

Protecting Health and Life: A Catholic Response to Proposed Clean Power Plan "Replace and Repeal"

January 10th, 2018

CatholicClimateCovenant.org



Catholic Climate Covenantsm

Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

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Whenever we fail to care for our brothers and sisters in creation, the way is opened to destruction, and hearts are hardened God, grant that all who have positions of responsibility in economic, political and social life, and all men and women of goodwill - grant that we all be “protectors” of creation, protectors of God’s plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment. - **based on a plea from Pope Francis**



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How does the Clean Power Plan work?

Announced in August 2015:

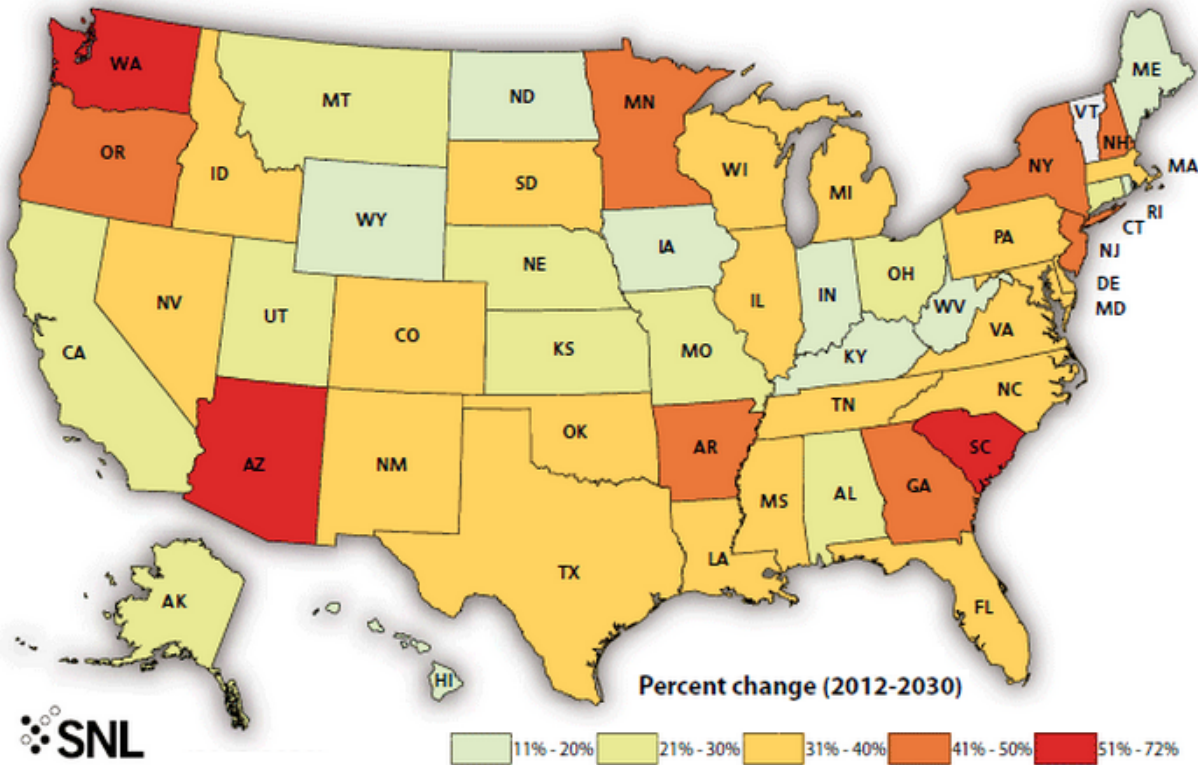
- The CPP would cut carbon emissions 32% below 2005 levels by 2030.
- Each state must achieve a specific level or rate of emissions.
- States decide how much to ramp up natural gas, renewable power or energy savings and how much to reduce coal use.
- Companies can buy and sell allowances to balance their carbon emissions.



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EPA's proposed carbon emissions rates for existing plant (CO₂ lbs/MWhr)



State	Historical emissions rate (2012)	Avg. Interim emissions rate goal (2020 - 2029)	Final emissions rate goal (2030+)	Required change (2012-2030)
Alabama	1,444	1,147	1,059	27%
Alaska	1,351	1,097	1,003	26%
Arizona	1,453	735	702	52%
Arkansas	1,640	968	910	45%
California	698	556	537	23%
Colorado	1,714	1,159	1,108	35%
Connecticut	765	597	540	29%
Delaware	1,234	913	841	32%
Florida	1,200	794	740	38%
Georgia	1,500	891	834	44%
Hawaii	1,540	1,378	1,306	15%
Idaho	339	244	228	33%
Illinois	1,895	1,366	1,271	33%
Indiana	1,923	1,607	1,531	20%
Iowa	1,552	1,341	1,301	16%
Kansas	1,940	1,578	1,499	23%
Kentucky	2,158	1,844	1,763	18%
Louisiana	1,466	948	883	40%
Maine	437	393	378	14%
Maryland	1,870	1,347	1,187	37%
Massachusetts	925	655	576	38%
Michigan	1,696	1,227	1,161	32%
Minnesota	1,470	911	873	41%
Mississippi	1,130	732	692	39%
Missouri	1,963	1,621	1,544	21%

State	Historical emissions rate (2012)	Avg. Interim emissions rate goal (2020 - 2029)	Final emissions rate goal (2030+)	Required change (2012-2030)
Montana	2,245	1,882	1,771	21%
Nebraska	2,009	1,596	1,479	26%
Nevada	988	697	647	34%
New Hampshire	905	546	486	46%
New Jersey	932	647	531	43%
New Mexico	1,586	1,107	1,048	34%
New York	983	635	549	44%
North Carolina	1,646	1,077	992	40%
North Dakota	1,994	1,817	1,783	11%
Ohio	1,850	1,452	1,338	28%
Oklahoma	1,397	931	895	36%
Oregon	717	407	372	48%
Pennsylvania	1,540	1,179	1,052	32%
Rhode Island	907	822	782	14%
South Carolina	1,597	840	772	52%
South Dakota	1,135	800	741	35%
Tennessee	1,903	1,254	1,163	39%
Texas	1,298	853	791	39%
Utah	1,813	1,378	1,322	27%
Virginia	1,297	884	810	38%
Washington	763	264	215	72%
West Virginia	2,019	1,748	1,620	20%
Wisconsin	1,827	1,281	1,203	34%
Wyoming	2,115	1,808	1,714	19%

Sources: U.S. EPA Clean Power Plan, CleanPowerPlanmaps.epa.gov
Map credit: Whit Varner



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Benefits

- Incentivize energy efficiency improvements in low-income communities.
- Create tens of thousands of jobs while ensuring grid reliability.
- Drive investment in clean energy technologies and deployment.
- Save the average American family nearly \$85 on their annual energy bill in 2030.
- reducing enough energy to power 30 million homes
- Continue American leadership on climate change.



