

# 6 Things Every American Should Know About the Clean Power Plan

*By EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, August 3, 2015*

Today, President Obama will unveil the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Clean Power Plan—a historic step to cut the carbon pollution driving climate change.

Here are six key things every American should know:

## **1. IT SLASHES THE CARBON POLLUTION FUELING CLIMATE CHANGE.**

Carbon pollution from power plants is our nation's biggest driver of climate change—and it threatens what matters most – the health of our kids, the safety of our neighborhoods, and the ability of Americans to earn a living. The Clean Power Plan sets common sense, achievable state-by-state goals to cut carbon pollution from power plants across the country. Building on proven local and state efforts, the Plan puts our nation on track to cut carbon pollution from the power sector 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030, all while keeping energy reliable and affordable.

## **2. IT PROTECTS FAMILIES' HEALTH.**

The transition to clean energy is happening even faster than we expected—and that's a good thing. It means carbon and air pollution are already decreasing, improving public health each and every year. The Clean Power Plan accelerates this momentum, putting us on pace to cut this dangerous pollution to historically low levels. Our transition to cleaner energy will better protect Americans from other kinds of harmful air pollution, too. By 2030, we'll see major reductions of pollutants that can create dangerous soot and smog, translating to significant health benefits for the American people. In 2030, we'll avoid up to 3,600 fewer premature deaths; 90,000 fewer asthma attacks in children; 1,700 fewer hospital admissions; and avoid 300,000 missed days of school and work. The Clean Power Plan is a historic step forward to give our kids and grandkids the cleaner, safer future they deserve.

## **3. IT PUTS STATES IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT.**

The Clean Power Plan sets uniform carbon pollution standards for power plants across the country—but sets individual state goals based on states' current energy mix and where they have opportunities to cut pollution. States then customize plans to meet their goals in ways that make sense for their communities, businesses, and utilities. States can run their more efficient plants more often, switch to cleaner fuels, use more renewable energy, and take advantage of emissions trading and energy efficiency options.

Because states requested it, EPA is also proposing a model rule states can adopt right away—one that's cost-effective, guarantees they meet EPA's requirements, and will let

**Over Please**



their power plants use interstate trading right away. But states don't have to use our plan—they can cut carbon pollution in whatever way makes the most sense for them.

#### **4. IT'S BUILT ON INPUT FROM MILLIONS OF AMERICANS.**

The Clean Power Plan reflects unprecedented input from the American people, including 4.3 million comments on the draft plan and input from hundreds of meetings with states, utilities, communities, and others. When folks raised questions about equity and fairness, we listened. That's why EPA is setting uniform standards to make sure similar plants are treated the same across the country.

When states and utilities expressed concern about how fast states would need to cut emissions under the draft Plan, we listened. That's why the Clean Power Plan extends the timeframe for mandatory emissions reductions to begin by two years, until 2022, so utilities will have time to make the upgrades and investments they need to.

But to encourage states to stay ahead of the curve and not delay planned investments, or delay starting programs that need time to pay off, we're creating a Clean Energy Incentive Program to help states transition to clean energy faster.

It's a voluntary matching fund program states can use to encourage early investment in wind and solar power projects, as well as energy efficiency projects in low-income communities. Thanks to the valuable input we heard from the public, the final rule is even more fair and more flexible, while cutting more pollution.

#### **5. IT WILL SAVE US BILLIONS OF DOLLARS EVERY YEAR.**

With the Clean Power Plan, America is leading by example—showing the world that climate action is an incredible economic opportunity. By 2030, the net public health and climate-related benefits from the Clean Power Plan are estimated to be worth \$45 billion every year. And, by design, the Clean Power Plan is projected to cut the average American's monthly electricity bill by 7% in 2030. We'll get these savings by cutting energy waste and beefing up energy efficiency across the board—steps that make sense for our health, our future, and our wallets.

#### **6. IT PUTS THE U.S. IN A POSITION TO LEAD ON CLIMATE ACTION.**

Today, the U.S. is generating three times more wind energy and 20 times more solar power than when President Obama took office. And the solar industry is adding jobs 10 times faster than the rest of the economy. For the first time in nearly three decades, we're importing less foreign oil than we're producing domestically—and using less overall.

Our country's clean energy transition is happening faster than anyone anticipated—even as of last year when we proposed this rule. The accelerating trend toward clean power, and the growing success of energy efficiency efforts, mean carbon emissions are already going down, and the pace is picking up. The Clean Power Plan will secure and accelerate these trends, building momentum for a cleaner energy future.

Climate change is a global problem that demands a global solution. With the Clean Power Plan, we're putting America in a position to lead.