

A CLEANER, MORE EFFICIENT POWER SECTOR IN NEW MEXICO

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 Mexico 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, 9.2 percent of New Mexico's adult population and 8.2 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, 29 million metric tons of carbon pollution were emitted from power plants in New Mexico — equal to the yearly pollution from over 6 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 Mexico

New Mexico 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:* Agriculture, a mainstay of the regional economy, faces uncertainty and change. The Southwest produces more than half of the nation's high-value specialty crops, including certain vegetables, fruits, and nuts. The severity of future impacts will depend upon the complex interaction of pests, water supply, reduced chilling periods, and more rapid changes in the seasonal timing of crop development due to projected warming and extreme events.
- *Water:* Streamflow totals in the Sacramento-San Joaquin, the Colorado, the Rio Grande, and the Great Basin were 5 percent to 37 percent lower between 2001 and 2010 than the 20th century average flows. 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.
- *Tribes:* The Southwest's 182 federally recognized tribes and communities in its U.S.-Mexico border region share particularly high vulnerabilities to climate changes such as high temperatures, drought, and severe storms. Tribes may face loss of traditional foods, medicines, and water supplies due to declining snowpack, increasing temperatures, and increasing drought. Historic land settlements and high rates of poverty – more than double that of the general U.S. population – constrain tribes' abilities to respond effectively to climate challenges.

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

New Mexico has set goals to reduce carbon pollution. New Mexico has committed to cut emissions 10 percent below 2000 levels by 2020, and 75 percent by 2050. Mayors from ten cities in New Mexico have joined the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, committing to take action in their communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In 2014, there were approximately 2,600 people employed in the wind and solar industries in New Mexico.

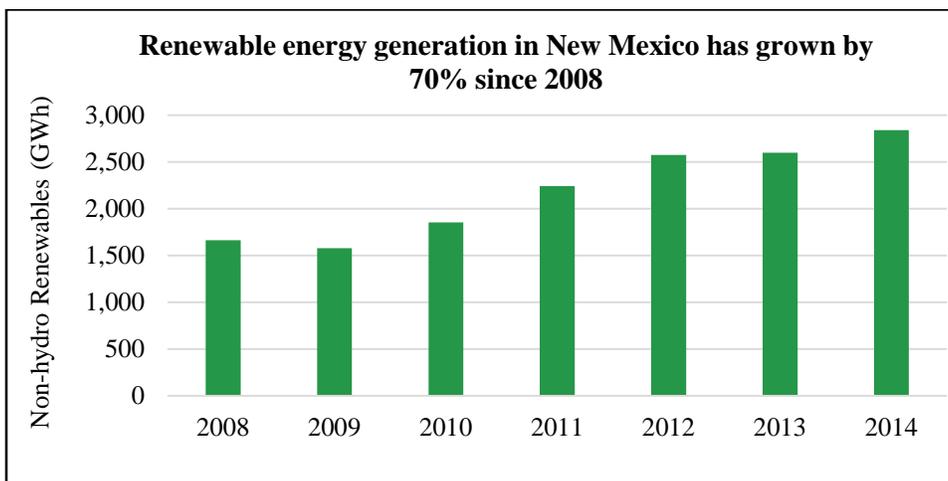
New Mexico has already reduced its power sector carbon pollution by 8 percent since 2008. New Mexico, like all states, will have flexibility to meet EPA's goal by using the energy sources that work best for it and by cutting energy waste. To date, all 50 states have demand-side energy efficiency programs, 37 have

implemented renewable portfolio standards or goals, and 10 have adopted market-based greenhouse gas emissions programs. New Mexico is no exception. The state has a goal to generate 20 percent of its electricity from renewable energy resources by 2020 and a goal to reduce electricity sales by a cumulative 8 percent of 2005 sales by 2020. 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 Mexico

Through the President's leadership, and the initiative of the state of New Mexico, local communities, and the private sector, a number of common sense measures to combat carbon pollution in New Mexico are already in place. EPA's flexible guidelines for power plants will continue driving cost-effective measures to reduce carbon pollution in New Mexico, 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 Mexico, renewable energy generation from these sources increased by 70 percent since 2008. The Administration has supported tens of thousands of renewable energy projects throughout the country, including 127 in New Mexico, generating enough energy to power over 78,000 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, Santa Fe committed to reducing energy intensity 20 percent by 2020 in 850 thousand square feet of city-owned buildings.