

# Fossil Fuels: Too Risky for America and South Carolina

Our nation has depended on fossil fuels like coal and oil for too long, and now we are paying the price: pollution, skyrocketing energy prices, and climate change.

South Carolina's rivers are already poisoned with mercury from coal plants, and we pay some of the highest energy bills in the country.

At a time when the price of fossil fuels is increasing steadily, South Carolina's state-owned utility Santee Cooper wants to spend more than \$1.25 billion to build a dirty coal plant in Florence County. This coal plant would take our state down the wrong path and do nothing to relieve South Carolinians from high-energy prices or dirty pollution. Importing out-of-state fossil fuels like coal already costs South Carolinians over a \$1 billion each year and creates a one-way track of money out of our state's economy.

Scientists and policymakers expect Congress to pass legislation to limit greenhouse gas pollution soon, which will add millions of dollars annually to the cost of operating a coal plant. We need a comprehensive national energy policy to free our state from its dependence on dirty coal and foreign oil.



**To learn more about Santee Cooper's dirty coal plant, visit:**  
[www.cleanenergysc.com](http://www.cleanenergysc.com)

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## **Santee Cooper's Proposed Coal Plant: By the Numbers**

Figures represent annual emissions

**138** pounds of toxic mercury  
**900** tons of lung-damaging particulates  
**3,500** tons of ozone-forming nitrogen-oxide  
**7,500** tons of soot-forming sulfur dioxide  
**8.7 million** tons of carbon dioxide

# Renewable Energy: Powering South Carolina's Future

South Carolina has the potential to benefit tremendously from investments in energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy. Polls show that South Carolinians are eager for renewable energy produced by clean sources such as wind and solar. We need a comprehensive national energy policy to help us end America's dependence on fossil fuels and reward investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy. Some elements of a comprehensive energy policy should include:

**Reduce Global Warming Pollution:** Scientists say we must reduce greenhouse gas emissions at least 25% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 to avert the worst consequences of global warming

**Federal Tax Credits for Renewable Energy:** Tax credits and other incentives can help homeowners and businesses overcome the initial cost of installing renewable energy systems like solar panels.

**Renewable Energy Standard (RES):** A renewable energy standard will require public utilities to produce a portion of their electricity from renewable sources.

## Renewable Energy Benefits South Carolina

**South Carolina's Renewable Energy Potential:** According to studies from South Carolina's Electric Cooperatives, our state can create more energy than the proposed coal plants through energy efficiency and renewable energy like small hydro and biomass.

**Saving Money for South Carolinians:** South Carolina has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest per-capita electricity consumption in the nation. As a result we pay some of the highest energy bills, too. Investments in energy efficiency will help our families and businesses save money!

**New Jobs in SC:** According to a recent study, South Carolina stands to benefit from 20,000 new "green collar" jobs manufacturing components for wind turbines, solar panels, and other renewable energy technology.

**It's about healthy communities. It's about a vibrant economy. It's about time.**

## For more information, contact:

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