A CLEANER, MORE EFFICIENT POWER SECTOR IN TEXAS

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 it achieve their clean energy future.

The Clean Power Plan Will Improve the Health of Texas 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, 7.3 percent of Texas' adult population and 9.1 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, 257 million metric tons of carbon pollution were emitted from power plants in Texas — equal to the yearly pollution from over 54 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 Texas

Texas is part of the U.S. National Climate Assessment's Great Plains 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:

- *Extreme Heat:* Temperatures across the region are expected to increase in the future. Higher temperatures contribute to the formation of harmful air pollutants and allergens. The projected increase in high temperature extremes and heat waves will negatively affect livestock and concentrated animal feeding operations.

- *Sea Level Rise:* The Southeast is exceptionally vulnerable to sea level rise, extreme heat events, hurricanes, and decreased water availability. The Gulf and Atlantic coasts are major producers of seafood and home to seven major ports that are also vulnerable. According to a study co-sponsored by a regional utility, coastal counties and parishes in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas already face significant losses that annually average $14 billion from hurricane winds, land subsidence, and sea level rise. Future losses for the 2030 timeframe could reach $18 billion (with no sea level rise or change in hurricane wind speed) to $23 billion (with a nearly 3 percent increase in hurricane wind speed and just under 6 inches of sea level rise). Approximately 50 percent of the increase in the estimated losses is related to climate change.

- *Rural and Tribal:* For rural and tribal communities, remote locations and limited local services present greater challenges in responding to climate extremes. Older populations are at much higher risk of dying during extreme heat events. Pre-existing health conditions also make older adults susceptible to cardiac and respiratory impacts of air pollution and to more severe consequences from infectious diseases. Observed and future impacts from climate change threaten Native Peoples' access to traditional foods such as fish, game, and wild and cultivated crops, which have provided sustenance as well as cultural, economic, medicinal, and community health for generations.

Texas is Already Taking Steps to Reduce Carbon Pollution and has Many Tools to Meet its Clean Power Plan Goals

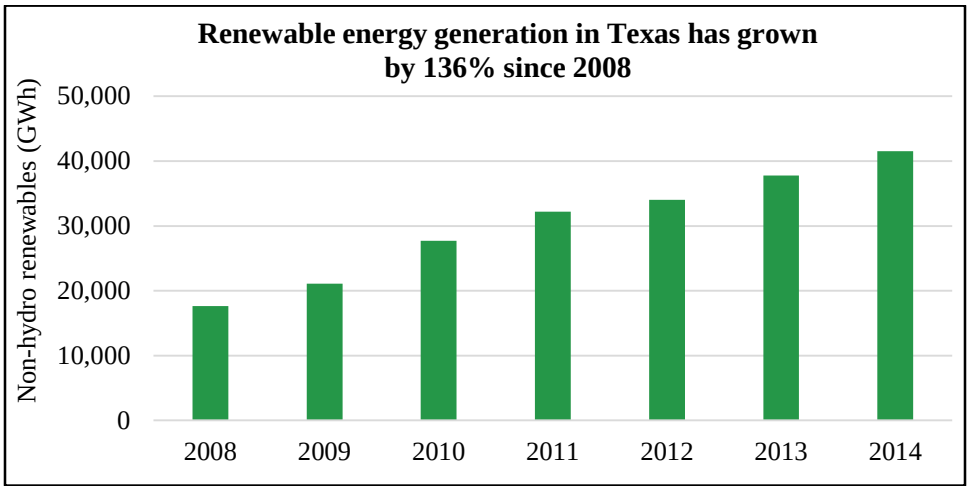
Mayors in 31 cities in Texas have joined the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, committing to take action in their communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, Houston has joined the Compact of Mayors, a global cooperative of 85 cities that is committed to tracking and reducing emissions from cities. In 2014, there were approximately 25,000 people employed in the wind and solar industries in Texas.

Texas, 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. Texas is no exception. The state has a goal of achieving energy efficiency savings of 0.4 percent of peak electricity demand per year. 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 Texas

Through the President's leadership, and the initiative of the state of Texas, local communities, and the private sector, a number of common sense measures to combat carbon pollution in Texas are already in place. EPA's flexible guidelines for power plants will continue driving cost-effective measures to reduce carbon pollution in Texas, 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 Texas, renewable energy generation from these sources increased by 136 percent since 2008. The Administration has supported tens of thousands of renewable energy projects throughout the country, including 737 in Texas, generating enough energy to power more than 820,000 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, El Paso and Fort Worth committed to reducing energy intensity 20 percent by 2020 in a combined 38.2 million square feet of buildings. The Houston Independent School District committed a reduction of 30 percent by 2015 in 24 million square feet of schools.