



Catholic Climate Covenant™
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

ABOUT CARBON STANDARDS AND THE CLEAN POWER PLAN

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops supports a national standard for carbon pollution from power plants. In the summer of 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finalized the Clean Power Plan, which sets the first-ever federal limits on carbon pollution from existing power plants.

The Clean Power Plan is flexible and achievable. States now have an opportunity to craft customized implementation plans to achieve carbon pollution reductions, including developing clean, renewable energy and deploying energy efficiency measures that will reduce usage and lower electricity bills for consumers.

Catholics support carbon standards.

- The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has written letters to the EPA and to Congress in support of a national standard on carbon pollution from power plants.
- In his encyclical letter on ecology, *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis wrote that "the climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all" and that "reducing greenhouse gases requires honesty, courage and responsibility." (23, 169)

The Clean Power Plan presents a tremendous opportunity for states.

- The Clean Power Plan will protect public health from dangerous carbon pollution, invest in clean, renewable energy development and boost energy efficiency measures.
- The Clean Power Plan presents a tremendous opportunity for every state:
 - It presents an opportunity to be a leader in clean, renewable energy development and create the good paying jobs that go with it.
 - It presents an opportunity to protect consumers by lowering electricity bills through aggressive energy efficiency measures that drive down costs and save money.
 - And it presents an opportunity for states to protect the health of families in all communities by reducing the dangerous industrial carbon pollution that triggers asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature deaths.
- The Clean Power Plan is a path forward to reliable, safe, and clean, renewable energy, a stronger economy and healthier children and communities.

The Clean Power Plan is the biggest step our country can take right now to curb dangerous climate change.

- Setting the first-ever limits on carbon pollution from power plants will move us forward on sensible, moral climate policies, and ensure our country has the affordable, reliable power we need to continue growing our economy.

- The Clean Power Plan will spark American innovation and ingenuity that will boost good-paying jobs, new technologies and energy efficiency, moving us toward a clean energy future.
- The time to act is now. The way is with the groundbreaking Clean Power Plan. And the reason is we have an obligation to leave our children and future generations a safer, cleaner world.

While the Clean Power Plan is an important step in reducing U.S. carbon pollution that contribute to climate change, the standards are flexible and achievable.

- Keeping electricity affordable and reliable is a key component of the Clean Power Plan. The flexible and achievable new public health and environmental safeguards will modernize our energy system and move us away from the dirty energy of the past with clean, renewable energy sources and cut down on the industrial carbon pollution that is fueling climate change.
- A majority of states are already on the path to achieving compliance with the Clean Power Plan.
- The Clean Power Plan gives states the flexibility they need to reduce carbon pollution in the way that is most beneficial to them.

The Clean Power Plan will protect public health.

- Climate change is one of the most serious public-health threats facing our nation. But with strong limits on carbon pollution, the public could see health benefits from cleaner air almost immediately.
- The health threats from climate change are considerable: intensified cases of asthma attacks and other respiratory diseases, longer pollen-allergy seasons, increased cases of heat stroke and other heat-related illnesses, and increased risks of insect- and waterborne diseases.
- The Clean Power Plan isn't just a program to help stabilize the climate and modernize our energy sources. It is also a valuable investment in Americans' health and well-being.