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Public Health Benefits

- Reduce premature deaths from power plant emissions by nearly 90 percent in 2030 compared to 2005.
- Decrease the pollutants that contribute to the soot and smog and can lead to more asthma attacks in kids by more than 70 percent.
- Avoid up to 3,600 premature deaths, lead to 90,000 fewer asthma attacks in children, and prevent 300,000 missed work and school days.



What Is Its Status?

- Feb 2016 - The Supreme Court halted implementation of the CPP.
- A federal court is weighing the rule, and the Supreme Court could take it up.
- Oct 10, 2017, EPA issued a proposed rule to rescind the Clean Power Plan.
- Dec 19, 2016, EPA issued an advance notice of proposed rulemaking.

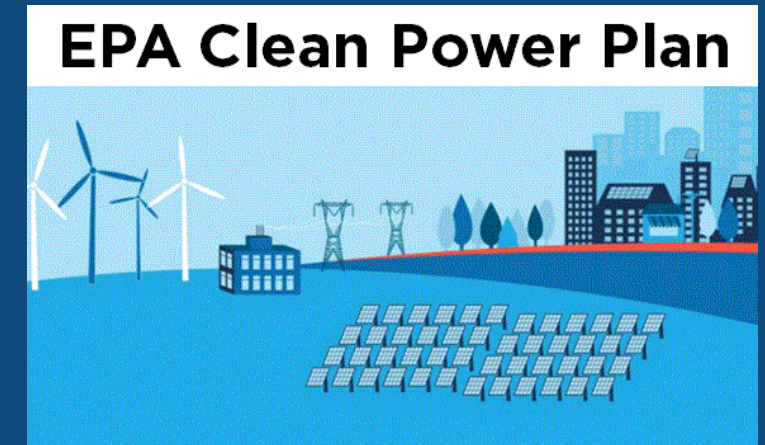


Catholic Climate Covenant Position

- The Catholic Climate Covenant urges EPA not to revoke the CPP. It risks damage to our air, our waters and, most importantly, our people, particularly the poor and vulnerable." [USSCB [3/17](#)]
 - If EPA chooses to repeal the CPP, we ask that it remain in place until an alternative is proposed, approved, and implemented. That alternative should meet or exceed the CPP's national carbon emission reduction goals of 32% by the year 2030 relative to 2005 levels.

CPP Objections

- States rights/federal over-reach
 - CPP regulates and dictates the nation's energy mix. State officials should be making decisions about what their energy mixes should be.
- “Beyond the fenceline”
 - EPA’s authority here should only apply to specific power plants is outside the scope of Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act.
 - Allows emissions reductions by adding more natural gas or renewable sources to the grid.



Grounded in Catholic Social Teaching

- In 1971, Pope Paul VI wrote, “Man is suddenly becoming aware that by an ill-considered exploitation of nature he risks destroying it and becoming in his turn the victim of this degradation.”
- Saint John Paul II, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have affirmed and advanced the Church’s call for us to care for creation.
- Care for Creation is one of 1 of 7 themes of Catholic Social Teaching. Pope Francis said, “[C]limate change is a problem which can no longer be left to a future generation. When it comes to the care of our 'common home', we are living at a critical moment of history.” [USCCB10/15}



What You Can Do (WYCD)

- Provide Public comment to CPP proposed repeal by Jan 16.
- Write Letters to the Editor and Op-Eds.
- State-initiated public hearing in Maryland tomorrow, January 11.



Climate Change, Air Pollution and Health

EPA's Clean Power Plan and the Fight for Healthy Air

Lyndsay Alexander

Assistant Vice President & Director, Healthy Air Campaign

American Lung Association

Jan. 10, 2018



Overview

- Health Impacts of Air Pollution and Climate Change
- Benefits of the *Clean Power Plan* & impacts of EPA's proposed repeal
- American Lung Association position on EPA proposals to repeal/replace Clean Power Plan
- Tips on advocating from a health perspective

Health Impacts of Air Pollution and Climate Change

Clean Air Progress



State of the Air - 2017

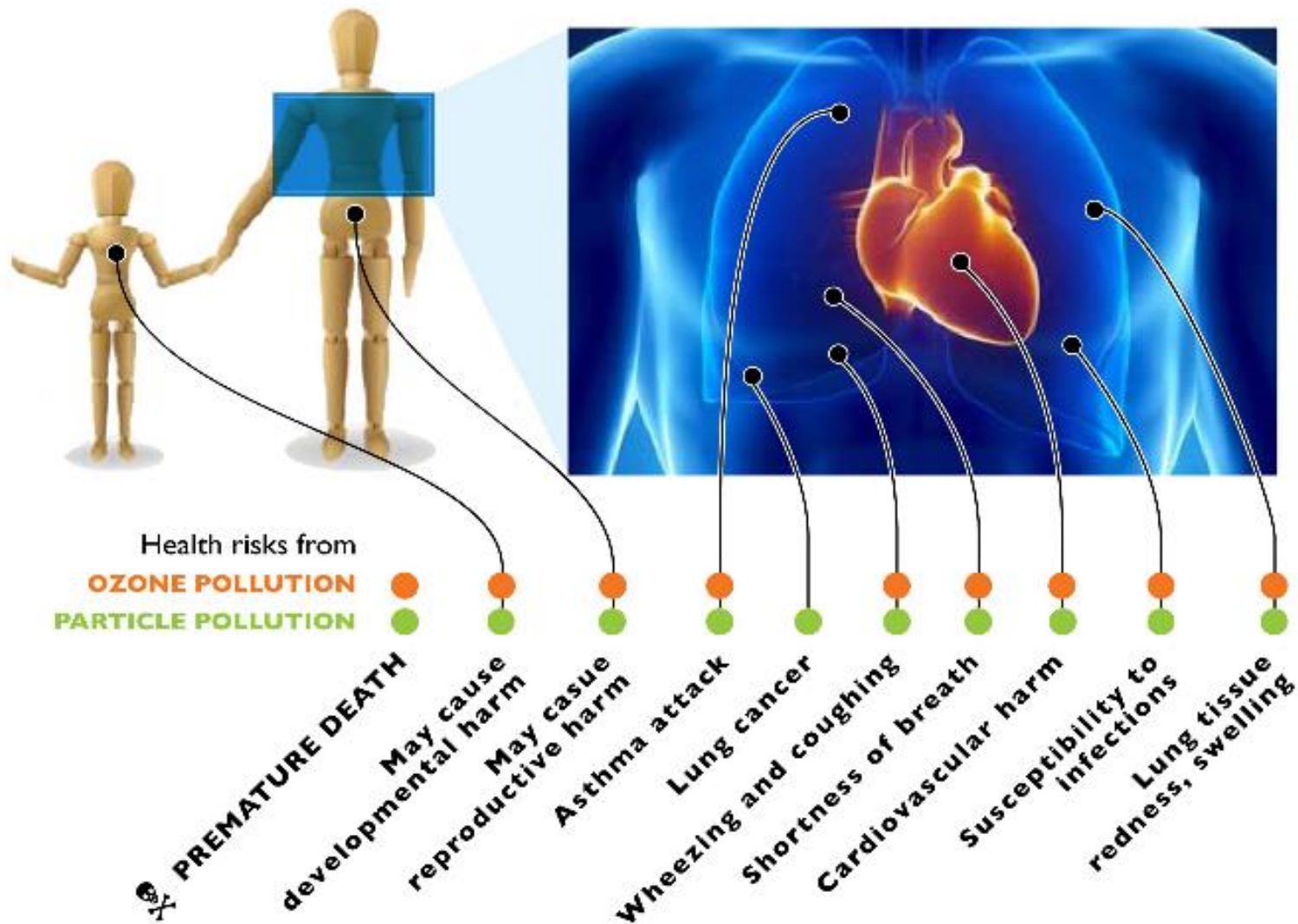
More than 125 million Americans, or 4 in 10 of us, live in counties that got at least one “F” for unhealthy air. More than 18 million people live where the air got all “F”s.



