



The True Cost of Coal

Pollution from burning coal leads to significant health impacts, including cancer, brain damage, and mental retardation

12,000 hospitalizations

38,000 heart attacks

And 24,000 deaths

are caused by coal pollution each year.

41% of all mercury pollution

in the United States is from coal power plants.



Toxic coal ash is poisoning our communities

130 million tons of coal ash

are produced by coal power plants in the U.S. each year.

2,452 acres

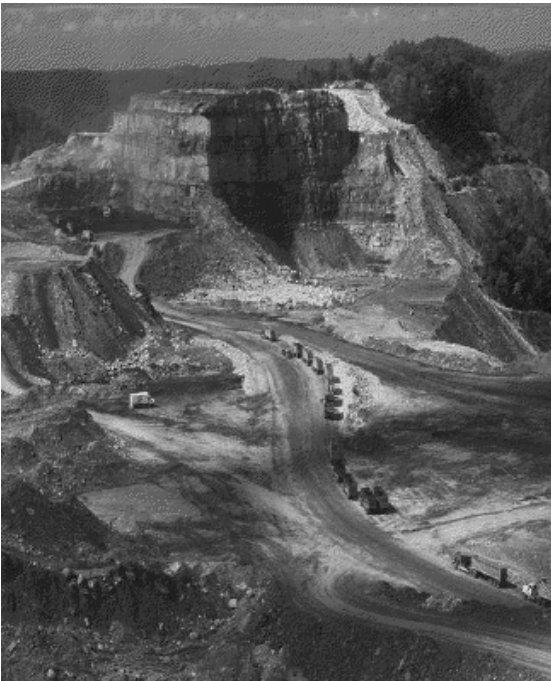
of land in Minnesota is covered by coal ash containment ponds.

Dangerous levels of toxins such as lead, mercury, arsenic, and selenium

are found in coal ash. These toxins lead to cancer, organ disease, neurological problems, and developmental problems.

1.5 million children

live near coal sites. Children are the most susceptible to the health impacts of coal ash.



Mountain top removal coal mining destroys ecosystems and communities

1,200 miles of streams

have already been buried or damaged due to mountain top removal coal mining.

A forested area the size of Delaware

will have been destroyed by mountain top removal coal mining within a few years.

Burning coal is a major contributor to global warming

30% of all carbon dioxide emissions

in the United States come from coal power plants.

An 80% reduction by 2050

of greenhouse gas emissions is required to avoid the worst consequences of global warming.



Minnesota Moving Toward a Clean Energy Future

Successful renewable energy and efficiency projects in our communities are saving money, energy, and the planet

In Rochester, Mayo Clinic is installing the largest solar energy project in Southern Minnesota, and the third largest in the state.

The College of St. Benedict and St. Johns University recently installed the largest solar farm in the Upper Midwest, which will generate as much as 20% of the University's electricity during peak energy seasons.



The first commercial wind farm in Northern Minnesota, Taconite Ridge, became operational in 2008 and generates enough electricity to power 8,000 homes.

3,571 Minnesota households have had weatherization work done through the Recovery Act, with 17,000 more projects expected in the near future. Homeowners can expect an average savings of more than \$300 a year.

Cities like Burnsville, Eagan, Saint Cloud, and Lakeville are remodeling municipal buildings to increase energy efficiency, saving thousands of dollars a year on energy costs.

Investments in renewable energy and efficiency create green jobs

Jobs increased by more than 30%

in the wind industry during 2009, now employing more people than coal mining.

Over 3,000 new green jobs

will be created in Minnesota

and \$10 billion dollars

will be injected into the Minnesota economy, just by meeting the MN Renewable Energy Standard.

261 megawatts

of wind power capacity,

a 15% increase,

is currently under construction in Minnesota in

five wind farms.

657 million MWh/year

of potential wind energy is available in Minnesota,

more than 9 times

Minnesota's current energy needs

About 450 full time equivalent jobs

here in Minnesota have already been created or retained by Recovery Act home weatherization projects.

