Want to Stop Global Warming? Stop Coal.

Why?
Because coal is the only fossil fuel plentiful and supposedly cheap1 enough to push the planet to 450 parts per million (ppm) of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere.

Because reaching 450 ppm (or possibly less) triggers potentially irreversible glacial melt and sea level rise. Because reaching 450 ppm (or possibly less) triggers potentially irreversible glacial melt and sea level rise. These cities and towns will be inundated. Because 53% of Americans live in and around coastal cities and towns, and, beginning with just one meter of sea level rise, many of these cities and towns will be inundated. Scientists are forecasting that at approx. 450 ppm CO₂ in the atmosphere, we will trigger potentially irreversible glacial melt and sea level rise “out of humanity’s control”. We are currently at 385 ppm, and are increasing atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ at approx. 2 ppm annually.

At this growth rate, we will reach 450 ppm in 2035.

Because coal is the only fossil fuel plentiful and supposedly cheap 1

1 Government investment in the coal industry in the billions. These costs, as well as the environmental and health costs associated with mining and burning coal, are not factored into the price of coal by those who claim it is cheap.


What’s the plan?
By implementing The 2030 Challenge2 to reduce building energy use of new and renovated buildings by a minimum of 50%, we negate the need for new coal plants.

Renovating existing buildings to consume 50% less fossil fuel energy allows for new buildings that meet the 50% reduction to be built without increasing the Building Sector’s energy demand.

Then, by reducing building energy use of new buildings an additional 10% every five years to achieve carbon neutral by 2030, and by using renewable energy, we ultimately negate the need for existing coal plants.

The 2030 Challenge, a global initiative, has been adopted and supported by the US Conference of Mayors, American Institute of Architects, US Green Building Council, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, National Association of Counties, EPA’s Target Fedar and numerous states, counties and cities.

1750 to Present

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>CO₂ (ppm)</th>
<th>Proven World Reserves (assumed)</th>
<th>Pre-commercial level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1750</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2030</td>
<td>550-650</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>250</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Where do we start?
Buildings.

Buildings are the single largest contributor to global warming, accounting for almost half (48%) of total annual US energy consumption and CO₂ emissions. Buildings use 76% of all the electrical energy produced at coal plants.

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What can I do, the coal lobby is too powerful?
Make your voice heard. Polls show that the American people are very concerned about global warming. What’s lacking is the political will to do what needs to be done.

If enough Americans make clear that they are not willing to gamble our nation’s future, our children’s future, those who wish to lead will find the political will to do the right thing. They will do what it takes to secure our future, calling for a moratorium on coal and embracing not only The 2030 Challenge, but all the many other worthwhile initiatives that can help undo the damage caused by CO₂.

We can Stop Global Warming.
If we stop building coal-fired power plants, phase out existing coal plants and simultaneously reduce the energy consumption and emissions of the Building Sector, we can avert the worst consequences of climate change.

If we begin now, we make it; the numbers are on our side. If we wait, even a few years, this window of opportunity is lost.

Issued by: The 2030 Research Center
Data Source: US Energy Information Administration, 2005; Graph Source: Adapted from J. Hansen et al.: Dangerous Human-made Interference with Climate, 2007

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The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is a cooperative effort by 11 Northeastern states and the District of Columbia to reduce CO₂ emissions to 1990 levels by 2014. The CO₂ emissions from just 13 medium-sized coal-fired power plants each year require the entire effort. While this and many other efforts are critical for addressing global warming, it is organizations that understand us what is regulating our efforts.

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