



National Wildlife Federation Fact Sheet: Clean Power Plan Replacement

The CPP, Emissions Goals, and Current Status

Goal of the Clean Power Plan:

Reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector to 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.

- The CPP aims to set carbon emission performance standards for existing fossil fuel power plants (which account for about 31 percent of all U.S. carbon emissions).
- If implemented, this would be a huge step given that it would be the first time the federal government tried to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from power plants.

Action on Climate is Legally Required:

- Per a 2007 Supreme Court case, *Massachusetts v. EPA*, in 2009, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued an "Endangerment Finding," which found that current and projected levels of carbon dioxide threaten the health and human welfare of current and future generations. This finding is backed by overwhelming scientific evidence.
- The endangerment finding requires that the EPA take action to reduce carbon pollution from power plants, and repealing the CPP will not change this requirement.
- The CPP is based on a strong legal foundation and its reliance on "generation shifting" – or reducing pollution by shifting from dirtier to cleaner sources of power – is consistent with the Clean Air Act's requirement to use the "best system of emission reduction." It is also what the industry is already doing.

In order to **give states more flexibility** in achieving its goals, the CPP allows states to include efforts beyond power plant regulation, such as:

- Renewable energy portfolio standards;
- Residential and/or commercial energy efficiency programs; and
- Carbon pricing programs such as emissions trading programs.

Public Engagement:

- Under the Obama administration, more than **8 million comments** were submitted in favor of cutting carbon pollution from existing and new power plants. This included 4.3 million comments submitted during the extended [6 month public comment process](#) before the CPP was finalized (covering existing power plants). The EPA held [four](#), two-day public hearings in Washington D.C., Atlanta, Denver and Pittsburgh on the CPP. In total, there were more than 1,600 scheduled speakers for the hearings.
- The Trump administration has proposed a repeal of the Clean Power Plan. EPA initially scheduled only **one hearing** in West Virginia, a coal state, but in response to public demand added listening sessions in Wyoming, California, and Missouri.
- The EPA also asked for separate public comment on whether to replace the Clean Power Plan, once it is repealed.

A 2009 EPA "Endangerment Finding" found that current and projected levels of CO₂ threaten health and human welfare – this is backed by overwhelming scientific evidence.

Former proposed timeline for CPP implementation:

September 2018:
States must submit their proposed implementation plans for EPA review.

2022: Interim compliance to lesser standards

2030: Final compliance with the full performance standards

CPP Repeal Proposal Cancels this Timeline

Current status:

- In February 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court voted 5-4 to stay implementation of the Clean Power Plan pending the outcome of a lawsuit brought by some State Attorneys General. A lower court case reviewing the substance of the plan also was halted at the request of the EPA.
- On October 16th, 2017, former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt published a proposal to start the process to repeal the CPP, which has still not been implemented.
- EPA took public comment on the repeal proposal through April 2018. There was also a separate open public comment period for replacement options, which closed in February 2018. EPA has not yet finalized repeal.
- EPA now is proposing a “replacement” to the Clean Power Plan.

Market forces are pushing the US towards emissions reductions, regardless of CPP repeal.

Solar:

- In the last decade, the U.S. installed enough solar to power [9.1 million American](#) homes.
- A [U.S. Department of Energy study](#) found more Americans work in solar than at natural gas or coal power plants.

Wind:

- Today, over [100,000 U.S. workers](#) now have wind energy jobs, [more than](#) at coal, natural gas, nuclear or hydroelectric plants.
- The U.S. has over 53,000 utility scale wind turbines providing enough power for about 25 million homes.

Even though market trends are continuing to push emissions reductions, the Clean Power Plan is still important.

The CPP would ensure an emissions outcome nation-wide and reduce uncertainty on the transition to cleaner power generation. The CPP would:

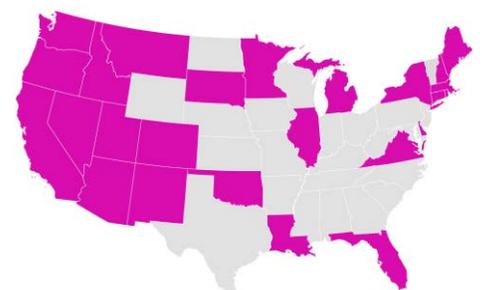
- Cut significant amounts of power plant carbon pollution and the pollutants that cause the soot and smog that harm health;
- Advance clean energy innovation, development and deployment; and
- Set the foundation for the long-term strategy needed to tackle the threat of climate change.



12 states are expected to miss targets, absent the CPP.



10 states may be close to meeting their goals, but may miss.



25 states are still likely to beat their emissions targets, despite the CPP repeal. (Maps via *The New York Times*)



Wildlife need federal solutions to climate change.