

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has finalized a rule to reduce carbon pollution from existing power plants—a critical step to address climate change in the U.S. The rule, dubbed the Clean Power Plan, asks each state to design its own strategy to achieve carbon reduction targets by 2030. It offers Ohio a great opportunity not just to reduce climate change, but to lower electricity bills and boost the state economy.

Basics on the Clean Power Plan in Ohio

In August 2015, the EPA finalized a rule to curb carbon pollution from existing power plants. The EPA has set a 37 percent emission reduction target by 2030 for Ohio. States must submit their plans for compliance with the Clean Power Plan starting in the summer of 2016.

The EPA rule will require Ohio to reduce its carbon emissions, but it also offers the state a significant opportunity to save its consumers money and boost its economy. **A Public Citizen analysis projects that the Clean Power Plan will cut Ohio electricity bills up to 14.1 percent by 2030.**

The state should seize the opportunity to serve its citizens—who overwhelmingly support more investment in clean energy¹—by restoring its clean and cost-effective energy standards. In fact, Ohio can not only meet the Clean Power Plan target, but achieve even greater reductions if the state renews its commitment to deploy renewable energy and energy efficiency.

A strong Ohio carbon pollution plan would also enhance economic opportunity, sharpening Ohio's

competitive edge, bringing down energy costs and creating jobs in the state.

The Clean Power Plan Will Cut Ohioans' Electricity Bills

- Based on the EPA's conservative data, by 2030, electricity bills will be 7.4 to 14.1 percent lower under the Clean Power Plan, saving the average Ohio household up to \$168 annually.²
- Without the Clean Power Plan a typical Ohio household will pay roughly \$1,191 for electricity in 2030; with the Clean Power Plan it will pay \$1,023 to \$1,103.³
- Ohio could see even greater savings than the EPA's data suggest because the agency omits entire categories of efficiency measures that states can use, such as building codes and appliance standards.⁴

Promoting Energy Efficiency Benefits Ohio Consumers and the Environment

- Reports to the Public Utility Commission of Ohio show that investment in energy efficiency programs of \$456 million has resulted in savings of \$1.03 billion.⁵
- These same energy efficiency programs have helped avoid as much carbon pollution as 567,000 cars produce in a year.⁶
- Ohio can reap even more benefits from energy efficiency by expanding the state's existing energy savings target, investing in cost-effective Combined Heat and Power, updating its building

energy codes and implementing equipment standards – adopting all of these policies would save Ohioan consumers \$3.3 billion in 2030.⁷

Ohio Can Capitalize on the Expanding Clean Energy Economy

- Only 1 percent of the electricity generated in Ohio came from renewable sources in 2012, which means the state has not even scratched the surface of what's possible.
- The state ranks number 1 in the nation for wind-related manufacturing facilities, providing jobs for more than 5,000 Ohioans in 2013.⁸
- Green businesses in Ohio are growing at a rate that far outpaces the state's economy. Green technology jobs expanded by 3 percent from 2007 to 2010 while the state's economy lost 419,300 jobs over that same period.⁹
- 89,000 Ohioans had good-paying jobs at 7,200 business establishments in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation sectors as of last year.¹⁰ By contrast, the coal industry employs approximately 90,000 Americans,¹¹ but only 3,000 are Ohioans, according to the Ohio Coal Association.¹²
- Ohio averages four to five peak sun hours daily. With this level of sun energy, the state gets an estimated 40 percent more solar energy than Germany, one of the world's leaders in solar energy production.¹³

ENDNOTES

¹ PUBLIC POLICY POLLING, OHIO SURVEY RESULTS 1 (2014)

<http://pubc.it/1x1UnkK>

² See PUBLIC CITIZEN, CLEAN POWER, CLEAR SAVINGS: THE EPA CLEAN POWER PLAN WILL CUT OHIO ELECTRICITY BILLS BY 11.2 PERCENT BY 2030 (2015).

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ OHIO ADVANCED ENERGY ECONOMY, OHIO UTILITIES ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS PROGRAM COSTS VS. SAVINGS (2014), <http://pubc.it/1GfIsFl>.

⁶ FRONTIER GROUP, MOVING AMERICA FORWARD: STATE AND FEDERAL LEADERSHIP IS PRODUCING RESULTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST GLOBAL WARMING 38 (2014).

http://www.environmentohio.org/site/environment/files/reports/OH_Moving_Forward_scrn.pdf.

⁷ Sara Hayes, et al, Change Is in the Air: How States Can Harness Energy Efficiency to Strengthen the Economy and Reduce Pollution, page 27(2014).

⁸ AMERICAN WIND ENERGY ASSOCIATION, STATE WIND ENERGY STATISTICS: OHIO, <http://pubc.it/1Editwd> (last visited Oct. 4, 2014).

⁹ Amy Nordrum, Cleveland Becomes Cleantech Leader But Ohio Backtracks on Renewable Energy, INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS, Sept 11, 2014, <http://pubc.it/1yQRiUR>.

¹⁰ ENVIRONMENTAL ENTREPRENEURS , CLEAN JOBS OHIO: SIZING UP OHIO'S CLEAN ENERGY JOBS BASE AND ITS POTENTIAL (2015), https://www.e2.org/ext/doc/CleanJobsOhio_FINAL_HiRes.pdf

¹¹ U.S. ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION, ANNUAL COAL REPORT 2012 27 (2013), <http://pubc.it/1tuHPRu>.

¹² OHIO COAL ASSOCIATION, OHIO COAL QUICK FACTS, <http://pubc.it/1rSBOKt> (last visited Oct 2014).

¹³ OFFICE OF THE OHIO CONSUMERS' COUNSEL, SOLAR MAKES CENTS: A RESIDENTIAL CONSUMER'S GUIDE TO HARNESSING THE SUN'S ENERGY 4, <http://pubc.it/1A5kFXP>