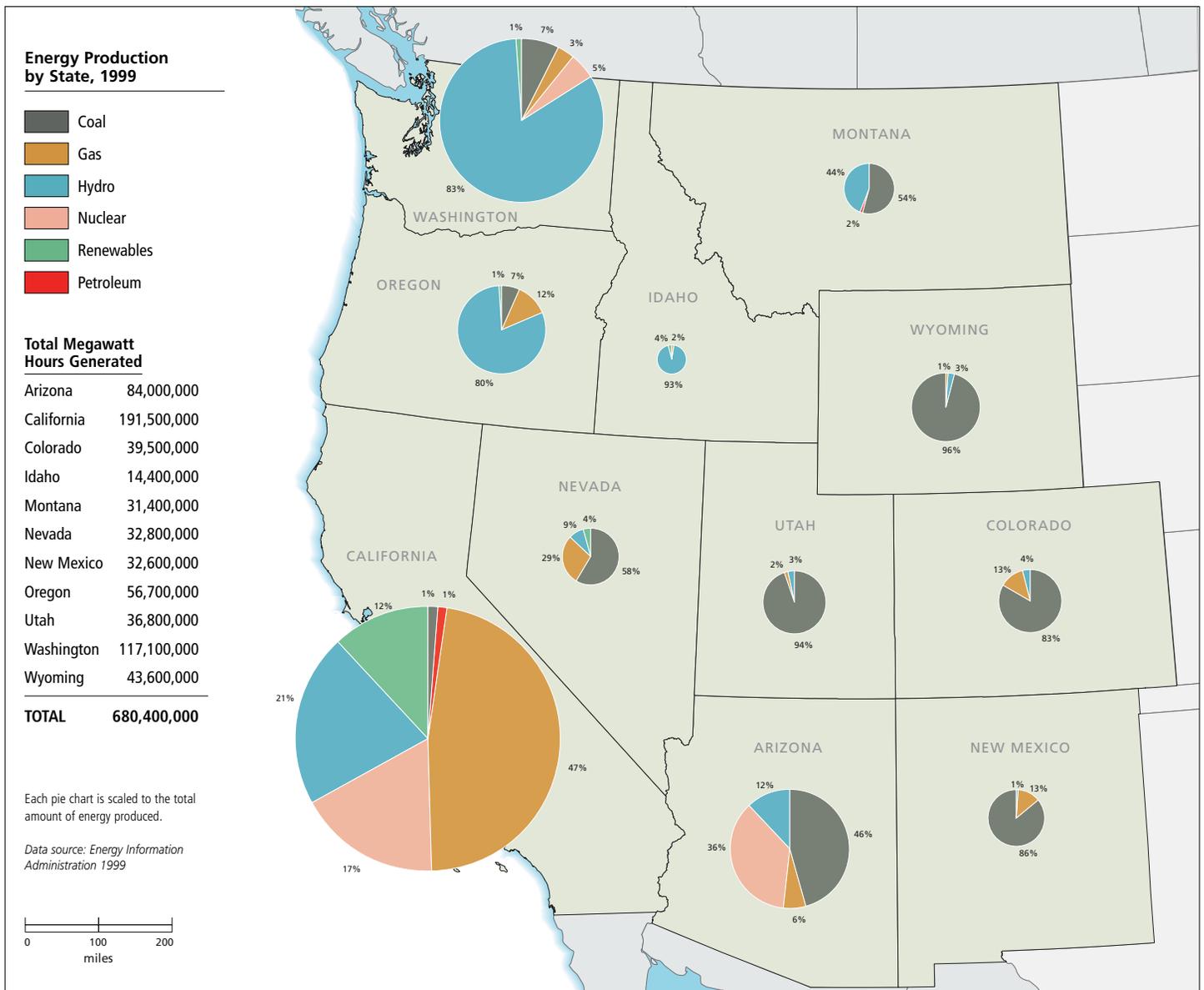
Electricity Generation

Over half of the West's electricity is produced by burning fossil fuels. The main sources of electricity in the West are coal, hydropower, natural gas and nuclear. In 1999, renewable resources accounted for 4% of the region's generation base.



Regional Mix

This chart shows the breakdown of fuel sources used to supply the entire region's electricity. When compared to the map below, the importance of different resources to different states becomes apparent. Due to the interconnectedness of electricity transmission in the West, energy produced in one state is often consumed in another.



