



# Chicago Clean Power Coalition

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## 2011 Update, Chicago Clean Power Ordinance

### BACKGROUND

- The Chicago Clean Power Ordinance was reintroduced in late July 2011 by Ald. Joe Moore (Ward 49) and Ald. Danny Solis (Ward 25). It currently has the support of 35 Co-Sponsors.
- This ordinance demands the reduction of pollution from the Fisk and Crawford coal plants: 50% reduction of carbon dioxide and 90% reduction of particulate matter
- For the past 3 months Mayor Emanuel, Midwest Generation and the Chicago Clean Power Coalition have convened a series of meetings to look at potential solutions that all parties could agree to. All parties have worked to reach tentative agreements on several fronts including the retirement of the two coal plants and efforts to secure a contract at Midwest Generation's Illinois wind farm. Unfortunately, to date, the vehicles to secure a wind contract for Midwest generation have not been successful. Meanwhile, the pollution continues.

### HEALTH IMPACTS FROM FISK AND CRAWFORD'S POLLUTION

#### New Data on Harmful Pollution from the Plants:

- Sulfur dioxide violations:
  - New air quality modeling shows that the sulfur dioxide pollution from Fisk and Crawford in the Pilsen and Little Village communities violates federal standards.<sup>1</sup>
  - Pollution from Midwest Generation's plants causes violations of EPA's one hour standards for sulfur dioxide.
- Lead violations:
  - U.S. EPA declared that Pilsen violates the national air quality standard for lead, in part due to lead pollution from the coal plants.<sup>2</sup>

#### Fisk and Crawford are Chicago's largest sources of particulate-forming air pollution:<sup>3</sup>

- In the last three years alone, these plants together have spewed over 45,000 tons of pollution into the air we breathe, compromising the health of all Chicagoans.<sup>4</sup> Pollution from these two plants has caused up to \$1 billion in health and environmental-related damages in the last eight years.<sup>5</sup>
- According to a September 2010 study commissioned by the Clean Air Task Force using methodology approved by EPA's Science Advisory Board and the National Academy of Sciences, pollution from Fisk and Crawford causes 42 premature deaths (an average of one death every 9 days), 720 asthma attacks and 66 heart attacks annually.<sup>6</sup> Those who live closest to these plants are most affected.
- Chicago has one of the highest asthma rates in the country.<sup>7</sup> Our asthma hospitalization rate is nearly double the national average.<sup>8 9</sup>

### CHICAGO RESIDENTS WANT THIS POLLUTION CLEANED UP

- Recent polling results by Fako & Associates show that 72 percent of Chicago voters want the power plants to cut the amount of their pollution.<sup>10</sup>

### CHICAGO'S AIR POLLUTION GETTING NATIONAL ATTENTION

- Time Magazine's November 21, 2011 feature article, "The War on Coal" calls out Chicago as the only major city in the nation that has two old, dirty coal plants within its city limits.
- Let's instead become the only major city in the nation that cleans up the two power plants within its city limits and protects the air and health of its residents.

**Chicago Clean Power Coalition**

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- <sup>1</sup> Sierra Club. October 31, 2011. <http://www.sierraclub.org/pressroom/beyondcoal/chicago/>.
- <sup>2</sup> AllGov.com. November 28, 2011. EPA Adds Chicago to List of Lead-Polluted Areas.
- <sup>3</sup> Center for Neighborhood Technology. 2008. Chicago Greenhouse Gas Emissions: An Inventory, Forecast and Mitigation Analysis for Chicago and the Metropolitan Region. An Assessment prepared for the City of Chicago.
- <sup>4</sup> Clean Air Markets - Data and Maps. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. <http://camddataandmaps.epa.gov>.
- <sup>5</sup> Environmental Law & Policy Center. October 2010. Midwest Generation's "Unpaid Health Bills": The Hidden Public Costs of Soot and Smog From the Fisk and Crawford Coal Plants in Chicago.
- <sup>6</sup> Clean Air Task Force. September 2010. The Toll from Coal: An Updated Assessment of Death and Disease from America's Dirtiest Energy Source.
- <sup>7</sup> Cagney, PhD, Kathleen A. and Christopher R. Browning, PhD. 2004. Exploring Neighborhood-level Variation in Asthma and other Respiratory Diseases: The Contribution of Neighborhood Social Context. Journal of Internal Medicine. Springer New York. Volume 19, Number 3 / March, 2004.
- <sup>8</sup> National Health Interview Survey. 1998. (Provided by Dr. Sandra Thomas, Chicago Department of Public Health.)
- <sup>9</sup> Mannino et. al. 2002. "Surveillance for Asthma – United States, 1980-1999." Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. CDC.
- <sup>10</sup> See October 18, 2011 commentary by Greg Hinz in Crain's Chicago Business.