

A CLEANER, MORE EFFICIENT POWER SECTOR IN NEW JERSEY

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 New Jersey 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, 9 percent of New Jersey's adult population and 8.7 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, 16 million metric tons of carbon pollution were emitted from power plants in New Jersey — equal to the yearly pollution from over 3 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 New Jersey

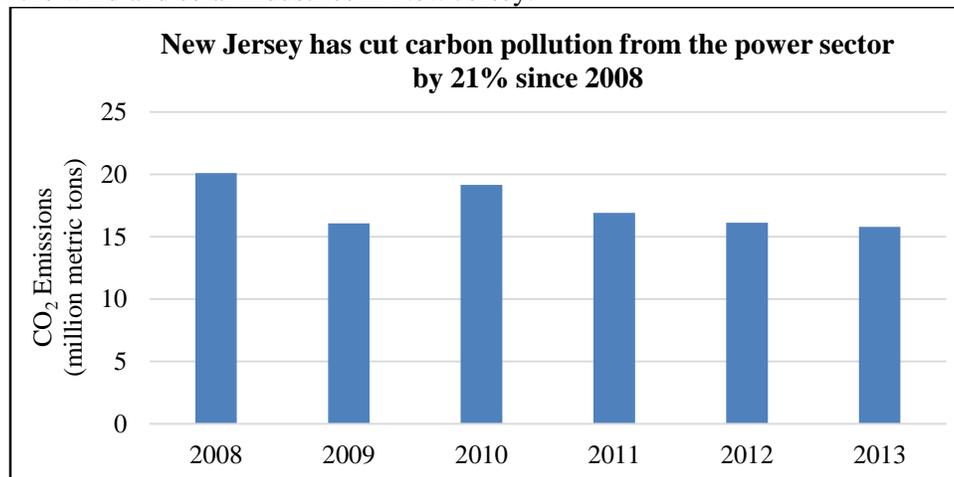
New Jersey is part of the U.S. National Climate Assessment's Northeast Region. The findings in the National Climate Assessment underscore the need for urgent action to combat the threats from climate change, protect American citizens and communities today, and build a sustainable future for our kids and

grandkids. According to the third U.S. National Climate Assessment Highlights report, regional and state-specific impacts include:

- *Climate:* The Northeast region depends on aging infrastructure already stressed by climate hazards including heat waves and heavy downpours. The Northeast has experienced a greater increase of extreme precipitation than any other region in the U.S.; between 1958 and 2010, the Northeast saw more than a 70% percent increase in the amount of precipitation falling in “very heavy events” (defined as the heaviest 1% of all daily precipitation events). This increase, combined with coastal and riverine flooding due to sea level rise and storm surge, creates increased risks to populations, property, and infrastructure.
- *Heat Waves:* Under continued increases in emissions, much of the southern portion of the Northeast, including New Jersey, is projected by mid-century to experience more than 60 additional days per year above 90°F compared to the end of last century. Greater frequency of heat waves result in adverse effects for the region’s infrastructure, agriculture, ecosystems, and vulnerable populations. Since the hottest days in the Northeast are often associated with high concentrations of ground-level ozone and other pollutants, the combination of heat stress and poor air quality can pose major health risks to vulnerable groups: young children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing health conditions including asthma. During extreme heat events, nighttime temperatures in the region’s big cities are generally several degrees higher than surrounding regions, leading to increased heat-related deaths among those less able to recover from the heat of the day.
- *Sea Level Rise:* Sea level rise along most of the coastal Northeast is expected to exceed the global average rise due to local land subsidence, with the possibility of even greater regional sea level rise if the Gulf Stream weakens as some models suggest. Of the Northeast’s population of 64 million, approximately 1.6 million people live within the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) 100-year coastal flood zone, with the majority – 63% of those at risk – residing in New York and New Jersey. Sea level rise of two feet, without any changes in storms, would more than triple the frequency of dangerous coastal flooding throughout most of the Northeast.

New Jersey is Already Reducing Carbon Pollution and has Many Tools to Meet its Clean Power Plan Goals

New Jersey has already reduced its power sector carbon pollution by 21 percent since 2008. Mayors of over 100 cities in New Jersey have joined the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, committing to take action in their communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In 2014, there were approximately 7,700 people employed in the wind and solar industries in New Jersey.

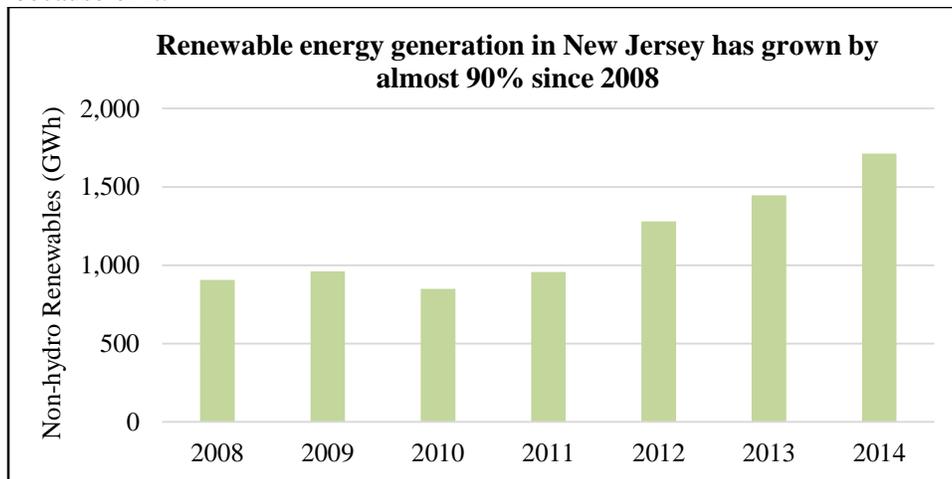


New Jersey, like all states, will have flexibility to meet EPA’s goal by using the energy sources that work best for it and by cutting energy waste. To date, all 50 states have demand-side energy efficiency programs, 37 have implemented renewable portfolio standards or goals, and 10 have adopted market-based greenhouse gas emissions programs. New Jersey is no exception. The state has a goal to generate 20.38 percent of its electricity from renewable energy resources by 2021. 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 New Jersey

Through the President’s leadership, and the initiative of the state of New Jersey, local communities, and the private sector, a number of common sense measures to combat carbon pollution in New Jersey are already in place. EPA’s flexible guidelines for power plants will continue driving cost-effective measures to reduce carbon pollution in New Jersey, 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 New Jersey, renewable energy generation from these sources increased by almost 90 percent since 2008. The Administration has supported tens of thousands of renewable energy projects throughout the country, including 8,703 in New Jersey, generating enough energy to power more than 170,000 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 are taking initiative. Through the President’s Better Buildings Challenge, the Jersey City Housing Authority committed to reducing energy intensity 20 percent within 10 years in 1.5 million square feet of buildings within its authority.

