

# Coal Power Plants in Chicago



**Coal-burning power plants** are a major source of air pollution and global warming emissions in the United States, and especially Chicago. The pollutants that come from power plants cause respiratory problems, lung disease and even neurological damage.

**Existing power plants**, such as the Crawford and Fisk plants in Chicago, were “grandfathered” by the federal government and are subject to more lenient federal pollution limits because of their age. Fisk was originally constructed in 1903 and Crawford in 1924. While these plants have been re-tooled and upgraded over the years, and enjoy more relaxed rules than most, they still blatantly and repeatedly exceed their air pollution limits.

**Chicago** ranks as the second hardest hit city in the entire country for the impacts of power plant pollution. According to a 2001 study conducted by researchers from the Harvard School of Public Health, the estimated impacts of the two Chicago power plants, Crawford and Fisk, are:

**40+ premature deaths per year**  
**2800 asthma attacks per year**  
**500 emergency room visits per year**

## WHAT COMES OUT OF A POWER PLANT

Sulfur Dioxides (SO<sub>2</sub>)  
 Particulate Matter (Soot)  
 Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)  
 Mercury (Hg)  
 Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>)

## HOW IT HURTS PEOPLE

Asthma Attacks  
 Severe Respiratory Problems  
 Lung Disease and Damage  
 Neurological Damage  
 Risk of Heart Complications  
 Missed Work/School  
 Lost Income

## HOW IT HURTS COMMUNITIES

Acid Rain  
 Haze/Smog  
 Global Warming  
 Toxic Fish  
 Higher Health Costs  
 Premature Deaths

More people live near Crawford and Fisk than any other coal-fired power plant in the U.S. In fact, the population density surrounding Fisk alone is nearly twice that of the next most densely populated coal-fired power plant neighborhood. Sources: [www.sourcewatch.org](http://www.sourcewatch.org) and [www.freedemographics.com](http://www.freedemographics.com).

## POP. WITHIN 1 MILE

47,050  
 29,009  
 25,263  
 23,750  
 18,928

## PLANT NAME

Fisk  
 Crawford  
 Hudson  
 Valley  
 Blount Street

## LOCATION

Chicago, IL  
 Chicago, IL  
 Jersey City, NJ  
 Milwaukee, WI  
 Madison, WI

While the pollutants and health damage are left behind in Chicago, the electricity actually is sold to out-of-state buyers.

# It's Time for Chicago to Move to Clean Energy!

**Moving toward a clean energy economy** is essential to our health, the health of our planet and the creation of high-quality jobs. This economy of the future relies on energy efficiency and clean resources—such as wind, solar, and geothermal power—to meet our energy needs.

**A clean energy economy is within our grasp.** Our central location and strong manufacturing base, together with Chicago's Climate Action Plan and Illinois' untapped potential of 10,000 megawatts of wind-generating power, combine to make our region the obvious leader in the transformation to a clean energy economy.

The **Chicago Clean Power Coalition** consists of organizations and individuals committed to creating a sustainable and clean energy economy in metropolitan Chicago. By protecting the environment and public health, we strengthen our regional economy and create new high-quality jobs. The coalition advocates cleaning up our coal-fired power plants and transitioning metropolitan Chicago to a cleaner and stronger economy based on conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy.

The **Chicago Clean Power Ordinance** soon will be introduced by 49<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Joe Moore. Enacting the Chicago Clean Power Ordinance will:

- Protect the health of all Chicagoans;
- Improve our economy; and
- Significantly reduce Chicago's contribution to global warming.

***By supporting the Chicago Clean Power Ordinance, you can lead the way to a clean energy economy and make our city a safer place in which to live, work and raise our families!***



## Chicago Clean Power Coalition

Environmental Law and Policy Center ■ Little Village Environmental Justice Organization  
Pilsen Environmental Rights and Reform Organization ■ Eco-Justice Collaborative  
Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago ■ Sierra Club

**For more information visit: <http://cleanpowerchicago.org>**