

How electricity moves from nature to your home

Hydropower is renewable energy made by water. The water cycle replenishes hydropower's fuel source in the form of ① precipitation. Melting mountain ② snowpack feeds rivers in spring and summer. The flowing river spins turbines at ③ hydroelectric dams, creating low-cost, carbon-free electricity. Dams also protect downstream communities by preventing flooding. Some dams hold back the river in ④ reservoirs so the water can be used later. Reservoirs also support recreation activities. The river provides flexible, reliable power that helps balance the variability of ⑤ wind and solar energy. ⑥ Navigation locks alongside dams enable boat navigation. River water is used to ⑦ irrigate farms. High voltage ⑧ transmission lines carry electricity to ⑨ substations where its voltage is reduced. Smaller ⑩ power lines carry electricity to communities.

**HYDRO
POWER
FLOWS HERE**

