



# Monthly Energy Update

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## Sierra Club Study Gives Failing Grade to PacifiCorp on Energy Transition

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Climate activists aren't impressed with the pace of PacifiCorp's retreat from fossil-fuel generated electricity. The Portland-based company got an F from the Sierra Club in a new report that grades electric utilities on their plans to retire coal plants while avoiding new natural gas generation and adding renewables by 2030.

PacifiCorp wasn't the only poor performer: The report analyzed 79 U.S. operating companies owned by the 50 parent companies "most invested in fossil-fuel generation." Just 12 earned a grade of B or better and 44 got a failing mark.

In resource plans, PacifiCorp has said it expects to retire 16 of its 24 coal units by 2030. That same year, the six-state utility will have to stop including coal generation in its Pacific Power rates in Oregon under a 2016 state law.

"Pacific Power is decarbonizing its generation mix and transitioning away from coal-fired plants aggressively while remaining mindful of the cost to customers and to the communities we have been part of for more than a century," the company said in an email statement responding to the report's release.

One reason for the big gap between the pictures painted by PacifiCorp and the Sierra Club: The report says PacifiCorp has firmly committed to retiring just four coal units by 2030, translating to 8% of its coal generation in 2019.

That would leave PacifiCorp burning more coal in 2030 than any operating company in the country, according to the report.

The discrepancy in what constitutes a retirement commitment aside, the report highlights the distance coal-heavy utilities, like PacifiCorp, have to travel in delivering the change that climate scientists say is needed.

In 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change set a goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius in order to avoid a host of ill impacts that would come even if the temperature increase were limited to 2 degrees. Staying under the lower ceiling, the U.N. panel said, "would require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society."

PacifiCorp is finishing off one \$3 billion investment in renewable

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