



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

Fact Sheet

The Clean Power Plan and North Carolina

Across the United States and around the world, climate change poses an increasingly dire threat to wildlife, communities, and public health. Changes to our climate are destroying critical wildlife habitat, causing habitat ranges to shift, 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 our wildlife heritage from the impacts of unchecked climate change.**

North Carolina wildlife is suffering because of climate change

TROUT are on the front lines of the climate change battle. The brook trout, a cherished part of North Carolina's vibrant fishing heritage, is in decline because the species depends on clear, cold ponds and fast-flowing streams that are disappearing as a result of droughts, declining reservoir levels, and increasingly high temperatures.ⁱ



THE LESSER SCAUP, one of North Carolina's many duck species, is also feeling the pressure from increased temperatures, as the wetland breeding grounds these birds need dry up and disappear. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the continental population for lesser scaup has fallen to a record low, and the future presents enormous challenges. It is predicted that nearly 90 percent of the vital wetlands that these ducks depend on will be affected by climate change in the coming decades.ⁱⁱ

Wildlife benefits of Clean Power Plan go 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 and their habitats – delivering substantial additional benefits to our country's wildlife heritage. **According to EPA's estimates, the Clean Power Plan will remove between 424,00 to 471,00 tons of sulfur dioxide and 407,000 to 428,000 ton of nitrogen oxides, which will mean less acid rain and nitrogen pollution in lakes and estuaries.**ⁱⁱⁱ By reducing reliance on coal-burning for power generation in the U.S., the Clean Power Plan will also help protect wildlife from mining practices that destroy habitat, and from leaking toxic coal waste ponds that poison our waterways. The Clean Power Plan is clearly a win for wildlife!

Climate change threatens North Carolina's vibrant outdoor recreation economy

Outdoor recreation and tourism are a big part of North Carolina's identity and economy. Climate change poses a direct threat to these important economic benefits of outdoor activities across the state.

- Every year, outdoor recreation generations \$19.2 billion in consumer spending and 192,000 direct North Carolina jobs.^{iv} **Of that consumer spending \$525 million is from hunting and \$1.5 billion is from fishing.**^v

- At least 48% of North Carolina residents participate in outdoor recreation every year.^{vi}



PROTECTING AND RESTORING WILDLIFE HABITAT

North Carolina and the Clean Power Plan

- In 2011, 1.5 million anglers, 335 thousand hunters, and 2.4 million wildlife watchers spent over \$2.9 billion in North Carolina.^{vii}

Extreme weather threatens North Carolina's industry and infrastructure

North Carolina is no stranger to climate-change driven extreme weather. The state has dealt with both rising sea levels and droughts in recent years, causing millions of dollars in damage.

- From 1998 to 2002, a drought ravaged North Carolina and cost the agricultural industry about \$398 million.^{viii}
- Over the next decade, the sea level at the Outer Banks is expected to rise by 39 inches, destroying at least 8,500 structures and inflicting approximately \$1.4 billion in damages in Dare County alone.^{ix}

North Carolina on the path to a wildlife friendly energy future

In 2012, power plants and major industrial facilities in North Carolina emitted more than 66 million metric tons of carbon pollution, equivalent to the yearly pollution from almost 14 million cars.^x By applying the four building blocks of the Clean Power Plan, EPA estimated that North Carolina can reduce these emissions by 40% by 2030.

Under the Plan, EPA estimates North Carolina can generate 4.4% of their power from renewable sources in 2021.^{xi} **This is less ambitious than North Carolina's own statewide renewable energy goal of generating 12.5% of their electricity from renewable sources by 2021.**^{xii} **EPA should strengthen the standard to reflect North Carolina's current goal and encourage the state to go even further in promoting wind and solar projects.**

North Carolina can reduce carbon pollution and grow the economy

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

- Since 2008, North Carolina has increased its renewable energy generation from wind, solar, and geothermal sources by over 50%.^{vi}
- North Carolina sends 1.8 billion dollars a year to coal producing states and gets 38% of our power generation from those purchases.^{xiii} That money could be better spent creating North Carolina jobs with renewable energy and efficiency projects.
- **The potential positive impacts of capping carbon pollution in North Carolina could add \$903 million to the economy and create over 13,700 jobs.**^{xiv}

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ⁱ <http://www.nwf.org/pdf/Global-Warming/CAA%20Factsheet%20-%20North%20Carolina.pdf>

ⁱⁱ *ibid*

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

^{iv} http://outdoorindustry.org/images/ore_reports/NC-northcarolina-outdoorrecreationeconomy-oia.pdf

^v <https://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/fhw11-nc.pdf>

^{vi} http://outdoorindustry.org/images/ore_reports/NC-northcarolina-outdoorrecreationeconomy-oia.pdf

^{vii} <http://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/fhw11-nc.pdf>

^{viii} http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/state-reports/NORTHCAROLINA_NCA_2014.pdf

^{ix} http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/ncs-outer-banks-got-a-scary-forecast-about-climate-change-so/2014/06/24/0042c9f6-f6f3-11e3-a3a5-42be35962a52_story.html

^x http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/state-reports/NORTHCAROLINA_NCA_2014.pdf

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

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

^{xiii} <http://www.citizen-times.com/story/opinion/contributors/2014/07/05/mccrory-sign-anti-carbon-rules-letter/12183145/>

^{xiv} <http://www.citizen-times.com/story/opinion/contributors/2014/07/05/mccrory-sign-anti-carbon-rules-letter/12183145/>