



## Clean Power Plan

### Reducing Carbon Emissions from the Power Sector

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set carbon dioxide emission reduction goals for states when it finalized its Clean Power Plan on August 3, 2015. A primary focus of the Clean Power Plan is reducing emissions from existing power plants.

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. EPA estimates that power plant emissions account for as much as 40 percent of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions nationwide.

The Clean Power Plan calls for a 32 percent reduction in nationwide CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2030. States have individual goals that are based on the amount of electricity each state generates from coal and natural gas. Colorado's goal is to reduce the rate of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from existing power plants by 38 percent, or to reduce the mass (total number of tons) by 31 percent. Although these will be challenging goals to meet, Colorado is up for the challenge. Colorado has a strong history of working collaboratively to address important issues.

- Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper has committed Colorado to work with utilities and communities to meet these new federal requirements while preserving affordable energy rates.
- Colorado will maintain an affordable, reliable and cost-effective electric system while cutting pollution and protecting public health and the environment.
- Colorado is a leader in reducing power plant emissions and is using a broad array of strategies, including:
  - A first-in-the-nation Renewable Energy Standard adopted by ballot initiative (2004)
  - Demand Side Management (DSM) Requirements (2007)
  - The Clean Air-Clean Jobs Act (2010)
- Colorado will chart its own course and develop its own plan to meet the CO<sub>2</sub> goals with a mix of cost-effective strategies.
- Colorado may use a variety of tools to meet its goal, including increased natural gas, renewable energy, energy efficiency, or other technologies and strategies.
- Coal will remain an important part of Colorado's diverse energy mix.
- The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has the primary responsibility for developing a state plan to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- CDPHE is working closely with the Public Utilities Commission and the Colorado Energy Office to evaluate the suite of federal rules to better understand the full impact on the state.
- Consistent with the U.S. EPA requirements, Colorado intends to submit an initial plan to the EPA by September 6, 2016, and to submit a final plan by September 6, 2018.
- Colorado is conducting an extensive and inclusive stakeholder process to receive input as it develops the Colorado state plan.

Documents, stakeholder meetings dates/times, and other relevant information will be posted on CDPHE's website at <http://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/CleanPowerPlan>.



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