



The Medical Society Consortium on **CLIMATE & HEALTH**

Speak Out for Carbon Pollution Standards for Power Plants

There are two ways you can take action:

- Provide your written comments [here](#). Written comments are due by **August 7th**.
- Share this toolkit with **five colleagues**. The more people who submit public comments rooted in health and evidence, the more likely we are to save this rule.

Background

On June 11, 2025, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under Administrator Lee Zeldin, announced a proposal to repeal federal standards that limit carbon pollution from power plants. These standards, finalized during the previous administration, were intended to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from one of the nation's largest sources of climate pollution.

The proposed repeal comes at a time of escalating climate-related health impacts, including record-breaking heat, widespread wildfire smoke, and extreme weather events across the country. Power plant emissions not only drive climate change but also contribute to co-pollutants—such as fine particulate matter and ozone—that harm respiratory and cardiovascular health.

Key Health Facts

- Power plants are the [second-largest source](#) of climate pollution in the U.S. Carbon dioxide emissions from these facilities significantly contribute to climate change, which in turn fuels extreme weather, worsens air quality, and disrupts essential services, including healthcare.
- Climate change is a [growing public health threat](#). It increases heat-related illness and death, worsens chronic disease outcomes, expands the spread of infectious diseases, and intensifies mental health impacts from displacement and disaster exposure.
- Air pollution and climate burdens are [not equitably distributed](#). Communities living near fossil fuel infrastructure—often low-income, Indigenous, and communities of color—are more likely to experience health harms related to pollution and climate change.

Projected Health and Climate Benefits of the Power Plant Standards

Prior to the repeal proposal, EPA projected that the climate pollution standards for power plants—combined with clean energy incentives under the Inflation Reduction Act—would:

- Reduce power sector climate pollution **75% below 2005 levels by 2035**
- Provide the following [health co-benefits](#):
 - Up to 1,200 avoided premature deaths
 - 870 avoided hospital and emergency room visits
 - 1,900 avoided cases of asthma onset
 - 360,000 avoided cases of asthma symptoms
 - 48,000 avoided school absence days
 - 57,000 fewer lost workdays

Key Messages for Health Professionals

- **Carbon pollution from power plants harms health.** It contributes directly to climate change and indirectly to rising rates of asthma, heart disease, heat stress, infectious disease, and climate-related trauma.
- **Rolling back the standards will increase public health risks.** The repeal would lead to higher emissions, more extreme weather events, and greater health burdens, particularly for vulnerable populations.
- **Science should guide regulatory policy.** The existing standards were based on rigorous scientific review and public input. Removing them undermines evidence-based policymaking and weakens the federal government’s ability to protect health.
- **Public support for clean air and climate protections is strong.** Polling consistently shows broad bipartisan support for reducing pollution and protecting communities from the health effects of climate change.

How to Take Action

The proposed repeal of power plant climate standards threatens to reverse major public health and environmental gains. Health professionals have a critical role to play in elevating the health consequences of climate policy and advocating for protections that reduce emissions, improve air quality, and protect vulnerable communities.

You can use the information above to craft your written public comments. We’re providing a template below that you can use as well. We encourage you to customize this letter to your personal experiences and expertise. While every public comment matters, every **unique public comment** adds greater heft to our collective advocacy.

Public Comment: Oppose Repeal of Carbon Pollution Standards for Power Plants
Docket ID: [EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-0124]

Dear Administrator Zeldin and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,

I am writing to oppose the proposed repeal of federal standards that limit carbon pollution from power plants. These standards, finalized in the previous administration, were developed to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from one of the country's largest sources of climate pollution and to protect public health. Eliminating these safeguards would represent a substantial step backward in the effort to reduce climate-related health risks and prevent avoidable harm.

This proposal comes at a time of intensifying climate impacts, including extreme heat, widespread wildfire smoke, and increasingly severe storms and flooding. Power plants not only emit carbon dioxide, which drives climate change, but also contribute to co-pollutants such as fine particulate matter and ground-level ozone. These pollutants are associated with a range of serious health issues, including asthma, cardiovascular disease, and premature death.

Key health considerations include:

- **Power plants are the second-largest source of climate pollution** in the United States.
- **Climate change is a public health threat**, increasing the risk of heat-related illness and death, worsening outcomes for chronic disease, expanding the geographic reach of infectious diseases, and affecting mental health through displacement and trauma.
- **Health burdens are unequally distributed.** Communities living near fossil fuel infrastructure—often low-income, Indigenous, or communities of color—are at heightened risk from both direct air pollution and climate-related disasters.

EPA previously projected that the power plant standards, combined with clean energy provisions under the Inflation Reduction Act, would:

- Reduce climate pollution from the power sector **by 75% below 2005 levels by 2035**, and
- Deliver major health co-benefits, including:
 - Up to **1,200** avoided premature deaths
 - **870** avoided hospital and emergency room visits
 - **1,900** avoided cases of new-onset asthma
 - **360,000** avoided cases of asthma symptoms
 - **48,000** fewer school absence days

- **57,000** fewer lost workdays

Rolling back these protections would not only forfeit these benefits but also increase health risks, especially for the most vulnerable members of society. Decisions of this magnitude must be guided by rigorous scientific review and an understanding of the health consequences for current and future generations.

The existing standards were informed by scientific consensus, agency expertise, and substantial public input. Repealing them undermines evidence-based policy and weakens EPA's ability to fulfill its core mission to protect human health and the environment.

For these reasons, I urge the EPA to **retain and strengthen**, rather than repeal, the carbon pollution standards for power plants. Doing so is essential for protecting the health, safety, and well-being of millions of people across the country.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Professional Title / Credentials, if applicable]

[City, State]

[Email Address – optional if submitting through Regulations.gov]