

## **A CLEANER, MORE EFFICIENT POWER SECTOR IN CALIFORNIA**

We have a moral obligation to leave our children a planet that's not polluted or damaged. By taking action now to combat climate change, including developing homegrown clean energy and cutting energy waste, we can help protect our kids' health, cut carbon pollution, and begin to slow the effects of climate change so we leave a cleaner, safer environment for future generations.

We are already feeling the dangerous and costly effects of a changing climate across the nation. In the past three decades, the percentage of Americans with asthma has more than doubled, and climate change is putting those Americans at greater risk of landing in the hospital. And extreme weather events – from more severe droughts and wildfires in the west to more powerful hurricanes and record heat waves – are affecting communities across the country. Now is the time to act. We have already made progress by moving to cleaner sources of energy and improving the energy efficiency of our cars, trucks, and buildings.

The Clean Power Plan, a key part of the President's Climate Action Plan, cuts harmful carbon pollution from the power sector that's fueling climate change. By setting the first-ever national standards to limit carbon pollution from power plants, the largest single source of U.S. carbon pollution, it will improve the health of Americans across the country, create clean energy jobs, and help households and businesses save on their energy bills. The final plan takes into account the more than 4 million comments received from states and stakeholders across the country, creating strong but achievable standards for power plants that provide flexibility and choices for states and utilities on how to achieve their clean energy future.

### **The Clean Power Plan Will Improve the Health of California Residents**

We know climate change will put vulnerable populations at greater risk – including the elderly, our kids, and people already suffering from burdensome allergies, asthma, and other illnesses. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 8.7 percent of California's adult population and 8.9 percent of children in the state suffer from asthma. The sooner we act, by taking responsible steps to cut carbon pollution from existing power plants, the more we can do to prevent impacts that affect all Americans – especially the most vulnerable.

In 2013, 57 million metric tons of carbon pollution were emitted from power plants in California — equal to the yearly pollution from over 12 million cars. In addition to reducing a portion of this carbon pollution, EPA's guidelines will also cut other forms of air pollution like soot and smog. Overall, these reductions will provide significant health benefits.

Since the Clean Air Act was implemented more than 40 years ago, the EPA has continued to protect the health of communities, in particular those vulnerable to the impacts of harmful pollution, while growing the economy. In fact, since 1970, air pollution has decreased by nearly 70 percent while the economy has tripled in size. The Clean Power Plan builds on this progress, while providing states the flexibility to have clean, reliable, and affordable electricity.

### **Reducing Carbon Pollution Lowers Risks and Costs for California**

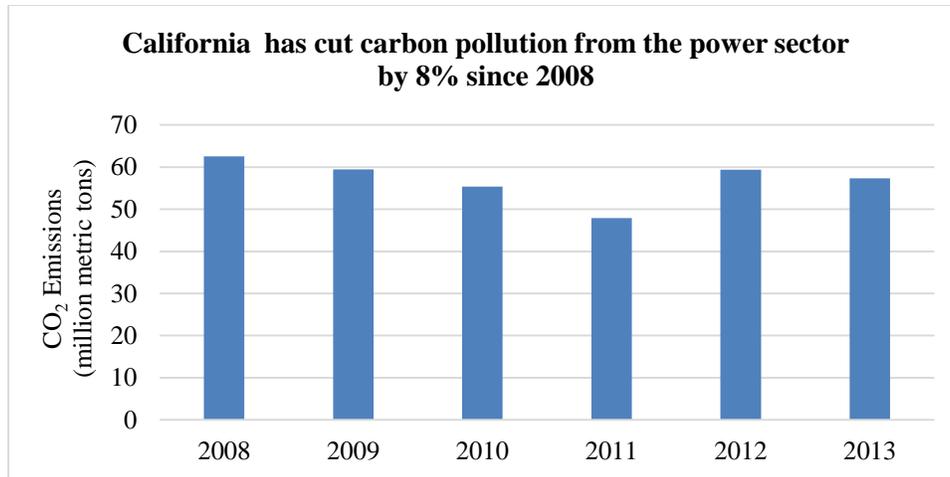
California is part of the U.S. National Climate Assessment's Southwest Region. The findings in the National Climate Assessment underscore the need for urgent action to combat the threats from climate change, protect American citizens and communities today, and build a sustainable future for our kids and grandkids. According to the third U.S. National Climate Assessment Highlights report, regional and state-

specific impacts include:

- *Climate:* Climate changes pose challenges for an already parched region that is expected to get hotter and, in its southern half, significantly drier. Increased heat and changes to rain and snowpack will send ripple effects throughout the region, affecting 56 million people – a population expected to increase to 94 million by 2050 – and its critical agriculture sector. Severe and sustained drought will stress water sources, already over-utilized in many areas, forcing increasing competition among farmers, energy producers, urban dwellers, and ecosystems for the region’s most precious resource
- *Extreme Heat:* Projected regional temperature increases, combined with the way cities amplify heat, will pose increased threats and costs to public health in southwestern cities, which are home to more than 90% of the region’s population. Disruptions to urban electricity and water supplies will exacerbate these health problems. Exposure to excessive heat can also aggravate existing human health conditions, like for those who suffer from respiratory or heart disease. Increased temperatures can reduce air quality, because atmospheric chemical reactions proceed faster in warmer conditions. The outcome is that heat waves are often accompanied by increased ground-level ozone, which can cause respiratory distress. Increased temperatures and longer warm seasons will also lead to shifts in the distribution of disease-transmitting mosquitoes.
- *Agriculture:* California produces about 95 percent of U.S. apricots, almonds, artichokes, figs, kiwis, raisins, olives, cling peaches, dried plums, persimmons, pistachios, olives, and walnuts, in addition to other high-value crops. Drought and extreme weather affect the market value of fruits and vegetables more than other crops because they have high water content and because sales depend on good visual appearance. The combination of a longer frost-free season, less frequent cold air outbreaks, and more frequent heat waves accelerates crop ripening and maturity, reduces yields of corn, tree fruit, and wine grapes, stresses livestock, and increases agricultural water consumption. This combination of climate changes is projected to continue and intensify, possibly requiring a northward shift in crop production, displacing existing growers and affecting farming communities.
- *Water:* Projections of further reduction of late-winter and spring snowpack and subsequent reductions in runoff and soil moisture pose increased risks to the water supplies needed to maintain the Southwest’s cities, agriculture, and ecosystems. An increase in winter flood hazard risk in rivers is projected due to increases in flows of atmospheric moisture into California’s coastal ranges and the Sierra Nevada. These “atmospheric rivers” have contributed to the largest floods in California history.

