



INSPIRING AMERICANS TO PROTECT WILDLIFE FOR OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE.

Fact Sheet

The Clean Power Plan and Ohio

Across the United States and around the world climate change poses a dire threat to wildlife, communities, and public health. Changes to our climate are destroying critical wildlife habitat, increasing incidence of pests and invasive species, decreasing available food and water, and may even cause the rate of extinction to increase. **The Environmental Protection Agency has stepped up to address the largest source of carbon pollution in the U.S.**

What is the Clean Power Plan?

On June 2nd, 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency announced the Clean Power Plan – first-ever standards to reduce carbon pollution from existing power plants, our nation's largest source of these climate-changing emissions. The Clean Power Plan establishes state pollution targets, based on each state's particular fuel mix and emissions-reduction potential. **Once implemented, the Clean Power Plan will reduce national carbon pollution by 30% by 2030**, an important step in protecting wildlife from the impacts of climate change.

Wildlife and ecosystems are suffering because of climate change

Few fish have such a loyal fan base as the cool-water-loving **WALLEYE**. Walleye are targeted by anglers who chase these toothy predators year round – in rivers and lakes, from boats and shore, and even through the ice. However, increasing incidence of toxic algal blooms, made worse by climate change,ⁱ threaten not only this and other iconic fish species, but the future of Ohio lakes themselves.ⁱⁱ Lake Erie has suffered notoriously bad algal blooms over the past several years, hampering anglers, boaters and wildlife enthusiast's ability to enjoy the lake and hampering the lake's ability to sustain the wide range of wildlife that call it home.



Even though warming temperatures could support an increase in **BOBWHITE** populations at the northern limits of their range, hotter, drier summers can also lead to embryo mortality and nest abandonment by parent birds. Also, quail chicks rely on a diet rich in insect protein, and harsher summers could reduce the availability of such high quality prey items. Warming weather will also bring invasive fire ants to bobwhite habitat, which have been shown to harm bobwhite chicks.ⁱⁱⁱ

The Clean Power Plan's benefits to wildlife go far beyond climate change

In addition to limiting carbon pollution to combat climate change, the Clean Power Plan will also reduce numerous other pollutants that are harmful to wildlife – delivering substantial additional benefits to our country's wildlife heritage. By moving us away from dirty fossil fuels like coal, the Clean Power Plan will also help protect wildlife from coal mining practices that destroy habitat, and from leaking toxic coal waste ponds that poisons our waterways.^{iv} The Clean Power Plan is clearly a win for wildlife!

Climate change threatens Ohio's vibrant outdoor recreation economy

Outdoor recreation and tourism is a big part of Ohio's identity and economy. But climate change poses a direct threat to outdoor recreation, hunting and fishing as droughts, flooding, and higher temperatures impact fisheries and outdoor activities across the state.

- Every year, outdoor recreation generates \$17.4 billion in consumer spending and 196,000 direct Ohio jobs.^v **Of that consumer spending \$750 million is from hunting and \$1.8 billion is from fishing.**^{vi}
- At least 53% of Ohio residents participate in outdoor recreation every year.^{vii}
- In 2011, 1,342,000 anglers and 553,000 hunters traveled to Ohio to fish and hunt.^{viii}



Ohio and the Clean Power Plan

Extreme weather threatens Ohio's industry and infrastructure

Ohio is no stranger to climate-change driven extreme weather. The state has experienced increased flooding, severe storms, and droughts in recent years.

- Toxic algae blooms are becoming more common with climate change and are threatening Ohio waterways. As many as 19 public lakes, including Lake Erie, have been tainted with toxic algae.^{ix}
- In 2011, higher than normal precipitation and more ice melt than usual along the Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, and Souris River basins caused historic flooding,^x killing three people in Ohio and causing billions in damage.^{xi}
- In September 2008, remnant storm winds from Hurricane Ike left about 1 million households and businesses without power and killed three people.^{xii}



Climate change worsens algal blooms, which are harming lakes like Lake Erie, threatening their ability to sustain wildlife

Ohio is on the path to a wildlife friendly energy future

In 2012, power plants and major industrial facilities in Ohio emitted more than 130 million metric tons of carbon pollution—equal to the yearly pollution from more than 28 million cars.^{xiii} By applying the four building blocks of the Clean Power Plan, EPA estimates that Ohio can reduce these emissions by 28% by 2030.

Under the Plan, EPA estimates Ohio can generate 4.8% of their power from renewable sources in 2024^{xiv}. This is less ambitious than Ohio's own statewide renewable energy goal of achieving 12.5% by 2024.^{xv} EPA should strengthen the standard to reflect Ohio's current goal and encourage the state to go even further in promoting wind and solar projects.

Ohio can meet EPA's emissions target and grow their economy

There are clear opportunities for Ohio to reduce carbon pollution by relying on renewable energy and energy efficiency. Ohio should comply with the Clean Power Plan through continued emphasis on wildlife-friendly renewable energy and energy efficiency.

- Since 2009, the Obama Administration has supported 339 renewable energy projects in Ohio, generating enough energy to power nearly 100,000 homes.^{xi}
- In 2013, the USDA awarded small rural and agricultural businesses in Ohio over \$1.1 million in grants for efficiency and increased renewable energy use.^{xvi}
- The potential positive impacts of capping carbon pollution in Ohio could add **\$1.5 million to the economy and create over 22,500 jobs.**^{ix}

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ⁱ <http://www.toledoblade.com/Energy/2013/11/20/Scientists-Climate-change-to-worsen-Lake-Erie-algae.html>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/15/science/earth/algae-blooms-threaten-lake-erie.html?pagewanted=all&r=0>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.nwf.org/pdf/Global-Warming/CAA%20Factsheet%20-%20Ohio.pdf>

^{iv} <http://blog.nwf.org/2014/07/wildlife-benefits-of-clean-power-plan-go-way-beyond-climate-change/>

^v http://outdoorindustry.org/images/ore_reports/OH-ohio-outdoorrecreationeconomy-oia.pdf

^{vi} <https://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/fhw11-oh.pdf>

^{vii} http://outdoorindustry.org/images/ore_reports/OH-ohio-outdoorrecreationeconomy-oia.pdf

^{viii} <https://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/fhw11-oh.pdf>

^{ix} <http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/Media-Center/Reports/Archive/2013/04-29-13-Taken-By-Storm.aspx>

^x <http://www.lrd-wc.usace.army.mil/LRD-WM/OhioRiver/FloodsDroughts.html>

^{xi} <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/hic/summaries/WY2011.pdf>

^{xii} <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2008/09/15/million.html>

^{xiii} http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/OHIO_NCA_2014.pdf

^{xiv} "Goal Computation – Appendix 1 and 2." <http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/clean-power-plan-proposed-rule-technical-documents>

^{xv} <http://energy.georgetownclimate.org/clean-energy-and-climate-data?state=OH>

^{xvi} <http://www. SCORE.org/files/pdfs/states/Ohio.pdf>