



Nevada's Dirtiest Power Plants

The outsized impact power production has on our planet

Powering our economy is warming our planet

Electricity powers all aspects of our lives, but the way it is generated is accelerating climate change. There are still more than [3,400](#) fossil-fuel fired power plants operating in the United States today, and electricity production is Nevada's [second largest source](#) of global warming pollution. However, a small number of dirty power plants have an outsized impact on our planet. That is why we are calling on EPA and Congress to take aggressive action to limit global warming pollution from power plants.

The top 10 dirtiest power plants in Nevada have an outsized impact on our planet

The dirtiest power plants contribute a huge amount of planet-warming emissions relative to the electricity they generate. In 2020, Nevada's top 10 most climate-polluting plants were responsible for 89.4% of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions from the power sector despite only generating 61.8% of total electricity. The total emissions of Nevada's top 10 power plants are 11.7 million metric tons, which is equivalent to 2.5 million cars on the road for a year.

All 10 facilities are powered by fossil fuels: 2 primarily coal-fired plants and 8 primarily methane gas-fired plants. When fossil fuels are burned for electricity production, they release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, including carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide, which speeds up global warming.

The average operating coal plant in America is [45 years old](#) and many of these plants are also outdated and inefficient. To keep up with today's energy demands and to meet our climate goals, it is beyond time to get power plant pollution under control.

Nevada's 10 Dirtiest Power Plants

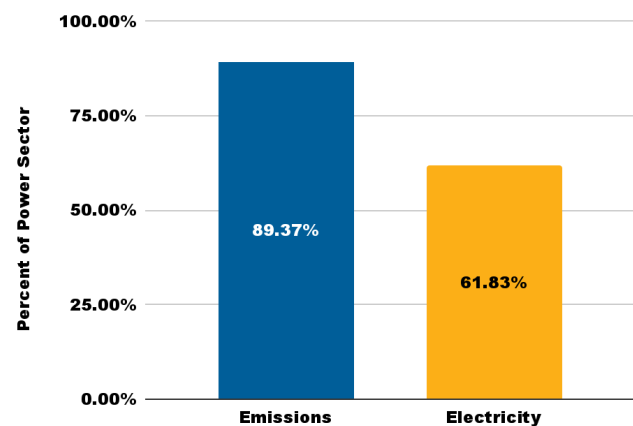


Figure 1: The 10 dirtiest power plants contribute significantly to power sector emissions relative to electricity generation, 2020

Cleaning up power plant pollution

To rein in dirty power pollution, we have to set strong regulations. We can learn from state and regional policies that have been successful in the past decade at controlling climate damaging pollution.

The [Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative](#) has helped reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) pollution from power plants in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic by placing a cap on CO₂ emissions. From 2005 to 2017, power plant CO₂ pollution fell by 60% in the nine states that participated in that period.

Many states also have renewable electricity standards in place, which require an increasing percentage of power to be produced from renewable sources. However, to tackle the dirtiest power plants across the country, we need to enact stronger climate policies on the federal level.

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Figure 2: The Top 10 Dirtiest Power Plants in Nevada, 2020

| Rank | Plant Name | County | Primary fuel | 2020 Carbon Dioxide Equivalent Emissions (Metric Tons) |
|------|--|----------|--------------|--|
| 1 | Chuck Lenzie Generating Station | Clark | Gas | 2,529,312 |
| 2 | Tracy | Storey | Gas | 2,016,870 |
| 3 | Harry Allen | Clark | Gas | 1,373,872 |
| 4 | TS Power Plant | Eureka | Coal | 1,141,648 |
| 5 | Silverhawk | Clark | Gas | 1,067,157 |
| 6 | Apex Generating Station | Clark | Gas | 1,038,608 |
| 7 | North Valmy** | Humboldt | Coal | 997,800 |
| 8 | Walter M. Higgins III Generating Station | Clark | Gas | 727,526 |
| 9 | Desert Star Energy Center | Clark | Gas | 433,182 |
| 10 | Fort Churchill | Lyon | Gas | 391,516 |

** Plant will be partially or fully retired by the end of 2025.

Our climate can't wait

Every year, the impacts of climate change are more pronounced. The last seven years have been the [seven "hottest in recorded history"](#). Warming temperatures and intensifying drought will cause [wildfire seasons to start earlier and last longer](#). And climbing ocean temperatures are [increasing the frequency of extreme hurricanes](#).

