



# EPA'S CLEAN POWER PLAN BENEFITS VIRGINIA

Implementing these flexible guidelines will be extremely beneficial to Virginia by providing more jobs in the clean energy sector, lowering electricity bills, and promoting healthier families and communities.

- **Job Creation.** Development of solar energy has been shown to produce more jobs per unit of energy generation than other forms of energy, including coal or natural gas. Since 2012, Virginia has seen a whopping 157% increase in solar jobs, including local installation jobs that cannot be outsourced.<sup>1</sup>
- **Lower Electricity Bills.** Improving energy efficiency and reducing demand on the grid will help customers save money on their electricity bills. By meeting the goals in the Clean Power Plan, Virginia would lower household electric bills by up to 8%, reduce costs for utility customers in nearly all years through 2030, and receive over half a billion dollars in carbon reduction benefits.
- **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 Virginia ranks among the top thirteen states nationwide in public health gains from implementing the Clean Power Plan through potential avoided premature deaths, hospitalizations, and nonfatal heart attacks.<sup>2</sup>
- **Protection of Coastal Areas.** Norfolk, Hampton Roads, and Virginia Beach are home to lucrative tourism, military infrastructure, and shipping industries, and at great risk to being inundated by the rising ocean. The Hampton Roads area already has the highest level of sea level rise along the East Coast, and it is estimated that levels will rise 1.5 feet within the next 20 to 50 years.<sup>3</sup> Climate change-related forces are expected to destroy 79% of Virginia's beaches.<sup>4</sup>



<sup>1</sup> The Solar Foundation, Virginia Solar Jobs, 2014. [thesolarfoundation.org/solarstates/Virginia](http://thesolarfoundation.org/solarstates/Virginia)

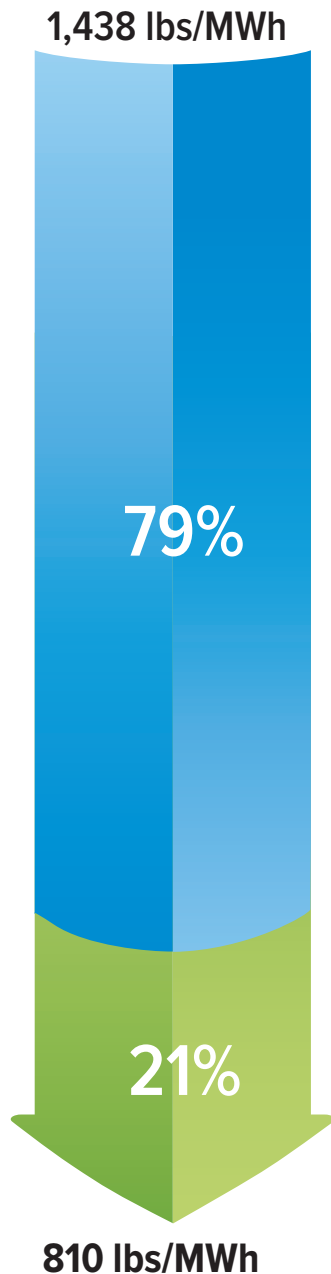
<sup>2</sup> Harvard School of Public Health, Health Co-benefits of Carbon Standards for Existing Power Plants, 2014. <http://www.chgharvard.org/sites/default/files/userfiles2/Health%20Co-Benefits%20of%20Carbon%20Standards.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Sea Level Rise Scenarios, 2014. [http://www.vims.edu/newsandevents/topstories/slr\\_scenarios.php](http://www.vims.edu/newsandevents/topstories/slr_scenarios.php)

<sup>4</sup> Repetto, Robert. "Economic and Environmental Impacts of Climate Change in Virginia"

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

Virginia is already nearly 80% of the way to meeting its Clean Power Plan target for 2030 based on current plans already in place by utilities. The rest can be easily achieved by meeting only half of existing state renewable energy and energy efficiency goals by 2030.



## 2012 Baseline Carbon Pollution Rate

### Reduction already planned by utilities

- 9% Retirement of four coal-fired power plants
- 56% Natural Gas expansion and conversion from coal
- 13% Existing renewable energy resources (including wind, solar, and eligible nuclear)
- 1% Existing energy efficiency program

**79%**

### Reduction by meeting existing renewable energy and energy efficiency state targets

- 12% Energy efficiency increased by just half of state goal of reducing energy consumption by 10%
- 9% Renewable energy increased by just half of state goal of 15% renewable energy use

**21%**