

[Skip to Main Content](#)

Find a Job ▼	GO
Select Price ▼	Go!
Cars ▼	GO
Search Listings	Go



Subscribe!

- [Login/Logout](#)
- [E-Edition](#)
- [Home Page](#)
- [Subscriber Services](#)
- [Special Sections](#)
- [Weekly Ads](#)
- [Text Alerts](#)
- [Latest Video](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Local News](#)
 - [Money](#)
 - [Latest News](#)
 - [State News](#)
 - [Police/Courts](#)
 - [Closings/ Delays](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Life!](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Outdoors](#)
- [The Fayette Tribune](#)
- [The Wyoming Co. Report](#)
- [The Montgomery Herald](#)
- [WV South](#)
- [Brides 2014](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Real Estate Today](#)
- [Fayette Co. Homes](#)

- [About Us](#)
- [Contact us](#)
- [Buy Photos](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)

[Latest News](#)

Search

Related Links

- [Most of state's elected officials oppose carbon emissions limits](#)

June 3, 2014

[EPA releases carbon rules](#)

By Pamela Pritt [Register-Herald Reporter](#)

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy Monday released the Clean Power Plan, which is scheduled to be in place by 2030, and requires states to formulate plans to reach a goal of reducing carbon emissions by 30 percent.

McCarthy said the guidelines will produce a “cleaner, low-carbon economy.”

Power plants are the largest source of carbon pollution in the United States, producing roughly one-third of all domestic greenhouse gas emissions. Currently, there are no regulations on carbon emissions.

Roundly criticized by the energy industry and state politicians, McCarthy said the plan that will lower carbon dioxide emissions can succeed in improving air quality, promoting better health and even lowering energy costs in the long run. Extractive industry products — coal and natural gas — remain the staple energy fuels at 30 percent each, the report said.

“Coal and natural gas play a significant role,” McCarthy said. “This plan does not change that.”

But, she said, states will have the option to shift to energy sources that have little to no carbon emissions including nuclear, wind and solar power.

McCarthy said the guidelines will “spur innovation.”

Technology will help with the plan “at the plug,” she said with everything from more energy efficient refrigerators to cell phone chargers.

Reduction in unemployment is yet another of the plan’s goals, with the projections for “putting Americans to work making the U.S. electricity system less polluting and our homes and businesses more efficient, shrinking electricity bills by roughly 8 percent in 2030.”

The plan estimates the creation of nearly 78,800 jobs, depending on whether states use individual or regional approaches to their plans.

However, the plan also acknowledges that better efficiency and lower fuel requirements may lead to fewer jobs in the coal and natural gas extraction sectors.

The Clean Power Plan projects natural gas prices to increase by up to 12 percent in 2020, while the price of coal is projected to decrease by up to 17 percent in the same year. Likewise, the plan says coal production will decline by up to 27 percent, and the use of coal by the power sector will decrease by up to 32 percent in 2030.

The report predicts net climate and health benefits of \$48 billion to \$82 billion. Compliance costs are estimated to be up to \$7.5 billion in 2020 and up to \$8.8 billion in 2030, including the costs of monitoring, reporting and recordkeeping.

McCarthy said the country could look forward to lower medical bills, particularly among small children, the elderly and low income families. The plan will reduce up to 150,000 asthma attacks in children and factor in avoiding as many as 6,600 premature deaths, the EPA claimed.

“Climate inaction is costing us more money,” she said. “The most costly thing we can do is nothing.”

The plan is all about flexibility, she noted, and each state’s goal is tailored to its own circumstances.

West Virginia’s goal for 2030 is 1,620 pounds of carbon dioxide per net mega-watt hour. The interim goal is for 1,748 pounds of carbon dioxide per net mega-watt hour.

According to Evan Hansen at Downstream Strategies in Morgantown, the Mountain State’s targets are “less stringent than all states other than “(North) Dakota, Montana, Kentucky and Wyoming.”

Hansen tweeted that 75 percent of fossil fuel CO2 emissions in West Virginia are from coal-fired power plants; those emissions have decreased significantly since 2005.

States may also partner with each other to formulate a plan. Those plans are to be completed by June 30, 2016, with one-year extensions available. The cost burden for those plans is estimated to be below \$100 million in any one year.

Labor could cost more than \$44 million for states that have no energy efficiency and renewable energy programs in place.

McCarthy says the plan has its naysayers who don't believe the plan will work, that energy will not be both affordable and reliable.

"They're wrong," she said. "Should I say it again? They're wrong."

In the end, she said the cost of energy should be more affordable than it is today, with any increases in the interim about the "cost of a gallon of milk a month."

The report estimates a "4 to 7 percent increase in retail electricity prices, on average, across the contiguous U.S. in 2020, and a 16 to 22 percent reduction in coal-fired electricity generation as a result of this rule."

"That is how you write a rule," McCarthy said.

McCarthy said the rules will make for more stable power sources.

Weather events like the polar vortex, super-storms and heatwaves stress the power supply, she said.

Climate and weather disasters in 2012 cost the American economy more than \$100 billion, according to the EPA's web site.

Special interest skeptics will cry that the sky is falling, McCarthy said, but that does not change the science of climate change.

"We have never, nor will we ever, have to choose between a healthy economy and a healthy environment," McCarthy said. "We have a moral obligation to ensure the world we leave behind is safe, healthy and vibrant, just like the one we inherited."

— *E-mail: ppritt@register-herald.com*

1

Like 0

ShareThis

Facebook

Tweet

LinkedIn

Email



[Text Only](#)

Latest News

- [PSC Transportation Enforcement officers to conduct safety inspections](#)

The Public Service Commission of West Virginia's Transportation Enforcement Division will conduct a 72-hour safety road check for commercial vehicles throughout the state starting today.

June 3, 2014

- [9-year-old child stable after being hit by coal train](#)

A 9-year-old child who was struck by a train in McDowell County remains hospitalized at Holston Valley