### **California is Already Reducing Carbon Pollution and has Many Tools to Meet its Clean Power Plan Goals**

California has already set ambitious goals to reduce carbon pollution and has launched a cap-and-trade program, which uses a market-based approach to lower greenhouse gas emissions. In 2006, California passed a law capping the state’s emissions at 1990 levels by 2020, and recently the governor signed an executive order to establish a greenhouse gas reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. Mayors in over 100 cities in California have joined the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, committing to take action in their communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, Los Angeles has joined the Compact of Mayors, a global cooperative of 85 cities that is committed to tracking and reducing emissions from cities. In 2014, there were approximately 57,700 people employed in the wind and solar industries in California.

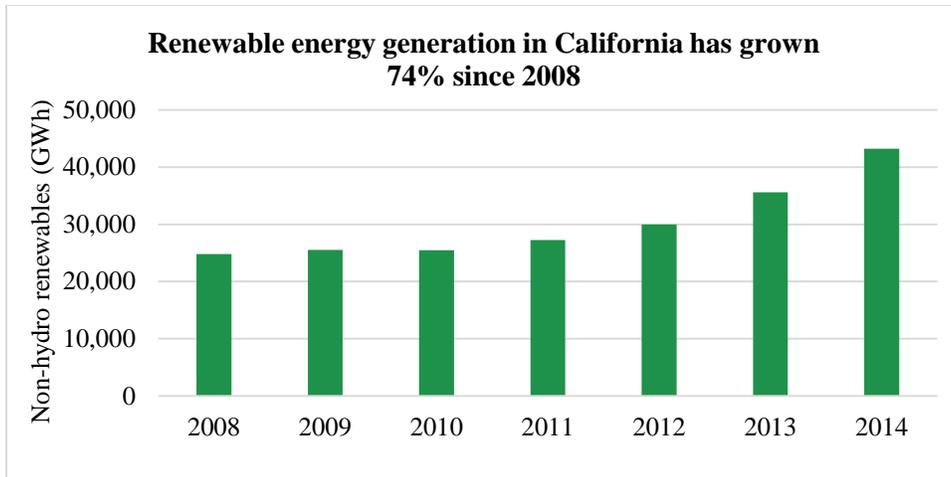


California has already reduced its power sector carbon pollution by 8 percent since 2008. California, like all states, will have flexibility to meet EPA’s goal by using the energy sources that work best for it and by cutting energy waste. To date, all 50 states have demand-side energy efficiency programs, 37 have implemented renewable portfolio standards or goals, and 10 have adopted market-based greenhouse gas emissions programs. California is no exception. The state has a goal for 33 percent of electricity sales to be from renewable energy by 2020 and a goal to cut energy consumption by 10 percent within 10 years. EPA’s rule builds on progress already underway in each state and provides guidelines for states to develop plans to meet their carbon pollution reduction goals. It lets states work alone to develop plans or work together with neighboring states to develop multi-state plans, creating thousands of good jobs for Americans who are making our electricity system cleaner and our homes and businesses more energy efficient.

### **Cutting Carbon Pollution and Saving on Energy Bills in California**

Through the President’s leadership, and the initiative of the state of California, local communities, and the private sector, a number of common sense measures to combat carbon pollution in California are already in place. EPA’s flexible guidelines for power plants will continue driving cost-effective measures to reduce carbon pollution in California, building off of recent progress:

- Increasing the Deployment of Clean Energy:*** Since President Obama took office, the United States has more than doubled its use of renewable energy from wind, solar, and geothermal sources, including tripling wind energy generation and increasing solar generation by more than twenty times. In California, renewable energy generation from these sources has increased by 74 percent since 2008. The Administration has supported tens of thousands of renewable energy projects throughout the country, including 46,169 in California, generating enough energy to power more than 1.5 million homes. Furthermore, the U.S. produces more natural gas than ever before – and nearly everyone’s energy bill is lower because of it.



- Improving Energy Efficiency:** Using less energy to power our homes and businesses is critical to building a clean and secure energy future. President Obama has made essential investments in research and development to advance energy efficiency, and set new standards to make the things we use every day more efficient. Since October 2009, the Department of Energy and the Department of Housing and Urban Development have jointly completed energy upgrades for more than 1.5 million homes across the country, saving many families more than \$400 on their heating and cooling bills in the first year alone. Already, local communities and the private sector are taking initiative. As part of the President's Better Buildings Challenge, the cities of Los Angeles, Sacramento and San Buenaventura committed to reducing energy intensity in their city-owned buildings 20 percent by 2020, covering 30 million square feet in L.A., 12 million square feet in Sacramento, and 560 thousand square feet in San Buenaventura. Placer County committed 5 million square feet of city buildings to the same goal. Multifamily Residential Partners, Satellite Affordable Housing Associates, and Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation committed to reducing energy intensity 20 percent in 10 years in a combined 4 million square feet of buildings throughout California.