The [International Panel on Climate Change](#) has stated that greenhouse gas emissions must peak no later than 2025 to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. This will require both putting strong controls on our dirtiest energy sources and rapidly ramping up clean energy deployment across the power sector.

Methane gas is not the answer

In the past decade, more and more coal plants have been decommissioned to be replaced with methane gas as the advent of fracking unleashed a glut of cheap gas fuel. For years, methane gas was marketed as a green "bridge fuel" between coal and renewables. However, while burning methane gas [releases less carbon dioxide](#) than coal per kilowatt of electricity produced, that is only part of methane's climate impact.

Methane gas is an extremely potent greenhouse gas that has [83 times the warming potential of carbon dioxide in a 20 year timescale and 30 times the warming potential in a 100 year timescale](#). Methane leaks also occur during both the extraction and distribution processes.

These methane leaks frequently occur unchecked and are severely underreported. According to a recent [International Energy Agency](#) study, methane emissions are 70% higher than reported by government officials.

Once built, methane gas plants are meant to last for decades, locking in our dependence on fossil fuels and accelerating climate change. Clean energy sources like solar and wind are already ready to be deployed at scale and are now often just as cheap. We need to replace aging, dirty fossil fuel-fired plants with these renewable energy sources to achieve necessary greenhouse gas reductions and protect our climate.

Policy recommendations

It is going to take action at all levels of government to get power plant pollution under control. To act at the speed that scientists say is necessary to maintain a livable planet, we need to both put strong limits on existing fossil-fuel fired plants and accelerate the transition to renewable energy.

- The EPA should enact the strongest possible limits on carbon dioxide pollution from new and existing power plants.
- Congress should pass a climate package that includes extending and expanding clean energy tax credits.
- States, cities, and counties should commit to achieving 100% renewable energy for their communities.



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Appendix 1: Top 100 Dirtiest Power Plants in the United States, 2020

This table includes the top 100 power plants with the most carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions in the U.S. Data for this ranking comes from the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) eGRID 2020 dataset, downloaded on May 17, 2022. Included with the emissions rankings are the plant name, plant operator, and a comparison in millions of passenger vehicles using the EPA's greenhouse gas equivalencies calculator. Data for the planned retirements comes from the Energy Information Administration's (EIA) Electric Power Monthly, downloaded data for planned retirements on May 23, 2022. Data for retirements as of the release of this factsheet comes from the EIA's Electric Power Monthly, both current issue and past issues covering retirements from Jan 2020 - Mar 2023, downloaded on May 23, 2022.

A single asterisk () by the plant name indicates the plant has been partially or fully retired by the release of this factsheet, and a double asterisk (**) by the plant name indicates the plant will be partially or fully retired by the end of 2025.*

| Rank | State | Plant Name | County | Primary Fuel | 2020 Carbon Dioxide Equivalent Emissions (Million Metric Tons) | Emissions Equivalent in Passenger Vehicles |
|------|-------|----------------------------------|------------|--------------|--|--|
| 1 | AL | James H Miller Jr | Jefferson | COAL | 17.22 | 3,710,404 |
| 2 | MO | Labadie | Franklin | COAL | 15.72 | 3,386,779 |
| 3 | OH | Gen J M Gavin | Gallia | COAL | 13.77 | 2,967,935 |
| 4 | TX | Martin Lake | Rusk | COAL | 13.53 | 2,914,601 |
| 5 | TX | Oak Grove | Robertson | COAL | 13.11 | 2,823,849 |
| 6 | MI | Monroe | Monroe | COAL | 13.05 | 2,812,886 |
| 7 | IL | Prairie State Generating Station | St Clair | COAL | 11.86 | 2,556,064 |
| 8 | IN | Gibson | Gibson | COAL | 11.40 | 2,455,387 |
| 9 | WY | Jim Bridger | Sweetwater | COAL | 11.22 | 2,418,008 |
| 10 | TX | W A Parish | Fort Bend | COAL | 10.40 | 2,241,289 |
| 11 | WV | John E Amos | Putnam | COAL | 10.23 | 2,203,511 |
| 12 | WV | Harrison Power Station | Harrison | COAL | 9.82 | 2,116,678 |
| 13 | KY | Ghent | Carroll | COAL | 9.65 | 2,078,834 |
| 14 | TN | Cumberland | Stewart | COAL | 9.50 | 2,047,247 |
| 15 | TX | Sam Seymour | Fayette | COAL | 9.37 | 2,018,295 |
| 16 | WY | Laramie River | Platte | COAL | 9.34 | 2,013,220 |
| 17 | OH | Cardinal | Jefferson | COAL | 9.23 | 1,988,319 |
| 18 | MN | Sherburne County** | Sherburne | COAL | 8.64 | 1,861,997 |
| 19 | MT | Colstrip | Rosebud | COAL | 8.34 | 1,797,115 |
| 20 | AZ | Springerville Generating Station | Apache | COAL | 8.02 | 1,728,838 |
| 21 | NE | Nebraska City Station | Otoe | COAL | 8.02 | 1,727,243 |
| 22 | UT | Hunter | Emery | COAL | 7.97 | 1,717,218 |
| 23 | GA | Bowen | Bartow | COAL | 7.93 | 1,708,916 |
| 24 | ND | Coal Creek | McLean | COAL | 7.85 | 1,691,596 |
| 25 | FL | Crystal River | Citrus | COAL | 7.79 | 1,679,216 |