STATE OF THE AIR 2017

Health Effects of Ozone and Particle Pollution

Ozone and particle pollution can shorten life.



Climate Change Harms Health

Greenhouse Gases

- Trap heat in the atmosphere
- Co-pollutants directly harm health

Warmer Global Temperatures

- Heat, Drought
- Air Pollution
- Extreme Weather
- Many more

Health Impacts

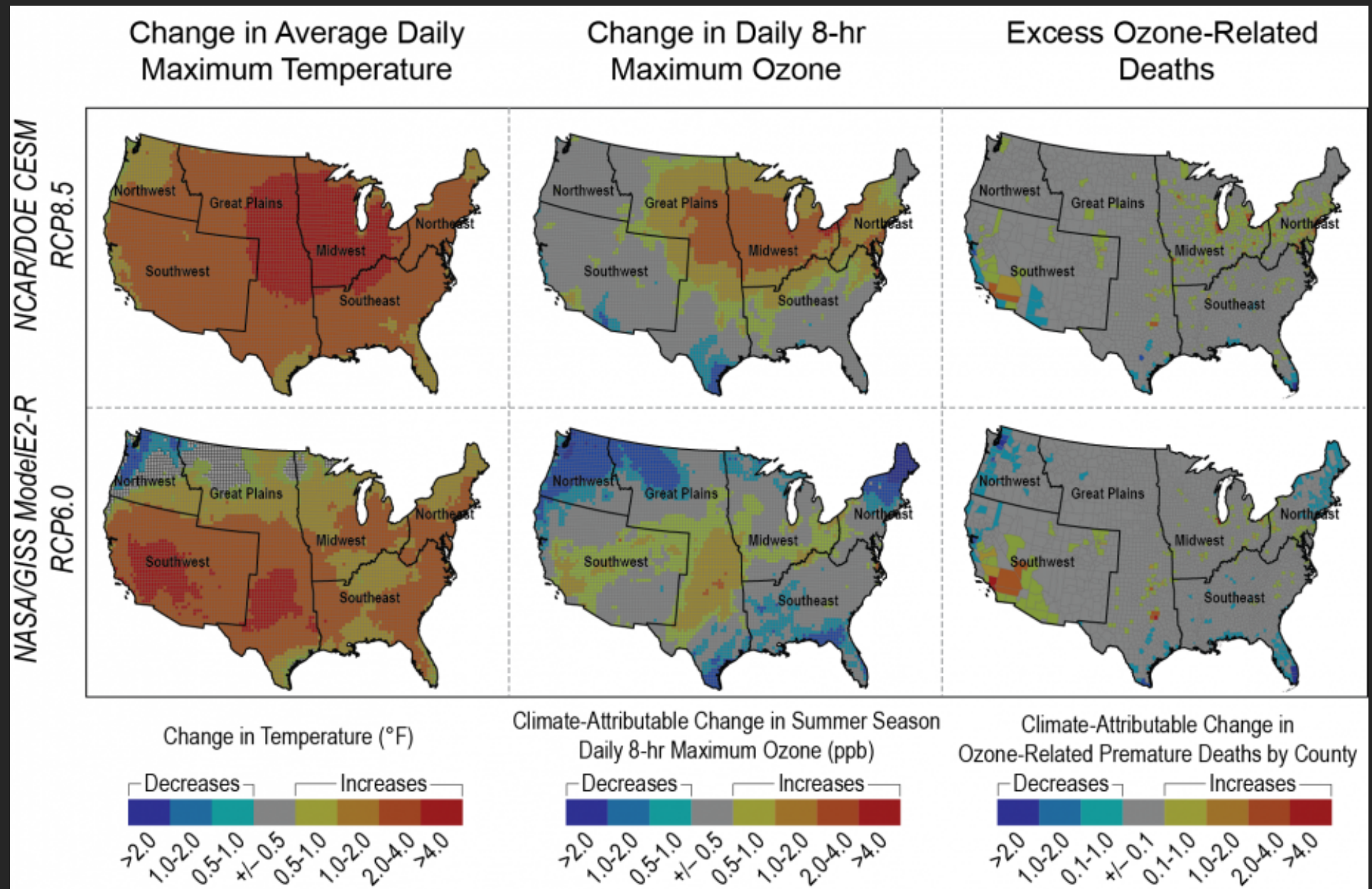
- Heat related deaths
- Asthma Attacks
- Heart attacks, strokes
- Allergic reactions
- Spread of diseases

