



CLEAN POWER, CLEAN AIR  
CLEANER COMMUNITIES

*Across this country, low income, communities of color are waiting to breathe clean air. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Power Plan (CPP), announced on June 2, is anticipated to reduce harmful emissions from fossil-fueled power plants, the largest source of carbon dioxide emissions and other harmful pollutants. While this plan is comprehensive, **there are some important 'missing pieces' of the CPP that we are asking the EPA to include in the final rule.***

**1) Execute the power of Executive Order 12898 by conducting an EJ analysis of how this rule will impact low income, communities of color.**

February 2014 marked the 20th anniversary of Executive Order 12898: Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations (<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/pdf/12898.pdf> and Executive Order 12550 which requires **Federal Agencies to conduct research and analysis to determine if there is a negative impact on communities of color.** As of now, the current plan has no EJ analysis and does not require the states to conduct an analysis. This is unacceptable.

**2) Provide more balanced options of strategies to mitigate carbon dioxide, other than cap & trade programs.**

The CPP as written is very slanted towards states initiating Cap & Trade programs, where facilities are given the opportunity to buy and sell permits to pollute. This type of process—as witnessed in California's program—often results in allowing the most polluting companies to 'buy their way out' of compliance, and not eliminating pollution in the most impacted communities. **Rather, we support a tax on carbon, and making renewable energy options accessible and affordable for low-income, communities of color.** A carbon tax needs to be presented as a mitigation option in the CPP. We also recommend that if States choose to embark or continue a Cap & Trade Program, that state implementation plans (SIPs) address the potential negative impacts.

**3) Reduce carbon dioxide and other pollutants where they are most needed: in EJ communities.**

EJ communities are faced with pollutants from multiple sources. While reducing carbon dioxide is important, **we want the EPA to require states to create multi-pollutant plans to reduce other air toxins.** The most recent report on Urban Air Toxins to Congress supports the need for a strategy to address the cumulative impacts of pollution, especially in urban air areas and communities that are overburdened. See latest report: <http://www2.epa.gov/urban-air-toxics/second-integrated-urban-air-toxics-report-congress>

**4) Carbon Capture & Sequestration (CCS), more reliance on natural gas, nuclear power, and incineration are NOT the best systems for emissions reductions.**

The options presented above have the potential to negatively impact the health of EJ communities. The siting of CCS processes, the direct and indirect effects of natural gas extraction, the waste generated from using nuclear power, and the harmful by-products of biomass incineration should be a last resort. **The focus should be on increasing access to affordable, renewable energy options and reducing pollution at the source.**

# What is ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?



A **grassroots effort** to engage affected residents to:

- ♦ **identify and advocate for policies that address the disproportionate distribution and the health impact of pollution in communities of color and low income; and,**
- ♦ **to plan and advocate for green benefits that improve the neighborhood environment, climate resilience, and enhance community quality of life.**

## What do we want the EPA to consider?

- 1) Executing the power of Executive Order 12898 and conduct an EJ analysis of how this rule will impact low income, communities of color
- 2) Adding more carbon mitigation options to the discussion, like carbon pricing, or promoting more renewable energy (i.e. No cap and trade programs)
- 3) Requiring states to develop multi-pollutant emission reduction plans, especially in 'hot spot communities'
- 4) Strongly consider the disproportionate impacts of promoting Carbon Capture & Sequestration (CCS), nuclear power, or incineration. These are NOT the best systems for emissions reductions.

## We would love **your help.**

1) **Submit comments to the federal EPA on the Clean Power Plan:** The EPA will be finalizing the CPP by June 2016. Consider submitting comments that include our concerns above by the public comment deadline: **OCTOBER 16, 2014** via the website: <http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/how-comment-clean-power-plan-proposed-rule>

2) **Influence your state process:** State environmental agencies are already trying to figure out how they will meet the new standards in the rule. Write a letter to your Governor, state environmental agency and public utility commission to make sure local, grassroots EJ organizations are brought into the process and address the 4 Ask's above!

For more information, please visit our website: [www.weact.org/ejcleanair](http://www.weact.org/ejcleanair) or contact Dr. Jalonne L. White-Newsome at [jalonne@weact.org](mailto:jalonne@weact.org)  
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