



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

Fact Sheet

The Clean Power Plan and Pennsylvania

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 even increasing the rate of species' extinction. Luckily, 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 climate-changing emissions. The Clean Power Plan establishes pollution targets for each state, 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 towards protecting our wildlife heritage from the impacts of unchecked climate change.**

Pennsylvania wildlife is suffering because of climate change

Trout are on the front lines of the climate change battle. The **BROOK TROUT**, a favorite of Pennsylvania anglers, requires clear, cold, healthy waters and populations are expected to decline with a warming climate.



Patrick Talbert



Henry McLin

The **BLACK DUCK**, another favorite Pennsylvania wildlife species, has been identified as a species susceptible to sea-level rise. In fact, one-third of the 165 species of wetlands breeding birds show medium or high vulnerability to climate change.ⁱ As rising seas and increased frequency of extreme weather events threaten the black ducks' wetland habitat, these iconic waterfowl will face an increasingly dire situation.

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 downwind of power plants.**ⁱⁱ 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.ⁱⁱⁱ The Clean Power Plan is clearly a win for wildlife!



Pennsylvania and the Clean Power Plan

Climate change threatens Pennsylvania's vibrant outdoor recreation economy

Outdoor recreation is a big part of Pennsylvania's identity and economy. But climate change poses a direct threat to outdoor recreation, hunting, and angling as drought, floods and higher temperatures impact fisheries and outdoor activities across the state.

- Every year, outdoor recreation generates \$21.5 billion in consumer spending and 219,000 direct Pennsylvania jobs.^{iv} **Of that consumer spending \$970 million is from hunting and \$485 million is from fishing.**^v
- At least 53% of Pennsylvania residents participate in outdoor recreation every year.^{vi}
- Annually, over 1.6 million people in Pennsylvania head out to watch wildlife, like elk.^{vii}



Extreme weather threatens Pennsylvania's industry and infrastructure

In Pennsylvania, climate change will include higher temperatures, more frequent heavy precipitation events, and rising sea level and sea surface temperatures. Changes in the earth's climate directly threaten communities across Pennsylvania.

- In mountainous regions, including large parts of Pennsylvania, more intense precipitation events will mean greater flood risk, particularly in valleys where people, infrastructure, and agriculture tend to be concentrated. Combined sewer overflows are a health risk for nearly 150 Pennsylvania communities, including Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.^{viii}
- Extreme heat events have long threatened public health in the United States. Many cities have suffered dramatic increases in death rates during heat waves. Cities like Philadelphia and Harrisburg experience now about 20 days per year over 90°F; by mid-century that number could more than double.^{ix}

Pennsylvania on the path to a wildlife friendly energy future

In 2012, power plants and major industrial facilities in Pennsylvania emitted more than 140 million metric tons of carbon pollution- that's equal to the yearly pollution from more than 30 million cars.^x By comparison, in 2013 there were only 8 million registered passenger cars in Pennsylvania.^{xi} **By applying the four building blocks of the Clean Power Plan, EPA estimated that Pennsylvania can reduce these emissions by 32% by 2030. There are clear opportunities for Pennsylvania to reduce carbon pollution by relying on renewable energy and energy efficiency.**



Pennsylvania and the Clean Power Plan

- EPA estimates Pennsylvania could generate 3.8% of their power from renewable sources in 2020 and 16% in 2030.^{xii} **This is a less ambitious plan than Pennsylvania's current goal of 7.5% of energy from Tier 1 renewable sources by 2020.^{xiii} While more will be needed after 2020, Pennsylvania's RPS gets the state well on the way to tapping into their vast clean energy resources to comply with the Clean Power Plan.**
- Pennsylvania could reduce total energy demand by 4.7% in 2020 and 11.7% in 2030.^{xiv} By implementing demand-side efficiency programs, such as programs to help customers reduce their energy use by insulating their windows or water-heaters.



Wind farm in Somerset, PA

Pennsylvania can reduce carbon pollution and grow the economy

Pennsylvania should comply with the Clean Power Plan through continued emphasis on wildlife-friendly renewable energy and energy efficiency.

- Since 2009, the Administration has supported 1,154 renewable energy projects in Pennsylvania, generating enough energy to power nearly 170,000 homes.^{xv}
- Pennsylvania has great potential to expand solar and wind power across the state. Pennsylvania is one of the top 10 states in the nation for installed solar power capacity.^{xvi}
- The potential positive impacts of capping carbon pollution in Pennsylvania could add \$1.7 billion to the economy and create over 26,000 jobs.^{xvii}

Contact: Lena Moffitt
Manager, Federal Policy
Climate and Energy Program
202-797-6632
moffitt.@nwf.org

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

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

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/PA-pennsylvania-outdoorrecreationeconomy-oia.pdf

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

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

^{vii} <http://www.nwf.org/sportsmen/climate-change/big-game-in-a-warming-world.aspx>

^{viii} <http://www.nrdc.org/health/climate/pa.asp>

^{ix} <http://www.nwf.org/pdf/Global-Warming/CAA%20Factsheet%20-%20Pennsylvania.pdf>

^x http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/state-reports/PENNSYLVANIA_NCA_2014.pdf

^{xi} <http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/pdotforms/stats/ReportofRegistration2013.pdf>

^{xii} EPA Clean Power Plan technical support document "Goal Computation – Appendix 1 and 2." <http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/clean-power-plan-proposed-rule-technical-documents>

^{xiii} <http://paaeps.com/credit/overview.do>

^{xiv} http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/state-reports/PENNSYLVANIA_NCA_2014.pdf

^{xv} http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/state-reports/PENNSYLVANIA_NCA_2014.pdf

^{xvi} <http://www.nrdc.org/energy/renewables/penn.asp>

^{xvii} <http://energy.georgetownclimate.org/explore-the-potential-benefits-of-capping-carbon-pollution?state=PA#state>

^{xviii} <http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-06/documents/20140602tsd-goal-computation.pdf>