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# EPA's Clean Power Plan: Protecting the Climate, Cleaning the Air

## Why We Need the Clean Power Plan

Climate change is disrupting normal weather patterns, inflicting storms, floods and drought, and worsening our health. The Clean Power Plan (CPP) can help. It is the first national plan aimed at curbing emissions of carbon dioxide from coal-fired power plants. It's designed to achieve 30% reductions of carbon pollution from the power sector by 2030 (from 2005 levels).

**Why set carbon limits?** Power plants are the largest source of carbon pollution in the U.S., accounting for roughly one-third of all domestic greenhouse gas emissions. Carbon pollution leads to climate disruption. Children, the elderly and the poor are most vulnerable to a range of climate-related health effects, such as:

- Heat waves and drought;
- Worsening smog;
- Increased intensity of extreme weather events like hurricanes, extreme precipitation and flooding;
- Increased range of ticks and mosquitoes, which can spread Lyme disease and West Nile virus.

**Benefits:** Setting limits to carbon pollution will slow the tide of climate change, provide incentives to develop clean energy sources like solar and wind, and increase energy efficiency. The Clean Power Plan will create



*The CPP will reduce pollution and protect our health and environment.*

health and climate benefits worth an estimated \$55 billion to \$93 billion in 2030. It will avoid 2,700 to 6,600 premature deaths and 140,000 to 150,000 asthma attacks in children.

**State Flexibility:** A cornerstone of the CPP is the flexibility given to states to develop their own implementation plans. States can choose to improve energy efficiency, improve power plant operations, and encourage reliance on low-carbon and zero-emitting energy sources. Together, these strategies make up the best system for reducing carbon pollution.

If the right decisions are made, the CPP can be a major route to increasing use of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency, avoiding use of natural gas and nuclear power, and providing good jobs for local communities.

## TAKE ACTION!

The Clean Power Plan is the biggest opportunity we have on climate and clean energy!

To take advantage of this opportunity, PSR is organizing and mobilizing its members and other health professionals and community members to advocate for healthy energy in their state clean power plans. We invite you to join a state-based **Climate Health Action Team** in order to strengthen and defend the CPP.

### *Join a Climate Health Action Team:*

Under the Clean Power Plan, each state will decide how best to cut carbon emissions from its electrical power sector.

To build support for strong state-based Clean Power Plans that rely on energy efficiency and renewable energy (wind and solar), Climate Health Action Teams will:

- Meet together (if possible) and call in to monthly national webinars to learn specifics about the CPP and the importance and value to health of energy efficiency and renewable energy;
- Advocate for a truly health-protective energy system based on energy efficiency and sustainable energy by taking monthly actions (writing to decision-makers, writing op-eds and letters, educating state legislators, etc.);
- Join with other state-based coalitions to advocate for clean and healthy energy.

**Interested in becoming active with the Climate Health Action Teams? Contact PSR's Climate Organizer Paz Artaza-Regan at [partazaregan@psr.org](mailto:partazaregan@psr.org) or 202-587-5251**



*Third Year Medical Student Gunjan Malhotra*

### *Resources for further information:*

- 1) To learn more about Climate Health Action Teams: <http://www.psr.org/environment-and-health/climate-change/climate-health-action-teams/>
- 2) To learn about how climate change is a threat to health: <http://www.psr.org/environment-and-health/climate-change/>
- 3) A PSR factsheet: "Climate change: the Health Impacts" by Physicians for Social Responsibility: <http://www.psr.org/assets/pdfs/climate-change-the-health-impacts.pdf>
- 4) EPA's Clean Power Plan Proposed Rule: <http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/clean-power-plan-proposed-rule>
- 5) "The Clean Power Plan: A Climate Game Changer" by Union of Concerned Scientists: <http://bit.ly/1EHUyUo>

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