



## EPA Clean Power Plan Background

On June 2, 2014, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its proposed [Carbon Pollution Standards for Existing Power Plants](#) (Clean Power Plan), per its authority under [Section 111\(d\)](#) of the Clean Air Act (CAA). The overall goal of the Clean Power Plan is to maintain an affordable, reliable energy system, while cutting pollution and protecting our health and environment now and for future generations. The Clean Power Plan would set different target emission rates for each state, as every state is unique in its generation mix and electricity consumption. Kansas will have the authority to create a customized implementation plan to meet the overall goal of reducing carbon emissions 30% by 2030.

## Why this is happening

- Currently, there are no limits on carbon emissions, unlike other pollutants.
- Fossil fuel-fired power plants are the largest source of U.S. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as they utilize natural gas, petroleum, coal or other forms of solid, liquid or gaseous fossil-fuel derived materials.
- Growing population and increasing energy needs call for a sustainable energy infrastructure that deliberately moves away from reliance on fossil fuels while maintaining system reliability.
- Many states are already moving towards cleaner and more efficient power.

## Implementation

The Clean Power Plan is flexible and achievable. States now have an opportunity to craft customized implementation plans to achieve carbon pollution reductions, including developing clean, renewable energy and deploying energy efficiency measures that will reduce usage and lower electricity bills for consumers. Kansas has the power to decide which approaches will be cost effective and efficient while securing energy system availability and reliability. States have the freedom to leverage their energy profile and homegrown advantages, such as wind and solar potential in Kansas, when reducing plant CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. [Multiple CPP approaches](#) are available:

- Measuring emissions: Mass vs. Rate Approach
- Aligning and partnering with other states: State vs. Regional Approach
- Monitoring and Enforceability: State Commitment vs. State Portfolio Approach

EPA provides 4 building blocks as examples of multiple ways to reduce carbon dioxide emissions:

1. Expansion in the use of Renewable Energy
2. Heat Rate Improvements at existing plants (energy generation efficiency)
3. Employment of the end-use Energy Efficiency to reduce overall generation required
4. Re-Dispatchment of NGCC (Natural Gas Combined Cycle) increase the average utilization of existing natural gas power plants

*The states are not limited to those building block when finding optimal ways to meet the target*

## Energy Efficiency

The implementation of the Plan by Kansas will encourage more energy efficiency and production while decreasing overall energy costs. Saving energy through efficiency can be more affordable than transmitting, and distributing energy from power plants. Plus, energy efficiency provides multiple economic and environmental benefits such as reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

## Renewable Energy

The Clean Power Plan will encourage investments in the wind and solar industries. Kansas ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation for wind potential. With over 200 sunny days a year, Kansas has a high solar energy potential. The Clean Power Plan will encourage investments in the wind and solar industries in Kansas, bringing economic development mostly to rural areas across the state.

## Why Kansas Benefits from Implementing the Clean Power Plan

- By creating and implementing a State Plan, Kansas will avoid having a Federal plan imposed on the state.

- Electricity bills are expected to decrease by roughly 8 percent in 2030. Power Plants and customers will save money through investments in low-maintenance, high-yield technologies and energy efficiency updates.
- Expanding renewable energy development and energy efficiency programs will create good paying jobs across the state.
- “The Clean Power Plan will lead to climate and health benefits worth an estimated \$55 billion to \$93 billion in 2030, including avoiding 2,700 to 6,600 premature deaths and 140,000 to 150,000 asthma attacks in children,” according to the [EPA](#). “For every dollar invested through the Clean Power Plan, American families will see up to \$7 in health benefits.”

**Next Step**

The target date for states to submit their proposed plans to EPA is mid summer of 2016, but states can apply for a one-year extension under special circumstances. The “Final Rule” is expected to be issued by the EPA today, August 3rd 2015. The Climate and Energy Project will analyze how the rule will impact Kansas. With help from a Steering Committee, CEP is developing a Clean Power Plan Blueprint which will include the current Kansas energy profile and Clean Power Plan implementation recommendations for Kansas.

For further updates, please visit <http://climateandenergy.org>, or contact us via email – [Barnett@climateandenergy.org](mailto:Barnett@climateandenergy.org) or call 785-424-0444