

# **Water power**

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# Information on water electricity

In 2006, hydroelectricity supplied around 20% of the world's electricity. Most hydroelectric power stations use water held in dams to drive turbines and generators which turn mechanical energy into electrical energy. The largest hydroelectric power station in the world is the Three Gorges Dam in China.



# FACTS

- Hydroelectricity is a renewable energy but the building of the large facilities needed to make it can have negative effects on the environment.
- the most common type of watermill grinds grains into flour.
- "Hydro" means "water" in Greek - so "hydro power" is made from water.
- The first hydroelectric power plant in the U.S. opened on the Fox River near Appleton, Wisconsin, in 1882.

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