



EPA's Carbon Pollution Standards for New Power Plants General Information

Q: What is the Carbon Pollution Standard for New Power Plants?

A: EPA's proposed Carbon Pollution Standard would set the first-ever, national limits on the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) that can be emitted from power plants that are built in the future.

Q: Why Do We Need the Carbon Pollution Standard?

A: Power plants are the largest source of carbon pollution in the United States and currently there are no uniform national limits on the amount of carbon pollution that new power plants can emit. EPA [determined](#) that carbon dioxide emitted from source such as cars and power plants causes climate change that endangers Americans' health and welfare. The standards will prevent the possible construction of uncontrolled, high-emitting power plants that would contribute to high levels of carbon pollution for decades to come.

Q: Does the Proposed Standard Cover Existing Power Plants?

A: No. This rule will only cover new power plants. Existing and modified power plants that are sources of carbon pollution are not subject to the standard.

Q: Does the Proposed Standard Prohibit the Use of Coal?

A: No. The standard is technology neutral. New coal-fired power plants that use carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology are in development and can meet the standard. The standard also allows new power plants to phase in carbon capture technology over a ten year period.

Q: How Does the Carbon Pollution Standard Protect Human Health?

A: Uncontrolled industrial carbon pollution from power plants is significantly harming our health. Today, 154 million Americans already suffer air pollution levels that are too dangerous. Scientists warn that climate change caused by carbon pollution is creating conditions, including warmer temperatures, which increase the risk of unhealthy ozone levels in the air we breathe. As a result of higher smog levels, respiratory illness and future lung disease will become even more prevalent.

Q: When Does the New Standard Go into Effect?

A: The rule is currently in the proposal stage. Once the rule is finalized, the carbon pollution standard will apply to any new plant built after date the rule was proposed (date published in the *Federal Register*). Power plants that already have final air permits will not be subject to the rule if they begin construction within one year.

Q: Who Supports the Carbon Pollution Standard?

A: The rule is supported by utility, businesses, labor, and environmental organizations. Supporters include: [PSE&G](#), the Small Business Majority, the Clean Energy Group, Environmental Entrepreneurs, the Main Street Alliance and the American Sustainable Business Council, the [Blue Green Alliance](#)

Q: Where Can I Find Additional Information on the Proposed Carbon Pollution Standard?

A: EPA's proposed rule can be found here: <http://www.epa.gov/airquality/cps/actions.html>. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.usclimatenetwork.org/policy/carbon-pollution-standards>

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