



WVU Center Working to Analyze WV's Options to Comply With EPA Rule

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By Sarah Tincher, Energy Reporter - email

The West Virginia University College of Law's Center for Energy and Sustainable Development will be teaming up with an environmental consulting firm, Downstream Strategies, to analyze the Environmental Protection Agency's recently announced Clean Power Plan to cut carbon emissions.

Funded by a grant from the Appalachian Stewardship Foundation, the Center and the Morgantown-based firm will be working on a project to explore the possible strategies that West Virginia could follow to comply with the EPA's proposed rule.

"West Virginia has an abundance of energy resources including coal, natural gas, biomass, wind, solar, and energy efficiency," James Van Nostrand, director of the Center for Energy and Sustainable Development, said in a statement. "The challenge is to use the right mix of these resources to ensure that West Virginia can achieve compliance with the new emission standards in the lowest cost manner to minimize the disruption to the state's economy."

The EPA's plan intends to cut emissions nationwide by 30 percent by 2030 from a 2005 baseline; which equates to a 21 percent reduction from a 2012 baseline for West Virginia.

"This project will help us better understand the cost and potential of various energy technologies to reduce the state's emission profile and the policy frameworks needed to guide the timely deployment of those technologies and resources," Van Nostrand said.

Downstream Strategies president Evan Hansen said West Virginia has the potential to improve energy efficiency and increase its use of renewable energy.

"We'll be looking at the potential for energy efficiency and renewable resources such as wind and solar in reducing emissions under the EPA rule, and measures policy makers and regulators can take to incentivize greater deployment of these resources like we see in neighboring states," he said.

For more information, visit the wvutoday website [here](#).

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