

# The Clean Air Act

## Under Attack and Needed to Clean Maine's Air!

The importance of the Clean Air Act has been revealed once again, as concerns about clean air and climate-changing pollution continue to rise in the face of so many years of Congressional *inaction*. This makes the Act a tempting target for powerful polluting energy interests and their allies in Congress and the courts. NRCM is working hard to defend the Clean Air Act and we need your help!

**Coal is one of the dirtiest sources of energy**—from destructive mountaintop removal mining practices to when it is burned in power plants. About 10% of the electricity we use in Maine comes from coal-fired power plants. **Five years ago, the Supreme Court ruled that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) can unleash the power of the Clean Air Act to reduce climate-changing pollution from coal-fired power plants and cut down on air and water pollution.** So, under its Clean Air Act authority, the EPA recently announced two draft standards that are essential for attacking the problem of coal pollution.



### Carbon Pollution from New Power Plants

**In March 2012, the EPA released a proposal to set the first national limits on carbon pollution from new power plants.** Although coal-fueled power plants are the largest single source of climate-changing carbon pollution in the U.S., until now, there have been no federal limits on this dangerous pollution. While more action is needed to set standards for existing power plants and other sources of carbon pollution, this new standard is essential to protect people, wildlife, and our environment by combating climate change.



**This standard will likely ensure that no new coal plants are built in the U.S.** Here in Maine, our environment and economy are especially vulnerable to a changing climate, and it is already harming our outdoor traditions, from skiing to hunting, and our nature-based economy, from logging to lobsters. **The public comment period for these new rules is open, and the EPA needs to hear from you! Please fill out one of our postcards to EPA Administrator Jackson or send a message online at [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org), to show your support for these important new standards.**

### Mercury and Air Toxics Pollution from Existing Power Plants

**In December 2011, the EPA finalized long-overdue standards for mercury and other air toxic pollution that comes from existing power plants, primarily coal plants.** Coal-fueled power plants are also among the largest single source of mercury pollution in the U.S. **This standard finally sets a reasonable limit on the emissions of mercury, arsenic, acid gases, and other toxics from dirty power plants.** This pollution flows to Maine from polluters upwind.

Again and again, the science has clearly shown the risk of mercury to children and wildlife, which is well documented. The health of Maine people and our environment is suffering. This new standard will help clean our air and decrease mercury levels in our waters and wildlife. Although it's long past time that polluters clean up their act, **this mercury standard is currently under attack in Congress. Go to our website, [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org), to email Senators Snowe and Collins today!**



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