

# THE CLEAN POWER PLAN: An Opportunity for Iowa

The Clean Power Plan, which aims to cut carbon pollution from U.S. power plants by 32% from 2005 levels by 2030, will improve Iowa's economy, protect our communities and working lands, and strengthen our energy independence.

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## **The Clean Power Plan in Iowa**

Power plants are our nation's largest source of carbon pollution, which threatens our public health, agriculture, economy and quality of life. Despite this fact, there have been *no limits* on the amount of carbon pollution power plants can emit. The Clean Power Plan establishes these first-ever, federal limits on carbon pollution from existing power plants by setting state-specific carbon pollution reduction goals based on each state's energy portfolio. States have broad flexibility to determine how to best achieve their goal. Because Iowa is a national leader in wind energy generation and manufacturing, the state is well-equipped to meet its carbon reduction goal: Under the Clean Power Plan, Iowa has one of the least stringent state goals in the country.

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## **The Clean Power Plan Will Strengthen Iowa's Economy**

- By increasing the demand for clean energy, the Clean Power Plan will expand opportunities for wind energy development, benefitting Iowa's economy and job market. Iowa is already on track to reach its carbon reduction goal, and is perfectly positioned to benefit from an increased demand for wind energy from other states to meet their own carbon pollution reduction goals.
  - Iowa could sell its own excess wind energy generation credits to help to help other states meet their carbon pollution reduction goals, or help meet increased demand for wind turbines – boosting its robust wind industry.
  - As of 2012, Iowa's wind energy industry employed 6,000 – 7,000 people. Fifteen manufacturing facilities in Iowa currently produce wind turbine parts.
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## **The Clean Power Plan Will Protect Iowa's Communities and Working Lands**

- Carbon pollution contributes to conditions that have already had devastating impacts on the health of Iowa's communities and working lands. If carbon pollution goes unchecked, Iowa's future losses are projected to be even greater.
  - Reducing our nation's carbon pollution levels under the Clean Power Plan will help protect Iowa agriculture and working lands – an integral part of the state's economy, communities and cultural heritage.
  - Reductions in carbon pollution under the Clean Power Plan will also result in reductions of other harmful pollutants from power plants that contribute to premature deaths, asthma, heart attacks, hospital admissions and missed school and work days.
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## **The Clean Power Plan Will Increase Iowa's Energy Security**

- Per capita, Iowa remains one of the most coal-dependent states in the country -- all of which is imported from other states.
- \$590M is spent each year to import coal to Iowa, costing each Iowan \$193 a year. The Clean Power Plan will help decrease Iowa's out-of-state coal dependence and reduce the costs associated with importing coal.
- By encouraging clean energy growth, the Clean Power Plan gives Iowans the opportunity to invest in their state's own energy resources, and in turn increase Iowa's energy security and self-reliance.