Appendix 1 (cont.)

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|------|-------|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--|--|
| 26 | KY | Trimble County | Trimble | COAL | 7.75 | 1,670,828 |
| 27 | CO | Craig** | Moffat | COAL | 7.71 | 1,660,446 |
| 28 | NM | Four Corners Steam Elec Station | San Juan | COAL | 7.52 | 1,620,399 |
| 29 | KS | Jeffrey Energy Center | Pottawatomie | COAL | 7.45 | 1,605,079 |
| 30 | PA | Keystone | Armstrong | COAL | 7.26 | 1,563,824 |
| 31 | PA | Conemaugh | Indiana | COAL | 7.18 | 1,546,568 |
| 32 | WI | Elm Road Generating Station | Milwaukee | COAL | 7.07 | 1,524,354 |
| 33 | FL | West County Energy Center | Palm Beach | GAS | 7.03 | 1,515,714 |
| 34 | GA | Jack McDonough | Cobb | GAS | 6.89 | 1,484,096 |
| 35 | MO | Rush Island** | Jefferson | COAL | 6.87 | 1,479,946 |
| 36 | GA | Scherer | Monroe | COAL | 6.86 | 1,477,597 |
| 37 | MI | J H Campbell** | Ottawa | COAL | 6.79 | 1,462,723 |
| 38 | MO | Thomas Hill Energy Center | Randolph | COAL | 6.74 | 1,453,110 |
| 39 | NE | Gerald Gentleman Station | Lincoln | COAL | 6.68 | 1,439,218 |
| 40 | SC | Cross | Berkeley | COAL | 6.66 | 1,435,299 |
| 41 | IN | IPL - Petersburg Generating Station** | Pike | COAL | 6.58 | 1,417,363 |
| 42 | FL | Seminole (136)** | Putnam | COAL | 6.41 | 1,380,897 |
| 43 | KY | Mill Creek | Jefferson | COAL | 6.40 | 1,378,745 |
| 44 | OH | Miami Fort Power Station | Hamilton | COAL | 6.39 | 1,377,282 |
| 45 | KY | H L Spurlock | Mason | COAL | 6.33 | 1,363,987 |
| 46 | KS | La Cygne | Linn | COAL | 6.32 | 1,361,849 |
| 47 | UT | Intermountain** | Millard | COAL | 6.30 | 1,358,268 |
| 48 | MO | Iatan | Platte | COAL | 6.30 | 1,357,918 |
| 49 | ND | Antelope Valley | Mercer | COAL | 6.29 | 1,354,642 |
| 50 | AL | Barry | Mobile | COAL | 6.23 | 1,343,236 |

Appendix 1 (cont.)

