



Fast company coal is now solar

Will Xcel layoff workers at the Sherco coal plant?

In Minnesota, Xcel is promising no layoffs for workers at the Sherco coal plant. "We really need them to stay at those coal plants until the end of (the plant's) life because they do provide critical reliability and energy for our communities," Long said.

Is the coal plant on its way out?

The polluting coal plant is on its way out, scheduled for retirement in the next five years. It's generated billions of dollars' worth of electricity in its 50-year life, but the most valuable of its parts is the plug -- how it connects to the grid that powers our homes.

Will Xcel Energy close all its coal power plants in 2026?

Xcel Energy plans to close the others in 2026 and 2030, adding to the decline not only in coal but in fossil fuels in general. (Some of the buildings are expected to be repurposed for future clean energy projects.) In all, the company said, it has closed 24 of its 36 coal-fired power plant units across the country.

Why are coal plants closing?

Coal plants have been steadily closing over the last two decades, driven largely by economics (though in Illinois, the Peoria plant closed after a lawsuit over its air pollution). More than 350--more than half of all the plants--have retired since 2010, or have plans to shut down.

Why do utilities keep coal plants running?

But because coal plants can run for 60 years, and utilities can pass the costs along to consumers, some utilities keep them running while they pay off the initial cost of building the plant.

What is Xcel Energy's Sherco solar farm?

Solar panels sit on acres of old farmland in Becker, Minnesota-- part of Xcel Energy's massive Sherco solar project. For Pete Wyckoff, who serves as the Minnesota Commerce Department's deputy commissioner of energy resources, the Sherco solar farm represents a chance to produce energy locally. "We're a good wind and solar state," Wyckoff said.

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Solar lifetime environmental impacts compared to coal. Solar is approximately 20 times more environmentally friendly per kilowatt-hour generated than coal. ... Solar energy is now just as economical as coal energy, if not cheaper in some circumstances. Some solar panel systems can even generate electricity for less than half the cost of coal.



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Wind and solar power comprised just 4.6% of global electricity in 2015. The share has now more than doubled, to 10.3%. ... That share was higher than coal, which generated 36% of the world's ...

In Louisiana, where a coal plant closed last year, a new solar farm is planned that could power 45,000 homes. In Hawaii, where the last-ever shipment of coal arrived in July, a huge battery storage...

Gao said that China should focus its resources on better connecting wind and solar power to the grid rather than building more coal power plants. Coal provides more than 60% of the country's ...

As absentee landowners--coal companies, timber companies, speculators--invested in resource extraction, the wealth generated by these resources left the region, enriching the already wealthy.

Since 2009, the prices of wind and solar power have decreased by an astonishing 72% and 90%, respectively, and they are now the cheapest electricity sources--although some challenges still exist.

The state now has nearly 47 gigawatts of solar installed, both on rooftops and in sprawling, utility-scale solar farms. Rooftop solar helps reduce demand from the grid, since homeowners can use ...

The charts below plot the installation costs of solar and coal power plants and our estimates of the LCOE for each plant. ... this is a phenomenally fast decline and is hard to envisage given the fact that solar module prices - while also much lower than in recent years - are currently \$0.33 /W. ... (e.g. Northern Europe and Northeast Asia ...

Twice as many people now work in solar than in the coal industry, according to a new survey from the nonprofit Solar Foundation. While 40 coal plants were retired in the U.S. in 2016, and no...

Solar shingles--roofing material that also generates power--could provide a huge amount of electricity if installed widely, and just got a lot easier to make. Is this the future of solar power?

Xcel Energy is replacing its massive coal plant in Becker, Minnesota, with a 710-megawatt solar farm, reigniting debate over what society owes rural coal towns struggling amid the energy transition.

A 2012 Caltech study found that it could cost just \$2.6 billion to capture an asteroid and bring it into orbit near Earth, making human exploration and robotic mining that much easier. "We ...

Between 2008 and 2022, India added the third-most solar power capacity of any country--behind only China and the United States--and the sixth-most wind power, according to the Global Energy Monitor.

In Massachusetts, coal plants near the coast will soon connect with offshore wind power. In Minnesota, a 3,500-acre solar farm will soon be built next to a coal plant that is being shut down in ...



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" I'm from the coalfields," Kelly, who grew up in eastern Kentucky and now lives in southwestern Virginia, said. " And you have to understand. Coal mining is not just a job. The coal industry is not just an employer. It's not like Walmart. [Coal companies] built towns, they built schools, they built churches, they made their own money.

Another coal plant not far away, ... is now a massive solar farm. ... Adele Peters is a senior writer at Fast Company who focuses on solutions to climate change and other global challenges, ...

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A coal-fired power plant that started running more than a century ago is about to get a long-overdue retirement, and its electricity will be replaced by a solar farm and a battery storage system ...

Three years ago, the EPA struck a deal with the owners of the largest coal plant in the Western U.S. to close the plant by 2044. Now-because of economics, not regulation-the owners plan to ...



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