

Fuel Switching Encyclopedia Article

Fuel Switching

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Fuel Switching

Fuel switching is the substitution of one energy source for another in order to meet requirements for heat, power, and/or electrical generation. Generally, this term refers to the practices of some industries that can substitute among **natural gas**, electricity, **coal**, and LPG within 30 days without modifying their fuel-consuming equipment and that can resume the same level of production following the change. The **U.S. Department of Energy** estimates that among manufacturers in 1991, 2.8 quadrillion Btus of energy consumption could be switched from a total consumption of about 20.3 quadrillion Btus, representing about 14%. Price is the primary reason for fuel switching; however, additional factors may include environmental regulations, agreements with energy or fuel suppliers, and equipment capabilities.