Renewable Energy Facilities – Installed Capacity

State	Installed Capacity of Renewables (in MW)	State	Installed Capacity of Renewables (in MW)
Arizona	9	New Mexico	4
California	5,481	Oregon	303
Colorado	68	Utah	44
Idaho	120	Washington	512
Montana	16	Wyoming	141
Nevada	238	Total	6,936

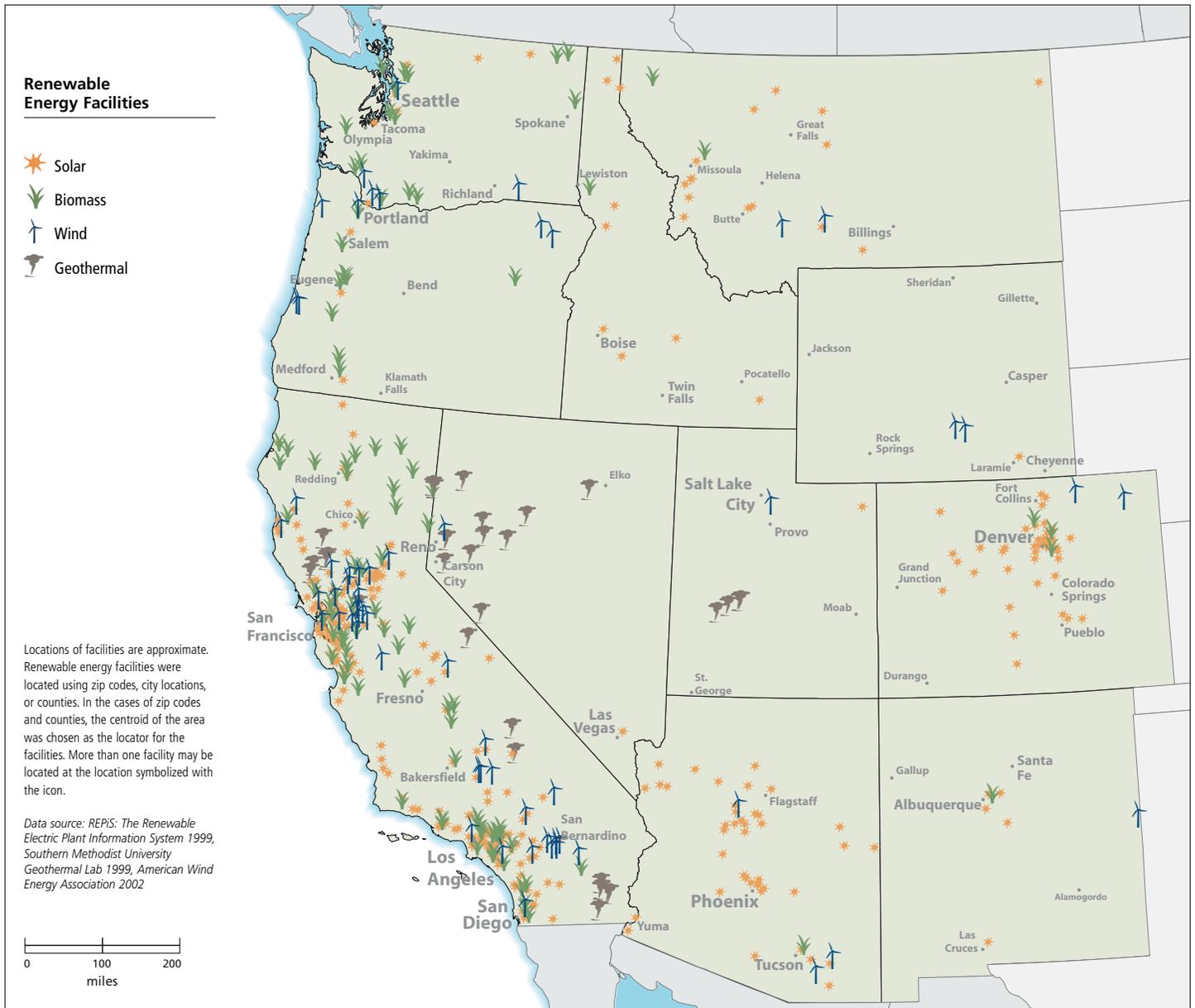
The West is home to 45% of the nation's installed renewable energy capacity. California leads the country in renewables development, single-handedly comprising nearly 80% of the West's installed capacity. While the map below demonstrates California's dominance, it also shows the emergence of significant renewables installations in each of the other states.



Renewable Energy Facilities – Location

Renewable energy facilities, ranging from small household rooftop photovoltaic systems to large-scale geothermal power plants, have been installed across the region. The clean energy facilities shown below represent projects listed in the DOE REPIs database.

While the wind, geothermal and biomass facilities are generally utility-scale projects, the solar facilities shown here are mainly residential-scale, less than 10kW.



Policies Encouraging Renewable Energy

Across the West, a number of states have adopted policies supporting the development of renewable energy technologies. By fostering demand and providing financial incentives, these policies play a significant role in developing a market for these emerging technologies. In addition, many electric utility providers and local governments have developed programs to encourage renewables, such as green power purchase options and net metering.

Further, new renewables are being funded by “green tags,” certificates representing the environmental benefits of clean power and sold nationally. It is important to note that renewable energy policies and programs vary widely in scope and funding levels from state to state, resulting in different levels of actual development of renewables. In-depth descriptions of policies are provided in the Glossary and state sections.

