

COAL

POWERS THE WORLD

WHAT IS COAL?



Coal is a dark sedimentary rock made from plants that were buried and decayed in swamps over 65 million years ago.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?



Coal is used for:
Electricity
Steel Making
BBQ Briquettes
Fibers & Foams

Coal is the most abundant and least expensive fossil fuel. More than 30% of Saskatchewan's electricity comes from coal-fired power plants. Emerging technologies like Carbon Capture and Storage are being used to reduce carbon emissions.



6
C
Carbon

3



HOW IS IT MINED?



A dragline is a crane-like machine with a bucket that scoops layers of soil to uncover the coal seam. The coal is then dumped by loaders into haul trucks transporting it to the hopper. Coal is loaded on railcars and delivered to the power plant.

WHERE IN SK?

Coal is found in southern Saskatchewan around Estevan and Coronach.

DID YOU KNOW?



After coal is removed, the soil is put back and the land is either used for farming or it is turned into wetlands.

DID YOU KNOW?

A dragline is so big and heavy that moving it on tires is impossible. It moves by walking on "shoes" on either side of the machine.

Each shoe is the size of a small house! The "shoes" lift its base partially off the ground and drag it backwards.

