

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 Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania

In August 2015, the EPA finalized a rule to curb carbon pollution from existing power plants. The EPA has set a 35 percent emission reduction target by 2030 for Pennsylvania. States must submit their plans for compliance with the Clean Power Plan starting in the summer of 2016.

The EPA rule offers a significant opportunity to save Pennsylvania electricity consumers money and boost the state economy. **A Public Citizen analysis projects that Pennsylvania energy efficiency measures under the Clean Power Plan will cut electricity bills up to 15.6 percent by 2030.**

Pennsylvania can save electricity consumers even more money if it adopts stronger energy efficiency policies. It should seize this opportunity to serve its citizens, who overwhelmingly support more investment in efficiency and clean energy.¹

The Clean Power Plan Will Cut Pennsylvanians' Electricity Bills

- Based on the EPA's conservative data, by 2030, electricity bills will be 5.5 to 15.6 percent lower under the Clean Power Plan, saving the average Pennsylvanian household up to \$186 annually.²
- Without the Clean Power Plan a typical Pennsylvania household will pay roughly \$1,194 for electricity in 2030; with the Clean Power Plan it will pay \$1,008 to \$1,047.³
- Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania Consumers and the Environment

- Pennsylvania's efficiency standard requires utilities to implement programs that help households save energy. Meeting this standard could reduce carbon pollution 11% below 2011 levels by 2020.⁵
- Through the 5th year of Pennsylvania's energy efficiency programs, residents experienced a total energy savings of 1,019,155 megawatts per year. These changes helped reduce carbon dioxide pollution by 785,423 metric tons.⁶
- Pennsylvania's energy efficiency programs are helping residents

save money. For every dollar spent on energy efficiency improvements, residents receive \$2.97 in benefits.⁷

- According to a study conducted for the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, continuing the state's investment in energy efficiency will result in benefits to Pennsylvania ratepayers ranging from \$5 billion to \$10 billion over a 10-year period beginning in 2013.⁸

Pennsylvania Can Capitalize on the Expanding Clean Energy Economy

- Pennsylvania's clean energy economy employs 118,686 people, ranking 4th in the country. Clean energy jobs amount to 2.1% of all state employment.⁹
- Pennsylvania attracted \$841 million in clean energy private investments increasing the five year total to \$3.5 billion. Over seventeen billion in investments is expected from 2014 to 2023.¹⁰
- Pennsylvania's technical potential to generate clean renewable energy has the capacity to meet 4.5 times the current electricity needs for the state.¹¹

ENDNOTES

¹ NRDC, Bipartisan Poll: Pennsylvanians Embrace Clean Energy & Climate Action, February 5, 2015, <http://www.nrdc.org/media/2015/150205.asp>.

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 WRI, Release: New Analysis Shows Pennsylvania Can Reduce Its Power Sector Emissions by 21 percent by 2020, October 18, 2013, <http://www.wri.org/news/2013/10/release-new-analysis-shows-pennsylvania-can-reduce-its-power-sector-emissions-21>.

⁶ PA PUC, ACT 129 Statewide Evaluator Annual Report: Program Year 5: June 1, 2013 – May 31, 2014, February 27, 2015, http://www.puc.pa.gov/Electric/pdf/Act129/SWE_PY5-Final_Annual_Report.pdf.

⁷ Clean Energy Wins, Clear Energy Wins: A Policy Roadmap For Pennsylvania, March 2014, http://cleanenergywins.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/CleanEnergyWins_PolicyRoadmap.pdf.

⁸ Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, ELECTRIC ENERGY EFFICIENCY POTENTIAL FOR PENNSYLVANIA, Final Report, May 10, 2012, http://www.puc.state.pa.us/electric/pdf/Act129/Act129PA_Market_Potential_Study051012.pdf.

⁹ Brookings, Sizing the Clean Economy: The Clean Economy in the State of Pennsylvania, July 2013, <http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Series/Clean-Economy/42.PDF>.

¹⁰ The PEW Charitable Trusts, Clean Economy Rising: Industrial energy efficiency thrives in Pennsylvania, Dec. 2014, http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/Assets/2014/12/Clean_Energy_PA_policy_brief.pdf.

¹¹ Clean Energy Works for Us, Pennsylvania's Clean Energy Economy: Key Facts and Resources, <http://cleanenergyworksforus.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Clean-Energy-Facts-PENNSYLVANIA.pdf>.