

Air pollution is making Texas families sick. More dirty coal plants will mean more asthma, lung disease and premature deaths.



"As a physician, I can tell when the ozone level is or has been high. You can hear people wheezing and coughing in our hospital's emergency room. We see large numbers of people at our hospital who have preventable pulmonary disease, much of it permanent. Some say that more coal plants will help our economy, but they are not factoring in health care costs to that equation. Air pollution is making Texas families sick. More dirty coal plants will mean more asthma, lung disease and premature deaths."

– Dr. Robert Cluck
Mayor of Arlington, Texas

“I have two small children, and I am concerned about how pollution from coal plants will affect their health and their world, and as a Christian, I feel I also have a responsibility to care for the entire community, especially the most vulnerable.”

– **Suzanne White**

Waco, Texas



Cheaper, Cleaner, and Energy Plan Cooler

✔ **Pass a resolution calling for a moratorium on permitting coal plants to allow time to:**

- Examine the alternatives to coal.
- Complete our state plans to improve air quality in the Dallas/Ft Worth and Houston areas.
- Wait for courts to rule on pending air quality cases.

✔ **Efficiency is our first choice.**

Save 80% or more of the growth in Texas' electricity demand with:

- Stronger building codes, efficient lighting, and retrofit programs for older buildings
- Electronically controlled thermostats and other methods of reducing use at peak demand times
- Tightening up leaks around doors and windows and heating and cooling ducts

✔ **Develop more renewable energy.**

- Expand the use of wind, solar and other renewable energy resources.

✔ **Use cogeneration or combined cooling & heating power plants in new developments.**

- Locally produced power
- Allows waste heat to be captured and used
- Reduces cost of transmitting power

✔ **New generation performance standards.**

- Examine cumulative impacts of pollution sources.
- Look at wider range of alternatives.
- Look comprehensively at all impacts of emissions.
- Reduce global warming gases.
- Emission limits should be 60-90% lower (as low as a coal gassification plant).
- Raise Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) air emissions rules to match Federal Clean Air standards.

TOP 10

Reasons to Oppose Coal Plants

1. Deaths and disease from dirty power

Over 1,100 Texans die prematurely every year due to pollution from existing coal-burning power plants and over 33,000 asthma attacks per year are linked to this pollution as well.

Health Problems

Caused by Pollution from Coal-fired Power Plants

Health Effect	Total Cases
Premature Death	1,160
Heart Attacks	1,791
Lung Cancer Deaths	144
Asthma Attacks	33,987
Hospital Admissions	1,105
Chronic Bronchitis	942
ER Asthma Visits	1,798

CleartheAir.org

An estimated additional 240 people would die prematurely every year in Texas if the 19 proposed plants are built (CleartheAir.org).

2. Smog

The health of two-thirds of Texans is at stake. Burning coal produces nitrogen oxides (NO_x) which react with other chemicals to form the ozone, or smog, that burns our lungs and leads to respiratory problems such as asthma. The proposed plants would emit as much NO_x as one million cars. Dallas/Fort Worth and Houston already have air that is unsafe to breathe, and the Waco, Longview/Tyler and Austin areas are likely to have unsafe air if these coal plants are built. Under Governor Perry's fast tracking order, these plants may be permitted before the state's clean air plan will be completed in June.

3. Mercury

13 bodies of water in Texas are so contaminated with mercury that they have fish consumption advisories in place. Exposure to toxic mercury can lead to permanent brain damage and learning disabilities. The proposed coal plants would spew an additional 4,400 lbs of mercury into the air (StoptheCoalPlant.org). A recent study shows that for every 1000 lbs of mercury emitted, there is a correlated 17% increase in autism. (UT Health Science Center at San Antonio, Environmental mercury release, special education rates, and autism disorder: an ecological study of Texas, 2004).

4. Global climate change

There is overwhelming scientific consensus that global climate change is taking place. The proposed coal plants would emit 120 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) each year, or as much as 20 million cars. CO₂ is known to be the largest contributor to global climate change.

5. Inadequate rail capacity and increased emissions from trains

Eleven of the proposed plants would burn coal from Wyoming that would be shipped to Texas by rail. The proposed coal plants would require eleven additional trains with 120 cars each per day, clogging rail yards and lines past their capacity. San Antonio's utility was forced to import 150,000 tons of coal from Colombia and truck it 140 miles from Port Arthur when rail lines were unavailable (*The Christian Scientist Monitor*, Enough coal on hand to keep US cool?, May 25, 2006). The trains that would serve these proposed coal plants would emit another 4,500 tons of smog-forming pollution each year.

6. Won't lower your high electricity bills

The price of electricity is based on the price of generating electricity with natural gas. Building coal plants will not change that price. Coal is only "cheap" for the utilities, who reap extra profit.



"With more coal plants in Texas, we can expect more frequent and severe asthma attacks, more strokes, and worsening of heart and lung problems. Toxic mercury produced by coal plants can lead to neurological problems in young children and poses a significant risk for pregnant women."

– Dr. Kimberly Carter

Obstetrician/Gynecologist of Austin
Physicians for Social Responsibility

7. Wastes precious water

Each unit consumes an average of 8.76 million gallons of water every year and additionally ties up 3.9 billion gallons per unit in its cooling cycle.

