

Earthcare and New Energy Economy's 350 Event

Coal energy presents one of the biggest threats to the environment, to New Mexico's public health, and to New Mexico's local economies. **On October 24th, 2009, join us as we make our voice heard to New Mexico's elected officials with a strong message that we must move away from coal and create a new clean energy based economy that will work for all communities in New Mexico!** There will be demonstrations throughout the nation on October 24th pushing policy makers to seriously take action to address climate change... for NM this means opposing coal and investing in clean energy.

Coal is not only dirty and a huge contributor to climate change, but it poses serious risks to New Mexico's public health and has been used to exploit New Mexico's communities.

Impacts on the Environment and on Climate Change:

- Coal-fired power plants are responsible for over one-fourth of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and are one of the biggest contributors to climate change.
- Coal produces smog in our blue skies – PNM's San Juan Coal Plant alone has generated 60,000 air quality violations.

Impacts on Public Health:

- The burning of coal produces many types of pollutants and imposes \$167 billion in healthcare costs on Americans every year.
- Particulate matter from coal plants in the United States has been associated with 24,000 premature deaths annually, including 2,800 from lung cancer. By comparison, drunk driving killed 15,387 individuals in the US in 2007.
- Coal plants are the single largest source of mercury emissions in the U.S. Approximately 600,000 children are born each year with unsafe levels of mercury in their bodies leading to a range of developmental problems including mental retardation, brain damage, limb deformities, altered physical growth, sensory impairments, and cerebral palsy; continued exposure in early childhood can cause learning disabilities and attention deficit disorders.

Impacts on Local Communities:

- New Mexico energy companies are making enormous profits off of coal. This money is going to shareholders around the world as opposed to being used to invest in clean technology locally. For every dollar spent on energy in Santa Fe, 85 cents leaves the community and goes to PNM's shareholders.
- In the 4 Corners area, on Navajo Nation, vast systems of power lines carry inefficient energy from coal plants to cities thousands of miles away, yet roughly 50% of the residents next door to the coal plants do not have electricity. These plants were built on promises of economic development, yet around 50% of Navajo's are unemployed and 56% of Navajo's live under the poverty line.

New Mexico has a Huge Opportunity with Clean Energy:

- New Mexico is ranked 2nd in the nation for solar potential and 12th for wind potential and has vast resources for geothermal and biomass energy.

- We have an opportunity to create a just system that creates thousands of green jobs locally and millions of dollars of investment in our economy with our incredible clean energy potential.

- By transitioning to a clean energy economy, we can create a system that works to benefit New Mexico's residents and environment.

On October 24th, there will be demonstrations throughout the nation to push elected officials to oppose the dirty energy systems of the past and invest in the clean energy of the future! **Join us at _____ (date and time and location) _____ as we send a strong message to our elected officials to oppose coal and to transition New Mexico to a clean energy economy!**