

America's oldest and dirtiest coal-burning power plants are destroying communities, poisoning our air and water, and making our families sick and driving global warming. According to the Clean Air Task force, pollution from coal-fired power plants is responsible for 13,200 deaths each year, roughly one person every 40 minutes. In addition, coal pollution causes 20,000 heart attacks, 217,600 asthma attacks, and 1,627,800 lost work days a year. And coal-fired power plants are responsible for about a third of the US's global warming pollution.

OUR SAFETY AND HEALTH AND THE FUTURE OF OUR PLANET DEPEND ON SHUTTING DOWN THESE PLANTS AND QUITTING COAL FOR GOOD.

Fortunately, all around the country, people are organizing, protesting and speaking out against coal, and now Greenpeace is prepared to join that movement and take on the coal industry in the greatest struggle of our time.

In the spotlight: Pennsylvania

Coal in Pennsylvania

- 1,359 people die each year as a result of coal pollution in Pennsylvania—that's over three people per day¹.
- The Little Blue Run Dam near Shippingport, Pennsylvania is on the EPA's list of coal ash dumps with High Hazard Potential Ratings. The rating applies to sites where a dam failure would most likely cause loss of human life². Coal ash contains toxic pollutants including mercury, arsenic, and lead.
- Coal plants in Pennsylvania emitted 101,690,275 tons of climate change fueling CO₂, 600,918 tons of SO₂ and 118,103 tons of NO_x in 2009. SO₂ and NO_x contribute to asthma, smog, and acid rain³.

Eddystone Generating Station and Cromby Generating Station

- Eddystone and Cromby, Exelon-owned coal-fired power plants near Eddystone and Phoenixville, respectively, are scheduled to shut down or convert to natural gas by 2012.
- Utility companies are starting to realize that there are smarter ways to power our future than coal. However, we should be replacing that coal with truly clean energy sources like wind and solar and through better efficiency, rather than converting to natural gas.

Portland Generating Station

- Portland Generating Station is a coal-fired power plant owned by Reliant Energy near Portland, Pennsylvania.
- In 2009, Portland emitted 2,396,431 tons of CO₂, 30,701 tons of SO₂, and 3,496 tons of NO_x⁴.
- A 2009 study by the Environmental Integrity Project revealed that Reliant Energy's coal ash dump in Mount Bethel Township did not have adequate controls to prevent groundwater contamination.



¹ Clean Air Task Force

² Fact Sheet: Coal Combustion Residues (CCR)—Surface Impoundments with High Hazard Potential Ratings, Environmental Protection Agency, June 2009. <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/industrial/special/fossil/ccrs-fs/index.htm>

³ Ventyx, 2011

⁴ Ventyx, 2011