

#GREEN FOR ALL

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S CLEAN POWER PLAN: BUILDING HEALTH, WEALTH, and OPPORTUNITY for COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

What is the Clean Power Plan?

The Clean Power Plan is a federal rule that will reduce pollution from power plants. Coal-fired power plants are our country's largest single source of climate change pollution. They are also responsible for a number of health problems that disproportionately affect people of color. The plan gives states the flexibility to implement their own systems for reducing pollution while maintaining safe, reliable, and affordable power.

What are the health impacts of the Clean Power Plan for communities of color?

- o Pollution from coal-fired power plants [kill nearly 13,000 people a year](#), according to the American Lung Association.
- o 78 percent of African Americans live within 30 miles of a polluting coal plant, [according to NAACP](#).
- o [One in six African American kids and one in nine Latino kids suffers from asthma.](#)
- o The Clean Power Plan will prevent up to [150,000 asthma attacks and 6,600 premature deaths annually by 2030](#).
- o The plan will dramatically slash the pollution that causes climate change. It will reduce carbon emissions from the power sector [30 percent by 2030—the equivalent of taking two-thirds of the cars in America off the road](#).
- o Climate change puts people of color at risk.
- o African Americans living in L.A. are more than twice as likely to die in a heat wave ([Scientific American](#)), and unchecked climate change will lead to more severe and frequent heat waves.
- o African Americans are more likely to live in coastal areas and are at greater risk for displacement from the flooding and sea level rise caused by climate change. ([NAACP](#))

What are the economic impacts of the Clean Power Plan?

The Clean Power Plan will encourage the growth of more modern, clean sources of energy like solar and wind, along with energy efficiency technology. As these industries grow, so will jobs and opportunity.

- o The Clean Power Plan will create a net increase of 360,000 jobs by 2020, according to [a new report by the Economic Policy Institute](#).
- o A [July 2015 Synapse study of the Clean Power Plan](#) shows that if states use high levels of clean energy and energy efficiency the U.S can save \$40 billion in total electric system costs by 2030.
- o The plan will bring health benefits worth an estimated [\\$55 billion to \\$93 billion per year in 2030](#), according to EPA.

Will the Clean Power Plan increase household electricity bills?

No. Despite what the fossil fuel industry wants us to believe, the Clean Power Plan will actually *decrease* utility costs for most Americans.

- o By 2030, the Clean Power Plan will save Americans about \$8 a month on their household electricity bill, [according to EPA](#).

- For the two-thirds of residential consumers who participate in ratepayer-funded energy efficiency programs under the Clean Power Plan, monthly electricity bills are expected to be \$14 per month cheaper than they were in 2012, according to Synapse.

What can communities do to ensure that the Clean Power Plan creates better health and opportunity for hard-hit Americans?

First, we need to defend the Clean Power Plan from attacks.

- The fossil fuel industry is pouring millions of dollars into undermining President Obama's plan. A key part of their strategy is to claim that people of color don't want clean air safeguards, and that the president's plan will hurt us.
- We have a chance to drive clean energy investments and jobs that the plan creates towards the communities that are hit hardest.
- California is already doing this; the state has raised \$272 million for disadvantaged communities—investments in transit, affordable housing, and energy efficiency.

Green For All, an initiative of Dream Corps, works to build an inclusive green economy strong enough to lift people out of poverty. Our goal is to make sure people of color have a place and a voice in the climate movement. That our neighborhoods are strong, resilient, and healthy. That as the clean energy economy grows, it brings jobs and opportunity to our communities.