

# The EPA's Clean Power Plan:

## Carbon Limits Will Cut Pollution, Lower Bills, Create Jobs, Save Lives and Keep the Lights On

To protect public health and combat climate change, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed setting the first-ever limits on carbon pollution from the nation's existing power plants, aiming to cut this heat-trapping pollution 30 percent by 2030. The EPA's Clean Power Plan will, when in place, reduce carbon pollution by hundreds of millions of tons, cut emissions of harmful particle pollution, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides by hundreds of thousands of tons per year, and provide vital health protections to our most vulnerable citizens, such as children and older Americans.

### WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE CLEAN POWER PLAN'S IMPACTS?

It could lower consumer and business electric bills by as much as \$37 billion, create as many as 274,000 efficiency-related jobs across the country, prevent more than 16,000 climate-related illnesses, save billions in medical costs, and help maintain a reliable electric supply.

### AMERICANS' ELECTRIC BILLS WILL DROP

- The Clean Power Plan will put Americans to work making the U.S. electricity system less polluting and our homes and businesses more efficient, shrinking electricity bills by roughly 8 percent in 2030, according to the EPA.<sup>1</sup>
- Stronger standards limiting power plant carbon pollution could save American households and businesses \$37.4 billion on their electric bills in 2020, according to an analysis done by ICF International, a well-respected firm that studies electricity markets.<sup>2</sup>
- This would generate particularly significant savings in Illinois (\$803 million), Michigan (\$1 billion), Iowa (\$235 million), Ohio (\$903 million), Pennsylvania (\$456 million), North Carolina (\$713 million), and Virginia (\$1 billion).<sup>3</sup>
- And on a personal level, this would help many families save more than \$100 on their electricity bills in 2020.



For more  
information,  
please  
contact:

**Pete Altman**  
paltman@nrdc.org  
 switchboard.nrdc.org/  
blogs/paltman

[www.nrdc.org/policy](http://www.nrdc.org/policy)  
[www.facebook.com/nrdc.org](https://www.facebook.com/nrdc.org)  
[www.twitter.com/nrdc](https://www.twitter.com/nrdc)

## EFFICIENCY-RELATED JOBS WILL RISE

- The EPA's proposed carbon pollution limits can create as many as 274,000 efficiency-related jobs, according to a Natural Resources Defense Council study.<sup>4</sup>
- Because the bulk of investments in energy efficiency focus on making our buildings and homes more efficient, such investments create thousands of jobs that require a broad range of homegrown expertise in industries that were especially hard hit by the recession. There will be more work for electricians, heating/air-conditioning installers, carpenters, construction equipment operators, roofers, insulation workers, industrial truck drivers, construction managers, and building inspectors.
- There will be demand for machinists to manufacture energy efficient appliances, construction workers to build efficient homes and buildings or weatherize existing ones, service providers to do energy audits and install efficient technologies, and engineers and programmers to design and improve building energy management systems, according to the EPA.<sup>5</sup>

## THE BENEFITS FAR OUTWEIGH THE COSTS

The Clean Power Plan can deliver public health and climate benefits worth an estimated **\$55 billion to \$93 billion** per year in 2030, far outweighing the costs of **\$7.3 billion to \$8.8 billion**.<sup>6</sup>

Reducing exposure to particle pollution and ozone in 2030 will help **avoid**:

- **2,700 to 6,600** premature deaths
- **140,000 to 150,000** asthma attacks in children
- **340 to 3,300** heart attacks
- **2,700 to 2,800** hospital admissions
- **470,000 to 490,000** missed school and work days

## ENDNOTES

1 EPA, "Why We Need a Cleaner, More Efficient Power Sector."

2 NRDC, "New Carbon Pollution Standards."

3 Ibid.

4 Natural Resources Defense Council (hereinafter NRDC). "New Carbon Pollution Standards Can Save American Households \$13 Billion on Electric Bills, Create 274,000 Jobs," <http://www.nrdc.org/air/pollution-standards/state-benefits.asp>.

5 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (hereinafter EPA). "Why We Need a Cleaner, More Efficient Power Sector," Clean Power Plan Fact Sheet, <http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-05/documents/20140602fs-benefits.pdf>.

6 EPA. "By the Numbers: Cutting Carbon Pollution from Power Plants," Clean Power Plan Fact Sheet, <http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-06/documents/20140602fs-important-numbers-clean-power-plan.pdf>.

7 EPA, "Why We Need a Cleaner, More Efficient Power Sector."

From the soot and smog reductions alone, for every dollar invested through the Clean Power Plan, American families will see **up to seven dollars** in health benefits.

## WE'LL RETAIN RELIABLE ENERGY

- For 40 years, our country has been able to both implement the Clean Air Act and keep the lights on. The Clean Power Plan will not change that.
- States, cities, businesses, and homeowners have been working for years to increase energy efficiency and reduce growth in demand for electricity. The EPA projects that the Clean Power Plan will continue—and accelerate—this trend.
- There will be enough capacity across the U.S. electricity system to meet the anticipated level of demand.
- Coal, oil, and natural gas will continue to have an important role in a diverse U.S. energy mix for years—with coal and natural gas remaining the two leading sources of electricity generation, each providing more than 30 percent of projected generation in 2030, according to the EPA.<sup>7</sup>
- Grid operators know how to plan to meet changing grid needs, we have invested billions in new transmission infrastructure to move power around the country, and we are investing billions more, according to John Moore, senior attorney and energy expert at the Natural Resources Defense Council.
- While energy efficiency has surged, so too has renewable energy. Together these trends have reduced consumer costs and the need for coal and other power sources.