



Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet

Don't Let Coal Choke Our Future

From smog to mercury to CO₂, coal-fired power plants are one of the largest sources of dangerous air pollution in the United States.

The consequences for human hearts and lungs are staggering. Yet plans are on the table to build dozens of new polluting coal-fired power plants across the country, increasing the health threats for both nearby communities and those downwind.

We need to act now to protect our children and grandchildren, not only from harmful air pollution, but also from global warming.

Together these plants will produce millions of tons of global warming pollution each year—dramatically increasing our carbon dioxide emissions at a time when we need to be reducing them.

Scientists tell us that to avoid the worst consequences of global warming we need to reduce our global warming emissions 80 percent by 2050—that's an achievable 2 percent a year. But building new coal-fired power plants will make it almost impossible to meet our emissions reduction goals.

Each year in the United States, pollution from coal-fired power plants causes:

- 21,000 hospitalizations
- 38,000 heart attacks
- 24,000 deaths

Source: Clear the Air



There are better, cleaner solutions. By focusing on increasing efficiency and investing in renewable energy we can make these plants unnecessary, protect our health and embrace the "green" economy of the 21st century. Investing in efficiency and renewable energy technologies available today could create over 3.3 million clean, good-paying jobs in the U.S. and help boost local economies.*

Visit www.sierraclub.org/coal to learn more.

* Apollo Alliance, "Apollo Jobs Report: New Energy for America." January 2004

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