

QUIT COAL GREENPEACE

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Fact Sheet

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: Massachusetts

- In the Boston/Cambridge/Quincy Metro area, pollution from coal-fired power plants is responsible for 144 deaths, 128 hospital admissions and 283 heart attacks every year.¹
- Six coal-burning power plants are located in Massachusetts. The three largest are Brayton Point Generating Station in Somerset, the Mount Tom Power Plant in Holyoke, and Salem Harbor Station in Salem. All three plants were built over 50 years ago.
- Massachusetts can do better than coal. Energy efficiency and clean energy are thriving in Massachusetts. Soon, Massachusetts will be home to the nation's first offshore wind farm, Cape Wind. The Cape Wind project will provide enough clean electricity to power 75% of the Cape and Islands.

Salem Harbor Station

- Salem Harbor Station is a coal-fired power plant operated by Dominion Energy, based in Virginia. One hundred thousand people live within three miles of the plant.
- The Harvard School of Public Health performed a study in 2000 that estimated that when it is operating full-time, Salem Harbor is responsible for 53 premature deaths, 570 emergency room visits, 14,400 asthma attacks, and 99,000 daily incidents of upper respiratory symptoms a year.²
- Salem Harbor is Massachusetts' third-highest source of global warming pollution. In 2009, the Salem plant emitted 2,078,419 tons of climate change-fueling CO₂.

Partners in Massachusetts:

- Conservation Law Foundation (www.clf.org)
- HealthLink (www.healthlink.org)
- Salem Alliance for the Environment (www.salemsafe.org)
- Students for a Just and Stable (www.justandstable.org)
- Sierra Club (www.sierraclub.org)

¹ Clean Air Task Force, *Toll From Coal*, 2010

² <http://www.airimpacts.org/documents/local/plant.pdf>

