



Electric Cooperatives Oppose EPA Greenhouse Gas Regulations for Power Plants

On August 3, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized regulations to limit carbon dioxide emissions from power plants that will dramatically reshape how America generates and uses electricity. On behalf of the 42 million people served by not-for-profit, consumer-owned cooperatives, America's electric co-ops have actively engaged in the rulemaking process.

Cooperatives are local businesses: co-op employees and directors live in the communities they serve and they care about members at the end of the line who will be footing the bill to comply with these regulations. According to the EPA's own estimate, the rule would prematurely shut down more than one quarter of electric co-ops' coal-fired generation capacity. The burden of paying off the remaining debt on those plants and paying for electricity from other sources would fall to our member-consumers, not shareholders.

Co-ops have steadily reduced the environmental impact of their power plants, reducing emissions, adding natural gas and nuclear generation, and developing renewable resources. And co-ops have been engaged in energy efficiency and demand response programs for decades, working to keep consumers' electricity bills affordable.

This rule will disproportionately affect people served by electric co-ops, increasing electricity prices and jeopardizing reliability. Co-ops serve 93 percent of the nation's [persistent poverty counties](#) as determined by the USDA.

On behalf of their members and their communities, co-ops submitted more than 1.2 million comments to the EPA, 28 percent of the total number of comments, urging the rule be withdrawn and substantially changed. Co-ops provided EPA with suggestions to mitigate the harmful impact of this rule on rural consumers and ensure co-ops' ability to provide affordable, reliable electricity.

NRECA, and co-ops across the country, will examine changes made to the Clean Power Plan, and stack those changes up against suggestions we have made throughout the process.

For a [2-page summary](#) of NRECA comments, and to see additional information about the Clean Power Plan, visit www.nreca.coop/111d.