Warmer Temperatures Mean Higher Ozone Levels

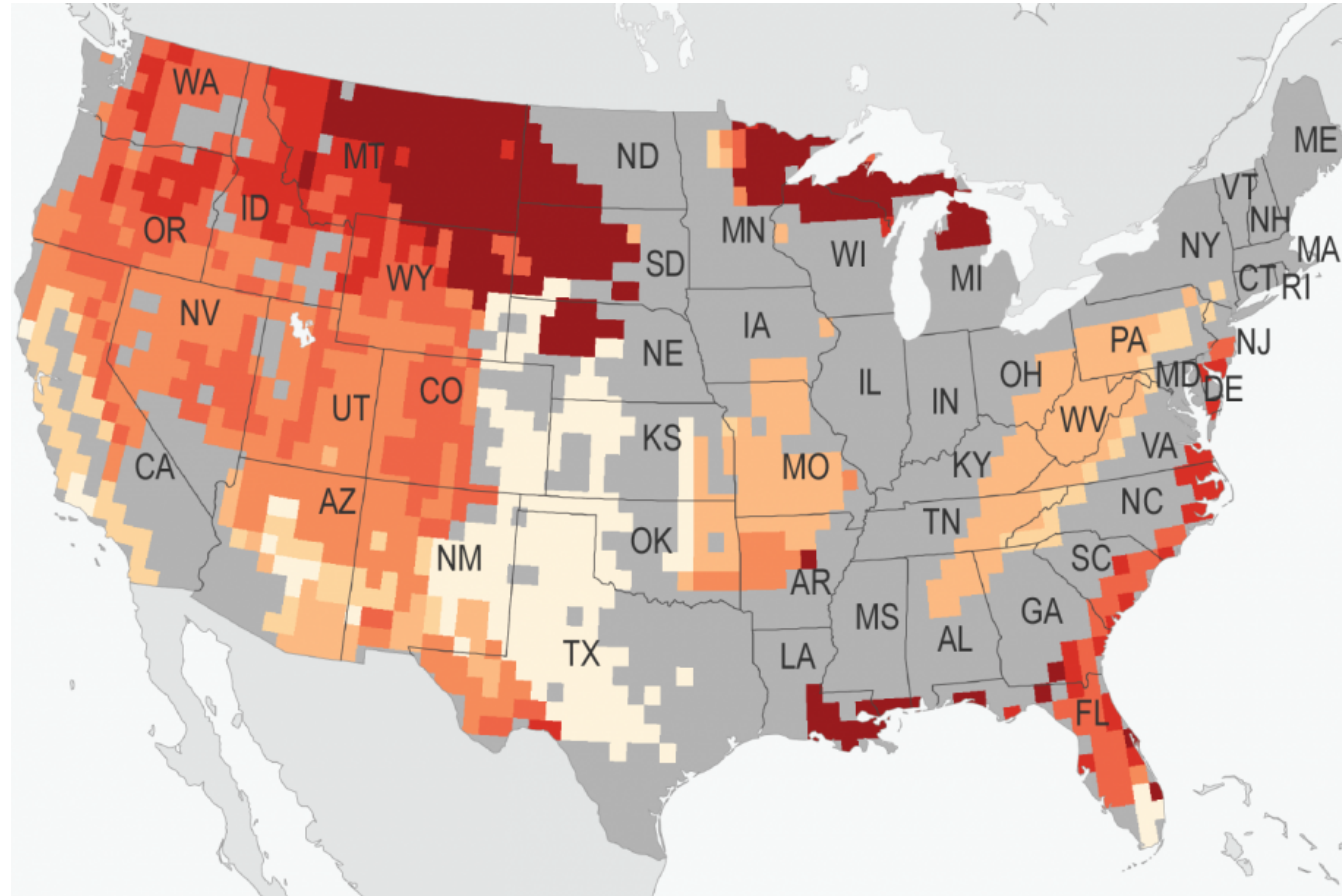


That's why ozone is more likely to affect your health during the summer.

Projected Change in Temperature, Ozone, and Ozone-Related Premature Deaths in 2030



Projected Increases in Very Large Fires (higher emissions)



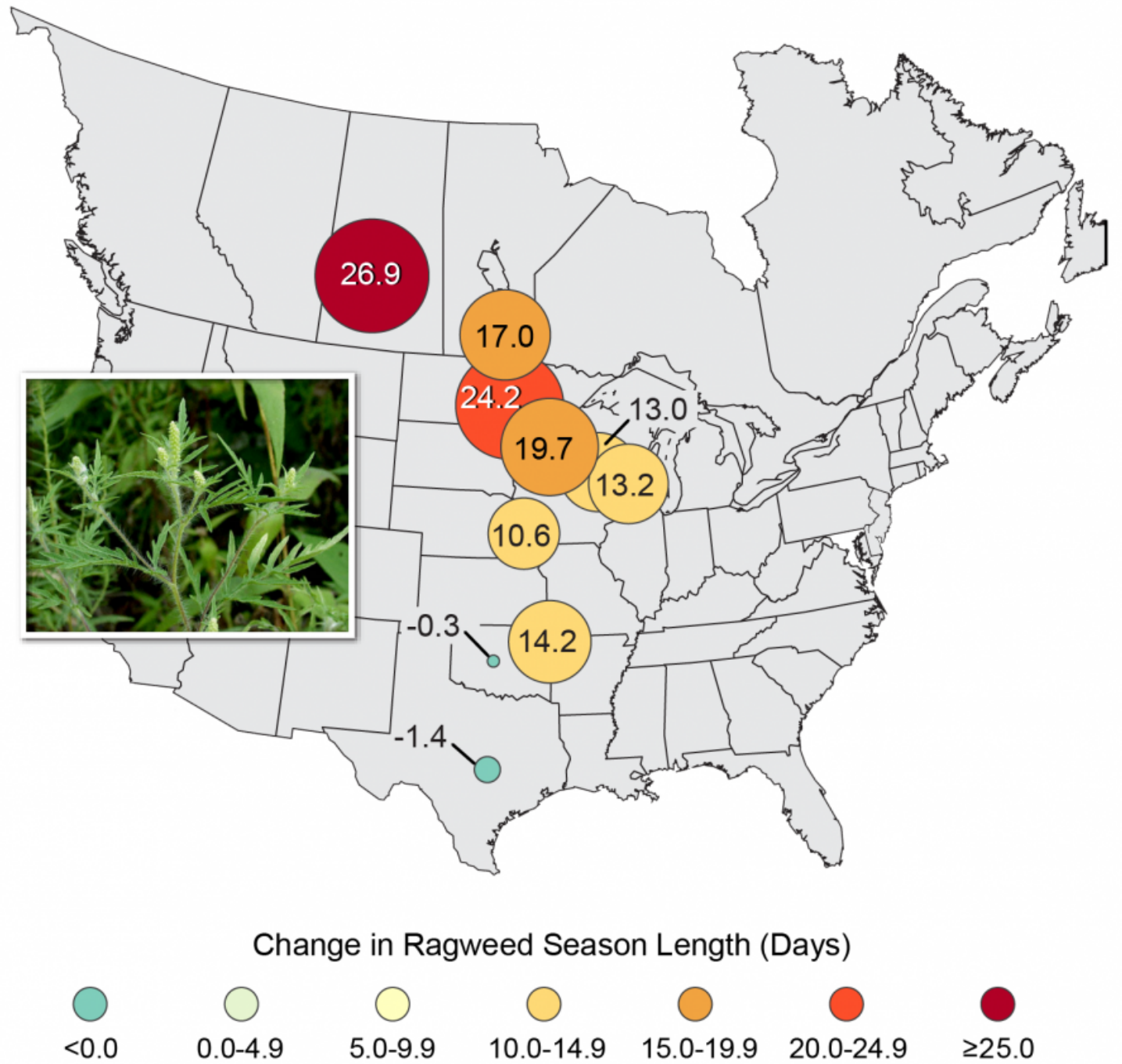
Increase in Weeks with Risk of Very Large Fires (%)



- **Forest fires in Quebec, Canada, during July 2002 resulted in up to a 30-fold increase in airborne fine particle concentrations in Baltimore, Maryland**
- **Smoke exposure increases respiratory disease hospitalizations and emergency department visits**



Ragweed Pollen Season is Lengthening



Who is most at risk?



