



Chicago Clean Power Coalition

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WHY ADOPT A CLEAN POWER ORDINANCE?

Protecting public health and welfare is a fundamental responsibility of government. Yet each year Fisk and Crawford, two coal-fired power plants within the city limits of Chicago, emit thousands of tons of harmful air pollutants that directly affect the health of City residents and millions of tons of global warming pollution into the atmosphere, fueling climate change.

DID YOU KNOW....

Fisk and Crawford are Chicago's largest sources of particulate-forming air pollution:¹

- 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.² Pollution from these two plants has caused up to \$1 billion in health and environmental-related damages in the last eight years.³
- Particulate matter from the Fisk and Crawford impairs visibility and causes lung cancer, heart attacks, premature deaths, acute and chronic bronchitis, emergency room visits, asthma attacks and other respiratory illnesses. Those who live closest to these plants are most affected, resulting in missed school days and work absenteeism.
- State and federal laws have so far failed to curb the negative effects of these plants.

These emissions are making us sick:

- Chicago has one of the highest asthma rates in the country.⁴ Our asthma hospitalization rate is nearly double the national average.^{5 6}
- 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.⁷

Chicago has the highest concentration of people living near coal plants in the nation:

- More people live near Fisk than any other power plant in the US. Crawford is second worst. The population density surrounding Fisk alone is nearly twice that of the third ranked plant.⁸
- Communities living next to these plants are among the most marginalized. Over 83% of Chicago's residents who live within three miles of the Fisk and Crawford coal plants are non-white.⁹

Fisk and Crawford also are two of Chicago's largest contributors to climate change. Together in 2010, they emitted nearly 5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere.¹⁰ This is equivalent to the emissions from almost 1 million cars!

ComEd is adding transmission lines so Chicago no longer will need to rely on Fisk and Crawford to keep the electrical grid stable. These new transmission lines also will make it possible for Midwest Generation to update or repower its plants without interrupting local the power supply.¹¹

WHAT IS PROPOSED?

On July 28, 2011 Alderman Joe Moore (Ward 49) and Alderman Danny Solis (Ward 25) re-introduced the Chicago Clean Power Ordinance to Chicago's City Council:

- This ordinance requires Fisk and Crawford to reduce their emissions of particulates by 90% and carbon dioxide by 50%.
- Pursuant to its home rule authority, the City can adopt regulations for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare of its residents. Chicago already has regulated air pollutants such as particulate matter through its Air Quality Ordinance.

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How will the Chicago Clean Power Ordinance Affect Fisk and Crawford?

- This is not a shut-down ordinance. The standards included in the Chicago Clean Power Ordinance are being met by other power producers across the country.¹²
- The ordinance has a four-year phase-in process that gives the owners of the plants adequate time to comply.

THERE IS A BETTER WAY...AND CHICAGO CAN TAKE THE LEAD!

Now is the time for Chicago to begin the transition to a clean energy future:

- The Clean Power Ordinance is consistent with Chicago's stated commitment to lower its greenhouse gas emissions and create new jobs.¹³
- Adopting this Ordinance will make a strong statement that the health and safety of Chicago's residents is a high priority for City government.

The demand for coal can be reduced through energy efficiency and safe, clean renewable energy:

- The implementation of Chicago's Climate Action Plan is expected to generate a demand for up to 2,500 energy efficiency-related jobs each year.
- It also would create hundreds of jobs annually in areas such as renewable energy installation; green roof design and installation; and collection, processing, resale and reuse of recycled materials.¹⁴
- Most of the jobs created through clean-energy investments would be in the same areas that people work in today. Constructing wind farms creates jobs for sheet metal workers, machinists and truck drivers. Increasing buildings' energy efficiency through retrofitting requires roofers, insulators and building inspectors.¹⁵

Exelon and SunPower Corporation recently completed the nation's largest urban solar power plant (on a former industrial site on Chicago's southeast side):

- Solar energy generates at least five times the number of permanent jobs per unit of installed capacity compared to coal plants.
- Also, solar facilities can be built quickly, and construction jobs are needed now.

¹ 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.

² Clean Air Markets - Data and Maps. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. <http://camddataandmaps.epa.gov>.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ National Health Interview Survey. 1998. (Provided by Dr. Sandra Thomas, Chicago Department of Public Health.)

⁶ Mannino et. al. 2002. "Surveillance for Asthma – United States, 1980-1999." Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. CDC.

⁷ Clean Air Task Force. September 2010. The Toll from Coal: An Updated Assessment of Death and Disease from America's Dirtiest Energy Source.

⁸ Center for Media and Democracy 2010. SourceWatch. Coal plants near residential areas.

⁹ Center for Media and Democracy 2010. SourceWatch. Coal plants near residential areas.

¹⁰ U.S. EPA. Clean Air Markets Data and Maps. 2010.

¹¹ RATE CASE ORDER, PETITION, IVEY'S TESTIMONY: In re Commonwealth Edison Co., No. 10-0385, Order of the Illinois Commerce Commission (Nov. 23, 2010); see also Testimony of Susan O. Ivey, Com Ed Ex. 1.0.

¹² Center for Media and Democracy 2011. Coal Swarm. Coal plant conversion projects. <http://bit.ly/qLMRho>

¹³ City of Chicago. 2008. Chicago Climate Action Plan.

¹⁴ Schrock, G. and Sundquist, E. 2009. Potential Workforce Impacts of the Chicago Climate Action Plan: Quantitative and Qualitative Assessments, University of Illinois at Chicago, Center for Urban Economic Development.

¹⁵ Ibid.