# EPA'S CLEAN POWER PLAN BENEFITS TENNESSEE

Reducing carbon pollution in line with the Clean Power Plan provides an opportunity for Tennessee to create more jobs in the clean energy sector, lower electricity bills, promote healthier families and communities, and preserve our beloved Smoky Mountains.

- **Job Creation.** Last year the solar industry created jobs nearly 20 times faster than the overall U.S. economy. There are now more solar jobs in the country than coal mining jobs, and the forecasted growth of solar jobs in the coming year is 8 times greater than oil, gas, and coal combined.[1]
- **Lower Electricity Bills.** Improving energy efficiency and reducing demand on the grid will help customers nationwide save up to 8% on their electricity bills.[2] Even if the local utility raises rates, monthly bills are projected to be lower overall as customers reduce their electricity use through easy-to-implement efficiency measures.
- **Healthier Communities.** The pollutants released from fossil fuel-fired power plants threaten public health by increasing the risk of premature death and a variety of heart and lung illnesses. A recent Harvard study shows that Tennessee ranks 11th nationwide in public health gains from implementing the Clean Power Plan through potential avoided premature deaths, hospitalizations, and nonfatal heart attacks.[3]
- **Preserving the Smoky Mountains.** Reducing carbon emissions serves to preserve the iconic beauty of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Rising temperatures would cause the renowned mist to evaporate in the air, which would prevent precipitation from recharging local fresh water supplies and threaten the health of an ecosystem home to an abundant diversity of animal and plant species.[4]

[1] The Solar Foundation, *Solar Industry Jobs 2014*. http://www.thesolarfoundation.org/solar-jobs-census/national/

[2] U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Fact Sheet: Clean Power Plan Benefits*, http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/fact-sheet-clean-power-plan-benefits#affordable-reliable

[3] Harvard School of Public Health, *Health Co-benefits of Carbon Standards for Existing Power Plants*, 2014. http://www.chgeharvard.org/sites/default/files/userfiles2/Health%20Co-Benefits%20of%20Carbon%20Standards.pdf

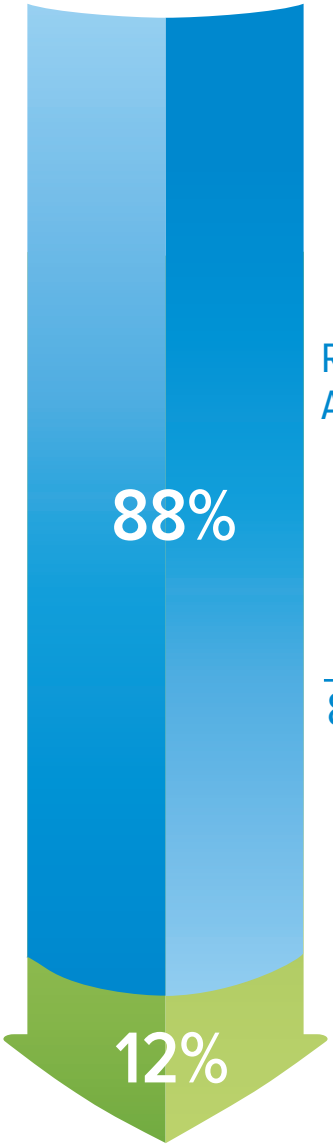
[4] NASA, On Top of the Smokies, *All Covered in Light Rain: The Real Story of Precipitation in the Southern Appalachian Mountains*, 2014. http://www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/features/smokies.html

# EPA's CLEAN POWER PLAN: EASY TARGET FOR TENNESSEE

## Tennessee is already 88% of the way to meeting the Clean Power Plan target for 2030

based on Tennessee Valley Authority's existing plans and resources. The rest can be efficiently achieved through modest investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy resources.

**2,015 lbs/MWh** **2012 Baseline Carbon Emissions Rate**




### Reduction based on Tennessee Valley Authority's existing plans and resources

| | |
|---|---|
| 6% | Retirement of coal-fired power plants |
| 37% | Natural gas expansion and conversion from coal |
| 44% | Existing low-carbon energy resources (including wind, solar, and eligible nuclear) |
| 1% | Existing energy efficiency programs |
| 88% | |

12% Investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy

**TVA is Already on the Path to Meeting the Target**

Tennessee Valley Authority is poised to significantly increase investment in energy efficiency and renewable power.

TVA projects in its draft long-range plan that the utility's overall carbon footprint will be going down significantly over the next 20 years, and it will rely on clean energy resources to help save costs.[5]

**1,163 lbs/MWh** **2030 Target Carbon Pollution Rate for Clean Power Plan**

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[5] Tennessee Valley Authority, *Integrated Resource Plan 2015 Draft Report*, March 2015. http://www.tva.com/environment/reports/irp/pdf/TVA-Draft-Integrated-Resource-Plan.pdf, WKMS, *TVA Releases 2015 IRP Draft, Aims to Balance Cost-Efficiency and Expansion in Renewables*, March 9, 2015. http://wkms.org/post/tva-releases-2015-irp-draft-aims-balance-cost-efficiency-and-expansion-renewables

Southern Environmental Law Center

**For more information, review SELC's comments to EPA on the Clean Power Plan:**
SouthernEnvironment.org/uploads/uploads/words_docs/SELC_Final_Tennessee_Clean_Power_Plan_Comments.pdf

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