

## Refined coal-briquette: Production & Distribution

### Production

- The government banned burning raw coal in Ulaanbaatar in May 2019 as a measure to curb air pollution.
- A state-owned company – Tavan Tolgoi Fuel LLC - was set up to produce refined coal briquettes.
- It has three production factories around UB: Eastern, Central, and Western.
- Washed coal is transported from a Tavan Tolgoi LC - private coal mine (Tsogttsetsii soum, Umnugobi province), 560 km from UB, to these factories.
- Ulaanbaatar residents annually consume 600,000 tons of coal.
- Tavan Tolgoi Fuel's annual production capacity through three factories is 2 million tons.

### Distribution

- Three factories produce and package briquettes.
- Transportation from the factories to distribution points is contracted to private truck companies through public procurement.
- Coal distribution points apply for permits to run the business across ger areas of UB.
- As of Jan 2023, there are 645 distribution points are in operation.

### Purchase

- Khoroo offices distribute the electronic cards to those who are only registered with khoroo offices. If lost, people buy cards at 80 cents from customer centers in UB run by Tavan Tolgoi Fuel.
- The weekly quota of card is renewed automatically. Users pay for the coal directly to distribution centers.
- Each household is eligible for 7 bags of briquette every week based on the government decision dated Jan 3, 2023.
- The price for 7 bags is USD 7.6; each bag is USD 1.08.

Process:  
Mining Sites → Coal Factories → Distribution Points → Households

### Challenges

- Before the ban on raw coal, most families, who could afford to pay in bulk and transportation, used to stock up on coal before the winter. Due to the weekly limits

on refined briquettes, people may be burning less to keep fuel from running out before the end of the week.

- Weekly coal procurement creates mobility inequalities for some households, that do not own cars, especially for women, elders, and people with disability.
- Depending on the insulation, family size, and heating needs, some claim 6 bags of briquette each week is insufficient. Due to the overwhelming amounts of complaints, the government issued a decision to raise the limit to 7 bags, dated Jan 3, 2023.

### Sources

- 1) Tavan Tolgoi Fuel LLC. <https://tvt.mn/page/factory>
- 2) Map of the coal distribution points in UB: <https://tvt.mn/point>
- 3) Soomin Jun. Is the Raw Coal Ban a Silver Bullet to Solving Air Pollution in Mongolia?: A Study of the Mongolian Government's Air Pollution Reduction Policies and Recommendations in the Context of COVID-19. Princeton University. 2021. <https://jpia.princeton.edu/news/raw-coal-ban-silver-bullet-solving-air-pollution-mongolia-study-mongolian-governments-air>
- 4) Ulaanbaatar stocked up on 60,000 tons of coal briquette in the upcoming winter. 2019. <https://montsame.mn/en/read/235035>

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