



# National Wildlife Federation Fact Sheet: Clean Power Plan Repeal

## The CPP, The Emissions Goals, and The 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 aimed to set carbon emission performance standards for existing fossil fuel power plants (which account for 31 percent of all U.S. carbon emissions).
- This was a huge step given that it was the first time the government tried to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from power plants.

### Legality:

- As a result of a 2007 Supreme Court case, *Massachusetts v. EPA*, in 2009, EPA issued its "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.
- This 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 emissions reduction." It is also what the industry is already doing.

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**A 2009 EPA "Endangerment Finding" found that current and projected levels of CO<sub>2</sub> threaten health and human welfare – this is backed by overwhelming scientific evidence**

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### 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 Environmental Protection Agency (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.
- In contrast, the Trump administration has proposed a repeal of the Clean Power Plan, allowing only a 3-month public comment opportunity (through January 16, 2018) and only holding **one hearing** in West Virginia, a coal state.
- This stark contrast demonstrates that the current rule repeal process is a sham. Administrator Scott Pruitt has a predetermined outcome, regardless of what he public wants.

In response to public comments, and in order to **give states more flexibility** in achieving these goals, the CPP allowed states to include efforts beyond power plant regulation, such as:

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

### Former proposed timeline for CPP implementation:

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

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2022: Interim compliance to lesser standards

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2030: Final compliance with the full performance standards

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CPP Repeal Throws This Timeline Out

## Current status:

- On February 2016 the U.S. Supreme Court voted 5-4 to stay implementation of the rule pending the outcome of the lawsuit brought by some State Attorneys. A lower court case reviewing the substance of the plan has also been halted at the request of EPA.
- On October 16th Administrator Scott Pruitt published a proposal to start the repeal process of the CPP, which had never gone into effect. There is no replacement proposed.

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

### Solar:

- The U.S. installed enough solar to power [9.1 million American](#) homes.
- The U.S. solar industry employed 260,077 workers last year, a nearly 25% increase in the number of jobs from 2015.
- 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 approximately 53,000 utility scale wind turbines providing enough power for about 25 million homes.
- Wind energy is also creating manufacturing jobs, with over [500 factories across 41 states](#) build wind turbines and parts for them

## Even though market trends are continuing to push emissions reductions, the CPP was still important.

The CPP ensured a much needed emissions outcome and reduced uncertainty. The CPP would have:

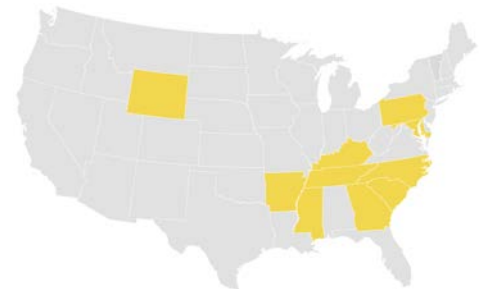
- Cut significant amounts of power plant carbon pollution and the pollutants that cause the soot and smog that harm health;
- Advanced clean energy innovation, development and deployment; and
- Set the foundation for the long-term strategy needed to tackle the threat of climate change.

## The Department of Energy has responded to the decline of coal by trying to subsidize it.

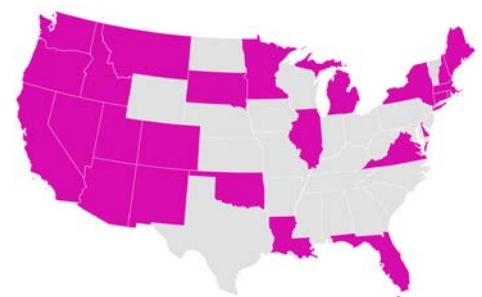
- Department of Energy Secretary Rick Perry has requested that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) [guarantee profits for both new and existing coal fired](#) and nuclear power plants that keep a three month supply of fuel on hand, essentially demanding additional subsidies from ratepayers to keep uncompetitive plants afloat and polluting.
- In combination with the proposed repeal of the CPP, subsidizing coal could significantly upset the current clean energy trends of the power sector.
- Despite rhetoric about a supposed war on coal, federal and state governments spent on average more than [\\$4 billion](#) annually incentivizing coal production in 2015 and 2016.
- Combined, the United States federal and state governments gave away \$20.5 billion a year on average in 2015 and 2016 in production subsidies to the oil, gas, and coal industries. Taxpayers are being forced to pick up a significant share of the bill – at least \$3.5 billion per year in 2015-2016.



**12 states are expected to miss targets.**



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



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