Rising Temperatures

U.S. average temperature has increased by 1.3°F to 1.9°F since record keeping began in 1895. Warming has been the greatest in North and West while some parts of the Southeast have experienced little change.



Wildfires

Wildfires in the West start earlier in the spring, last later into the fall, and burn more acreage.

Heat Waves

Heat waves have become more frequent and intense, especially in the West.



Drought

Drought has increased in the West. Over the last decade, the Southwest has experienced the most persistent droughts on record.

Cold Waves and Winter Storms

Cold waves have become less frequent and intense across the Nation. Winter storms have increased in frequency and intensity since the 1950s and their tracks have shifted northward.



Extreme Precipitation

Heavy downpours are increasing nationally, especially over the last three to five decades. The largest increases are in the Midwest and Northeast.



Floods

Floods have been increasing in parts of the Midwest and Northeast.



Hurricanes

The intensity, frequency, and duration of North Atlantic hurricanes, as well as the frequency of the strongest (category 4 and 5) hurricanes, have all increased since the early 1980s.

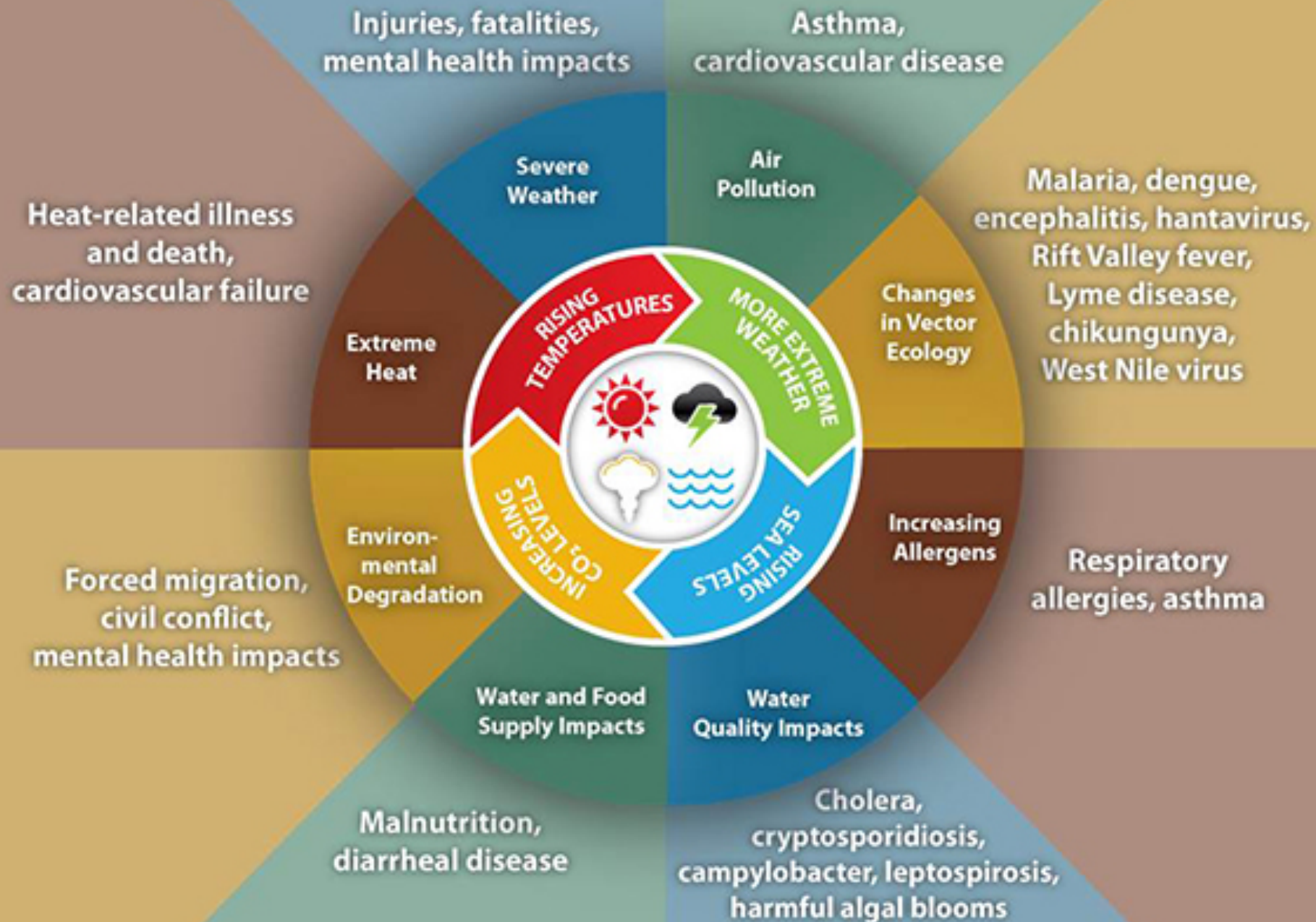


Sea Level

Sea levels along the Mid-Atlantic and parts of the Gulf Coast have risen by about 8 inches over the last half century.



Impact of Climate Change on Human Health



Benefits of the *Clean Power Plan* & impacts of EPA's proposed repeal

EPA's 2015 Clean Power Plan

Key Components

Make power plants
more efficient

Use cleaner power
more

**Reducing
Carbon
Pollution**

Use low-emitting
power more

Use electricity more
efficiently



Health Co-Benefits of Reducing Carbon Pollution

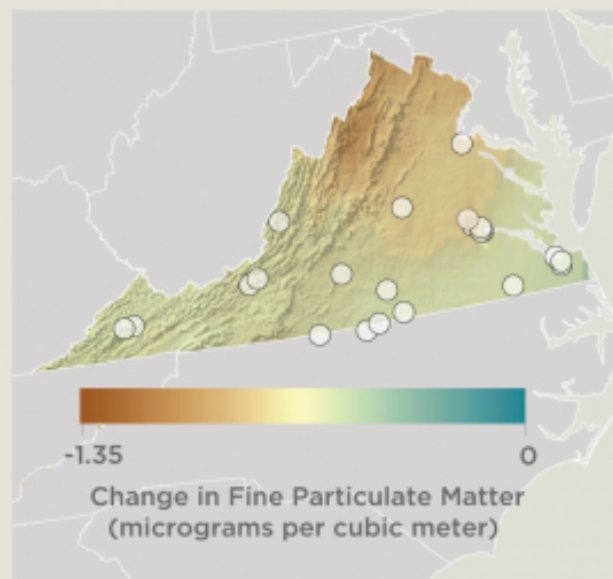
- Scientists at Harvard, Syracuse and Boston Univ. found a strong standard power plant carbon pollution standard would reduce other pollutants (ozone and PM 2.5) substantially.
 - All states and communities see improved air quality
 - Study estimated approx. national health benefits in 2020
 - 3,500 premature deaths avoided
 - 1,000 hospital admissions from heart/lung disease avoided
- Same study showed an “inside the fence” approach could be worse than doing nothing, resulting in **more dangerous pollution.**

