



# Capitol Climate Action.org

## FAQs

### Who are you?

The Capitol Climate Coalition is a partnership of over 90 conservation, faith-based, labor and social justice groups from across the country. Some participants are recognized leaders in the scientific and environmental community, like world renowned climate scientist Dr. James Hansen and writers Wendell Berry and Bill McKibben. Others are less well known, but have made big sacrifices to participate—like Jodie Atkinson, a single mother from Indiana, who scrimped and saved so she could be a part of solving global warming, which she calls the most important issue of our time.

### Why the Capitol Power Plant?

The Capitol Power Plant, which is owned by Congress and sits just blocks from the American seat of power, burns coal to heat and cool numerous buildings on Capitol Hill. The facility no longer generates electricity but its reliance on coal—the country's biggest source of global warming pollution and a documented health hazard—has made it the focus of political controversy and a powerful symbol of coal's impact on the environment and public health.

### What's so bad about coal?

Coal-fired power plants are the largest source of global warming pollution in the U.S. The best available science says that we cannot address the climate crisis unless we stop burning coal. Coal is also a dangerous pollutant, causing asthma, heart disease and premature death. Mining coal puts the lives of workers at risk everyday.

### What's the alternative to coal?

We have the technology today to build alternatives to coal-fired power plants, like wind and solar, that will move our country toward a clean energy future. These solutions can curb global warming and cut air pollution, while at the same time building a clean, sustainable economy that lowers energy bills and creates at least 5 million new jobs.

### Why now?

We can't afford to wait any longer for the government to act to stop global warming or build 21st Century jobs in clean energy. The best available science says we must begin cutting carbon dioxide emissions immediately if we are to avoid the worst impacts of global warming. In December 2009, the international community will meet in Copenhagen to establish a plan to tackle the climate crisis. Congress and the Obama administration need to get work now in order to position the U.S. to lead the world in developing an agreement capable of solving the crisis.

### What are you asking for?

Our leaders must repower our economy with clean energy technology and pass comprehensive science-driven legislation that is capable of avoiding the most dangerous impacts of global warming. In 2009, we must lead the global community in building a strong, binding international climate treaty in Copenhagen. According to the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the United States and other industrialized countries need to reduce global warming pollution by 25–40 percent by 2025 to avoid the most severe impacts of the climate crisis.

### What is civil disobedience?

Civil disobedience is a time-honored tradition in peaceful social movements. It has been used throughout history as a way to emphasize the seriousness of an issue, the moral obligation to act, and the commitment people have to bring about change. As with Gandhi's walk for independence and Martin Luther King's march for equal rights, history now calls on people of conscience to peacefully take a stand on global warming. Scientists and policy experts, like NASA's James Hansen and Nobel Prize laureate Al Gore, are calling on Americans to engage in civil disobedience against coal-fired power plants, the country's biggest source of global warming pollution. They have answered with this action.

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