8. Increased monopoly power

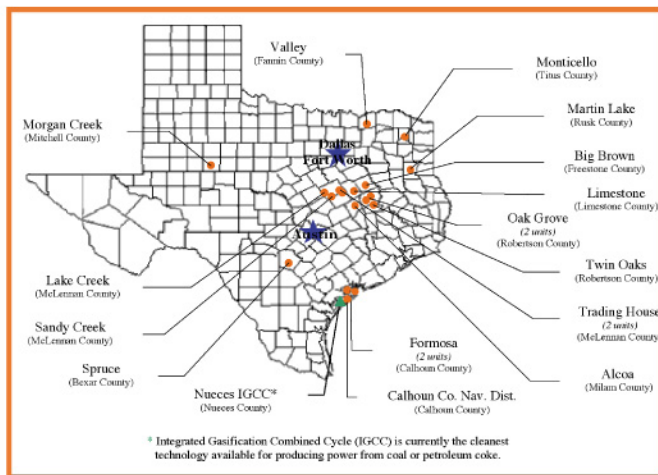
Eleven of the coal plants are proposed by a single company, TXU, which generated 22.7% of electricity in the ERCOT market in 2005, 10% more than the second largest producer (ERCOT, 2005 Load MWh by CMZone, 2006. TXU, 2005 Statistical Summary, 2006). A single company in Texas can have no more than 20% of the state's generating capacity.

9. Economically risky

Congress is poised to pass federal legislation capping global warming emissions. *The Dallas Morning News* recently ran an editorial by two key U.S. Senators warning TXU and other companies not to count on getting their carbon dioxide emissions grandfathered. We estimate off-setting the new CO₂ could add \$2.4 - \$6.7 billion to the costs of electric generation in Texas.

10. Cheaper, cleaner and cooler alternatives are available now!

Energy efficiency is quick and easy. Efficiency measures alone could help meet 80% of Texas' projected energy demand increase, at about 2/5th the cost per kilowatt hour compared to building new coal plants. Managing the demand for electricity and using combined heating and power plants could meet the balance of our needs (NRDC.org).



19 Additional Coal Plants
Will worsen our air quality and cook our climate

Texans Deserve Clean Energy Solutions

Sunday, February 11 – 3:00 pm
Stop the Coal Rush

RALLY South Steps
Texas State Capitol
Austin, Texas

Your participation is vital!

Mission: To ask Texas State Legislators to intervene in the unfair permitting process of 19 dirty coal-fired power plants proposed in Texas. Lawmakers should stop the “fast-track” process so Texans can have a real voice in the crucial decisions about how we will power our state for generations to come.

Lobby Training Session
Sunday, Feb. 11th 6pm

Citizen Lobby Day,
Monday, Feb. 12th

Write to or visit your legislator and ask for a moratorium on dirty coal plants.

For more information, to register, make a contribution, or volunteer, contact:

Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter

512-476-2052

or visit:



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www.stopthecoalrush.com

Endorsing Organizations: American Lung Association (serving Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas), Austin Physicians for Social Responsibility, Blue Skies Alliance, Citizens For Environmental Clean-Up, Citizens Organizing for Resources and Environment, Democracy for Texas, Downwinders at Risk, East Texas Environmental Concerns Organization, Environment Texas, Greater Caddo Lake Association, GreenGirls.net, Houston Climate Protection Alliance, Keep Waco Green, Public Citizen, Robertson County: Our Land, Our Lives, Sierra Club (Lone Star Chapter and 13 region groups - Alamo, Austin, Big Bend, Coastal, Dallas, Fort Worth, Galveston, Golden Triangle, Houston, Lower Rio Grande Valley, and Pineywoods), Sustainable Energy and Economic Development (SEED) Coalition, Texas Campaign for the Environment, Texas Center for Policy Studies, Texas Clean Water Action, Texas IMPACT, People of Faith Working for Justice, TPOWER

Take action in person or on paper, in your hometown or at the Capitol. Decisions about our state's energy future will affect every Texan for generations. Become a part of the process NOW!

1. Help your community understand the problems.

- Visit your legislators' district offices and speak with the district staff about your concerns.
- Hold meetings and recruit your friends to help.
- Ask your local elected officials to speak publicly on the local impacts of state energy choices.
- Submit letters to the editor and comments on local blogsites.
- Distribute information online or on paper to your church, neighborhood association, local political organization, PTA or other group.

2. Make your voice heard in Austin.

- Call, email, fax or write your senator and representative and tell them you support a postponement on permitting coal-fired power plants to give time to assess Texas' energy options.
- Visit www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/ to find your state representative and senator and their contact information.

3. Come to the Capitol!

- Come to Austin **February 11-12** for our statewide "Time Out: Stop the Coal Rush!" event.

**Help
Stop
the
Coal
Rush!**

RALLY
at the Capitol
Sun, Feb. 11
3pm

Lobby Day with
Legislators
Mon, Feb. 12

The only way to beat organized polluters is with organized people.

www.stopthecoalrush.com

Stop the Coal Plant

1002 West Avenue
Suite 300
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