VIRGINIA: A Health Benefits Hotspot

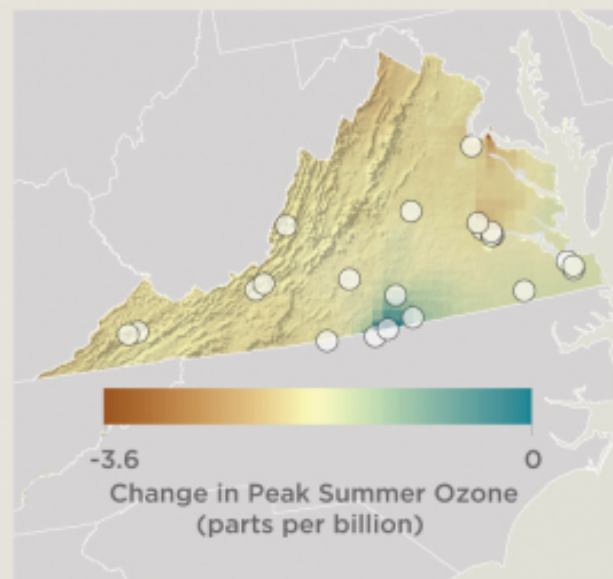
AIR QUALITY AND HEALTH BENEFITS OF A POWER PLANT CARBON STANDARD

VIRGINIA'S AIR

SOOT Reduced in 2020



SMOG Reduced in 2020



○ Operating Coal Plants

VIRGINIA'S HEALTH

Cumulative Lives Saved from 2020 to 2030



1200

Cumulative Hospitalizations Prevented from 2020 to 2030



340

Cumulative Heart Attacks Prevented from 2020 to 2030

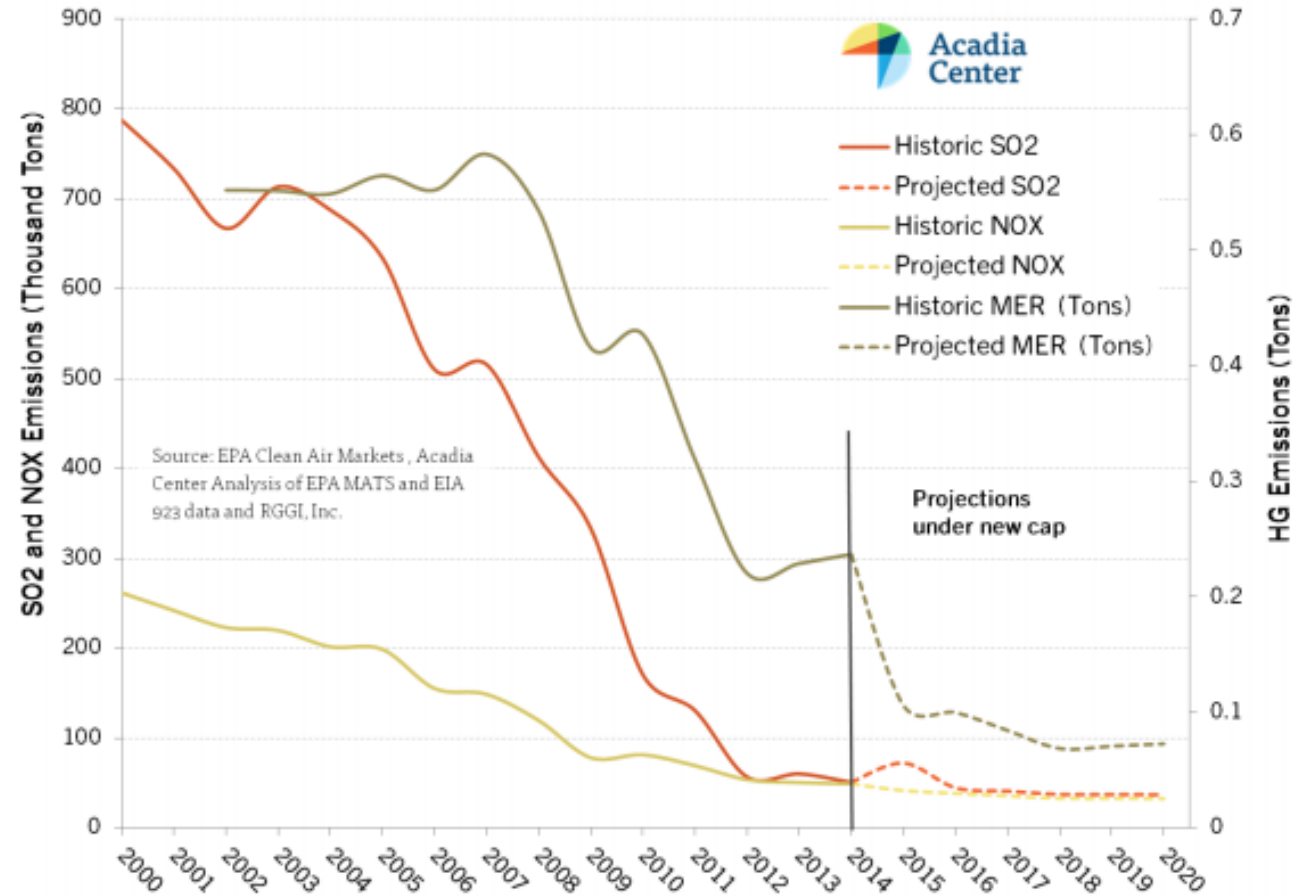


80

THESE MAPS SHOW: Reductions in fine particulate matter and peak summer ozone, and the resulting health benefits under Policy Scenario 2 compared to the 2020 reference case. For soot and smog, negative values = lower pollution. The health benefits assume a linear increase from the 2020 annual estimate. By comparison, Scenario 1 resulted in 50 additional premature deaths, and Scenario 3 resulted in 1100 lives saved. Source: *Health Co-benefits of Carbon Standards for Existing Power Plants*. www.chgeharvard.org/health-co-benefits.

