



For Immediate Release: July 28, 2014

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Broad Range of Citizens Support EPA's Carbon Pollution Limits

(Sheridan, Wyoming—July 28, 2014) Citizens from a variety of backgrounds and professions from Wyoming and across the region are traveling to Denver today to support the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed carbon pollution standards. Called EPA's [Clean Power Plan](#), the standards would set the nation's first ever limits on carbon pollution emitted from coal-fired power plants and other industrial sources. The EPA is holding a hearing in Denver tomorrow and Wednesday to take comments from members of the public.

Supporters say that EPA's plan allows states to have needed flexibility to meet the proposed standards. They say the standards are workable and could lead to the development of new job growth. The draft standards allow states to choose a variety of market-based and other approaches, such as renewable energy, to cut carbon pollution.

"We're excited about the opportunities for renewable energy that EPA's plan presents," said Deb Theriault of Range Solar and Wind of Casper, Wyoming—a company that installs home and business-based renewable energy systems in the state. "There is so much potential in Wyoming and across the region for renewable energy. Our industry stands ready to help the state cut its carbon pollution." Theriault is traveling from Casper to Denver to testify at EPA's public meeting tomorrow.

Utility-scale renewable energy providers are also poised to benefit from EPA's plan.

"Wyoming's world-class wind energy can play a significant role in meeting the state's pollution-reduction obligations," said Sarah Propst, executive director of the Interwest Energy Alliance—a nonprofit renewable energy trade association.

Experts agree that EPA's plan has merit. On July 14, the Analysis Group released a [report](#) showing that states are well positioned to implement EPA's Clean Power Plan. "We found that well-designed programs implementing the Clean Power Plan will not lead to major price impacts or economic disruption," said Paul Hibbard, Analysis Group Vice President. "Costs from well-designed CO₂-pollution-control programs will be modest in the near term and likely offset by longer-term benefits for all and common protections for low-income customers."

“Based on our review of EPA’s plan, Wyoming should be able to easily meet its pollution reduction target by retiring some of our state’s oldest and least efficient coal plants and replacing them with new clean sources of energy,” said Shannon Anderson of the Powder River Basin Resource Council. “Transitioning our electric grid into a twenty-first century system will benefit utility customers across the region well into the future.”

In addition to economic benefits, the standards will serve an important public purpose in counteracting and preventing catastrophic climate change. In early May, the authoritative [National Climate Assessment](#) (NCA) was released, concluding that climate change “is already affecting the American people in far-reaching ways,” including more frequent and/or intense extreme weather events, more acidic oceans and rising sea levels.

“This region is no stranger to costly climate-related catastrophes as seen in the decimation of South Dakota’s cattle-herd last October during a freakish early season blizzard, or the millions of acres of bark-beetle killed forests,” said Powder River Basin Resource Council Board Member Bob LeResche of Clearmont, Wyoming. “It’s time to fully account for coal’s pollution costs and to continue the progress in producing our energy more cleanly from non-polluting sources, like the wind and the sun. This commonsense standard helps more accurately account for coal’s pollution costs in the marketplace.”

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