Health Co-Benefits of Reducing Carbon Pollution

Figure 2: Reduction of Hazardous Pollution



A 2015 study evaluated air pollution reduced under the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and found:

- Harmful sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and mercury all dropped alongside carbon emissions during the program
- Nearly \$11 billion in health costs and premature deaths avoided between 2009-2014
- Carbon limits helped drive these reductions, though not exclusively.

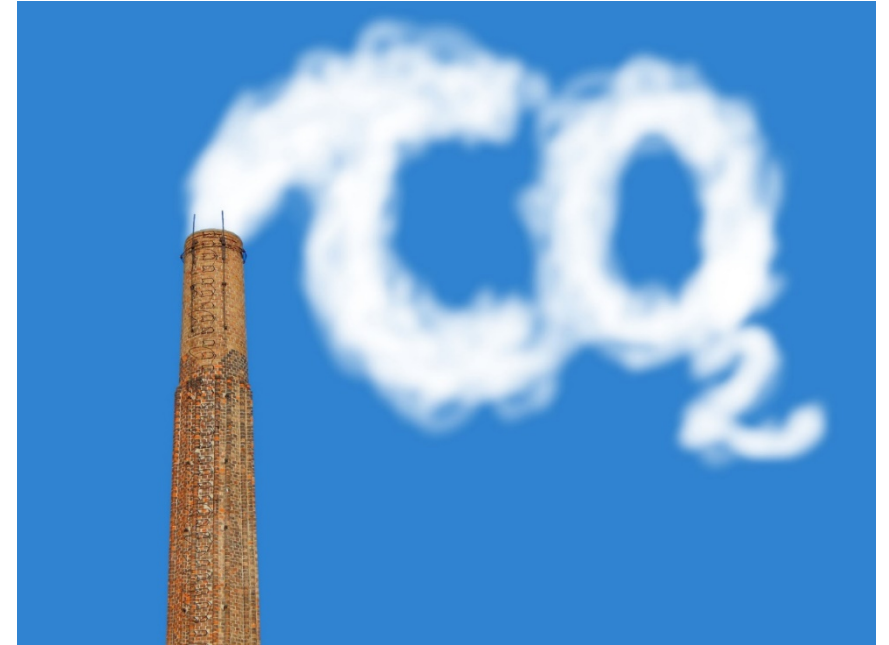
Impacts of Clean Power Plan Repeal

The EPA's most recent analysis shows:

In 2030, emissions will increase significantly if the Clean Power Plan is repealed:

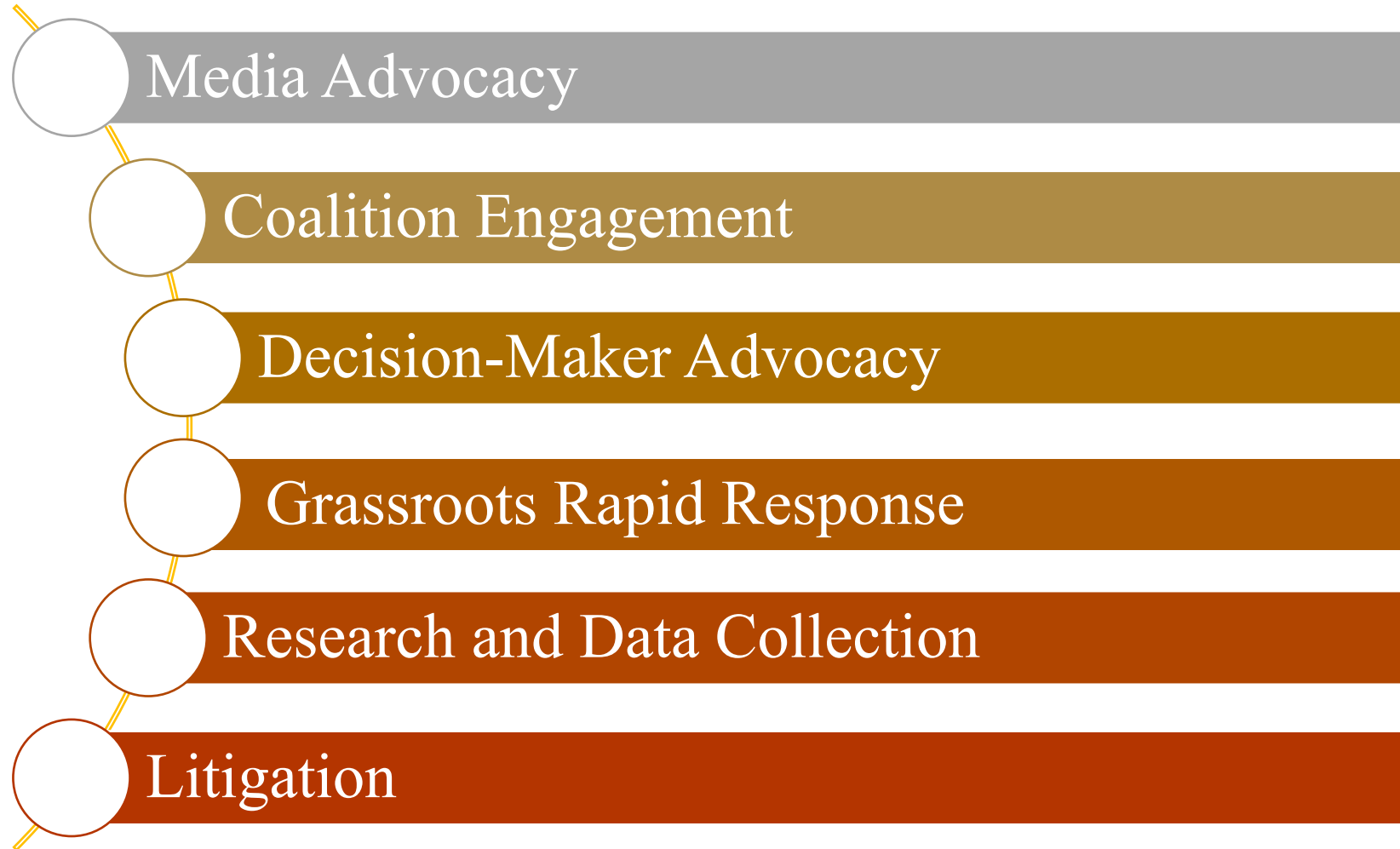
- SO₂ increases 45%
- NO_x increases 30%
- CO₂ increases 23%

Up to 4,500 additional premature deaths each year will result from the repeal of the Clean Power Plan.

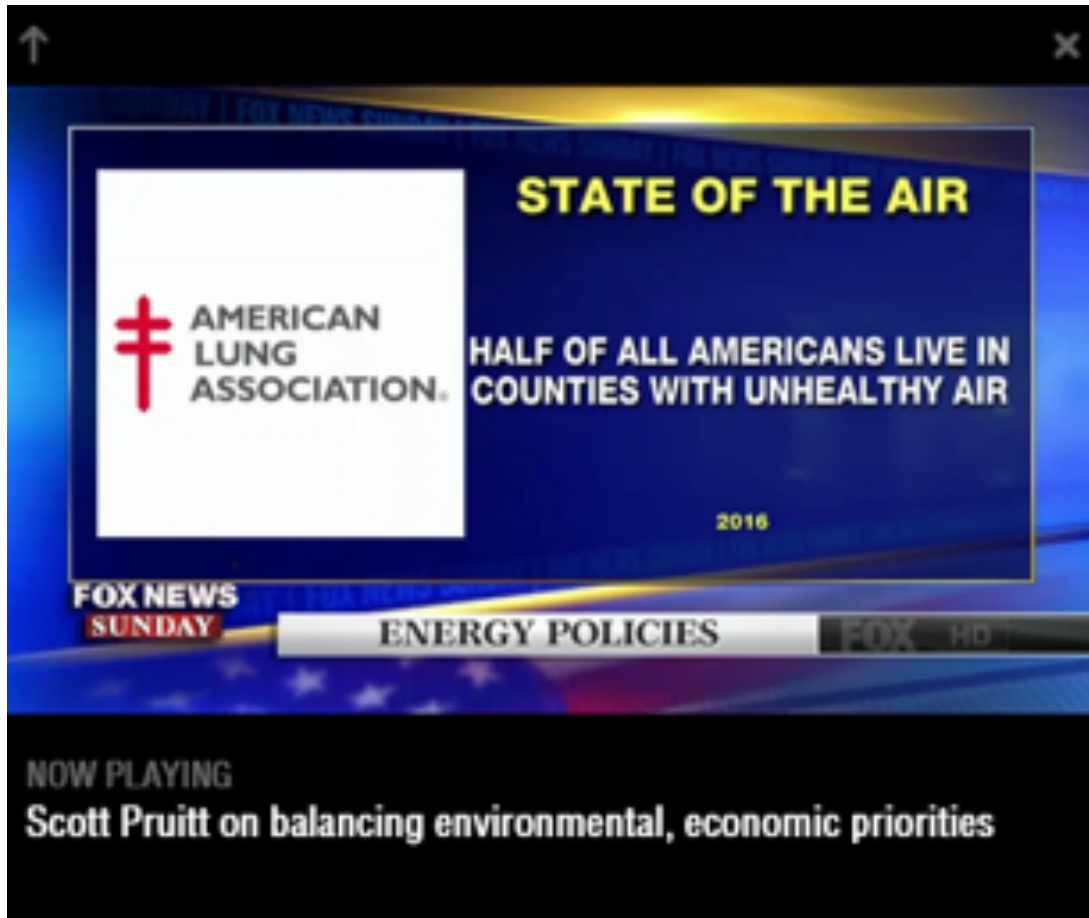


American Lung Association Response to EPA's push to "Repeal and Replace" the *Clean Power Plan*

Integrated Approach: Healthy Air Campaign



Frame the Issue in Health Terms



Fox News Sunday – April 2, 2017

Chris Wallace questions EPA Administrator about the *health impacts* of the Clean Power Plan repeal.



Health experts are furious with Trump for pulling out of the Paris climate agreement



A 6-year-old uses an inhaler to help ease her asthma symptoms. Asthma is one of the health conditions projected to increase as the planet gets warmer, experts say. (Rick Loomis / Los Angeles Times)

Unchecked climate change is a global health crisis

“Climate change is already harming the health of people in the United States and worldwide through degraded air quality, heat waves, droughts, extreme storms, disease outbreaks, and more. Unchecked climate change is a global health crisis that threatens to reverse decades of health gains worldwide, with serious consequences for our children and generations to come.”

— Harold P. Wimmer, national president and CEO of the American Lung Assn.

Climate change is happening and it’s affecting our health

“Today’s reckless decision is further abdication of leadership at the federal level to protect public health. ... The science is clear. Climate change is happening and it’s affecting our health. A changing climate affects our food supply, the spread of infectious disease, our water systems and air quality, and much more. All have significant impacts on human health.”

— Dr. Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Assn.

2017 Declaration on Climate Change & Health



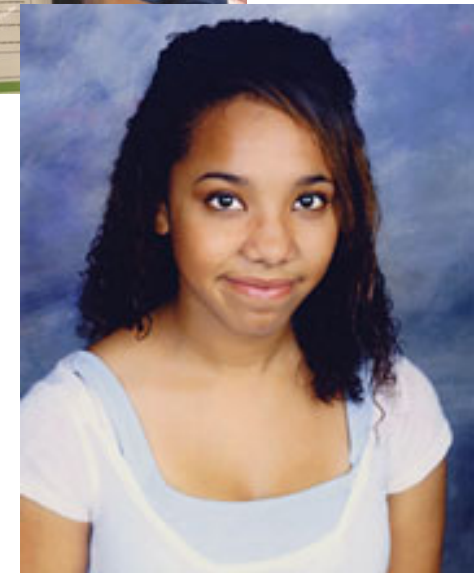
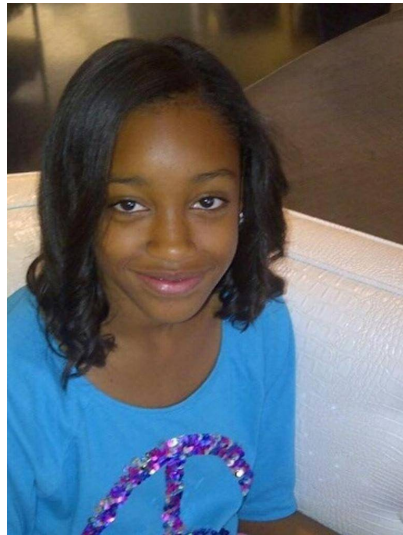
American College of Preventive Medicine
physicians dedicated to prevention



Children's
Environmental
Health
Network



Real People, Sharing Stories



Tips on advocating from a health perspective

Defend the Clean Power Plan, Support Local Action

- **Help inform the debate:** share the health impacts of air pollution and climate change with your community and decision makers.
- **Share your story:** Personal stories are compelling. The Lung Association convenes campaigns in many states – we can connect you and help you find ways to share your story strategically.
- **Join in-person meetings with decision-makers, and incorporate the health message;** focus on a few key impacts that affect your community or family most directly.
- **Sign letters to decision-makers, including comments to EPA**
 - **Sign-on letter for parents and grandparents:** <http://bit.ly/2y3PYIh>
 - **Sample comment for everyone to send EPA:** <http://bit.ly/2mqXC7J>

Together, we will succeed in promoting healthy air for all.



Questions ?



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