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|------|-------|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--|--|
| 51 | TX | Limestone | Limestone | COAL | 6.13 | 1,320,518 |
| 52 | WA | Centralia** | Lewis | COAL | 5.84 | 1,258,494 |
| 53 | MS | Daniel Electric Generating Plant | Jackson | COAL | 5.83 | 1,255,749 |
| 54 | TX | J K Spruce | Bexar | COAL | 5.79 | 1,248,569 |
| 55 | NM | San Juan** | San Juan | COAL | 5.71 | 1,230,464 |
| 56 | WI | Columbia** | Columbia | COAL | 5.68 | 1,223,378 |
| 57 | MO | New Madrid Power Plant | New Madrid | COAL | 5.67 | 1,221,502 |
| 58 | NC | Marshall | Catawba | COAL | 5.58 | 1,203,044 |
| 59 | NC | Roxboro | Person | COAL | 5.20 | 1,119,823 |
| 60 | OH | W H Sammis** | Jefferson | COAL | 5.17 | 1,113,370 |
| 61 | OH | W H Zimmer Generating Station* | Clermont | COAL | 5.12 | 1,103,202 |
| 62 | ND | Milton R Young | Oliver | COAL | 5.10 | 1,099,405 |
| 63 | LA | Brame Energy Center | Rapides | OIL | 5.10 | 1,098,064 |
| 64 | WV | Mountaineer (1301) | Mason | COAL | 5.03 | 1,083,509 |
| 65 | WY | Dave Johnston | Converse | COAL | 4.93 | 1,062,908 |
| 66 | IN | Alcoa Allowance Management Inc | Warrick | COAL | 4.91 | 1,057,697 |
| 67 | OH | Kyger Creek | Gallia | COAL | 4.84 | 1,041,922 |
| 68 | WV | Pleasants Power Station** | Pleasants | COAL | 4.80 | 1,034,093 |
| 69 | WV | Fort Martin Power Station | Monongalia | COAL | 4.74 | 1,020,323 |
| 70 | IA | Walter Scott Jr. Energy Center | Pottawattamie | COAL | 4.73 | 1,020,103 |
| 71 | AL | Plant H. Allen Franklin | Lee | GAS | 4.72 | 1,016,607 |
| 72 | WV | Mount Storm Power Station | Grant | COAL | 4.70 | 1,012,831 |
| 73 | IN | Clifty Creek | Jefferson | COAL | 4.59 | 989,352 |
| 74 | MN | Boswell Energy Center | Itasca | COAL | 4.59 | 989,304 |
| 75 | MI | Belle River | St Clair | COAL | 4.59 | 988,360 |

Appendix 1 (cont.)

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|------|-------|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--|--|
| 76 | TX | Sandy Creek Energy Station | McLennan | COAL | 4.52 | 973,471 |
| 77 | UT | Huntington | Emery | COAL | 4.49 | 967,158 |
| 78 | CO | Comanche (470)** | Pueblo | COAL | 4.47 | 962,283 |
| 79 | AZ | Gila River Power Station | Maricopa | GAS | 4.46 | 961,653 |
| 80 | FL | Hines Energy Complex | Polk | GAS | 4.46 | 959,984 |
| 81 | FL | Curtis H. Stanton Energy Center** | Orange | COAL | 4.45 | 958,076 |
| 82 | NC | Belews Creek | Stokes | COAL | 4.43 | 954,206 |
| 83 | AR | White Bluff | Jefferson | COAL | 4.41 | 949,765 |
| 84 | LA | Ninemile Point | Jefferson | GAS | 4.40 | 948,240 |
| 85 | WV | Longview Power | Monongalia | COAL | 4.35 | 936,937 |
| 86 | KY | Shawnee | McCracken | COAL | 4.30 | 926,984 |
| 87 | FL | Martin | Martin | GAS | 4.24 | 913,796 |
| 88 | FL | Northside | Duval | GAS | 4.21 | 906,295 |
| 89 | NC | Cliffside | Cleveland | COAL | 4.20 | 904,866 |
| 90 | IN | Cayuga | Vermillion | COAL | 4.14 | 891,961 |
| 91 | IL | Baldwin Energy Complex** | Randolph | COAL | 4.08 | 879,981 |
| 92 | IL | Joppa Steam** | Massac | COAL | 4.06 | 875,797 |
| 93 | TX | Forney Power Plant | Kaufman | GAS | 4.05 | 872,765 |
| 94 | FL | Manatee | Manatee | GAS | 4.04 | 870,840 |
| 95 | IN | Rockport | Spencer | COAL | 4.02 | 865,498 |
| 96 | AZ | Cholla* | Navajo | COAL | 3.82 | 822,075 |
| 97 | VA | Greensville County Power Station | Greensville | GAS | 3.80 | 819,820 |
| 98 | OH | Hanging Rock Power Company LLC | Lawrence | GAS | 3.80 | 819,336 |
| 99 | AR | Union Power Station | Union | GAS | 3.79 | 815,747 |
| 100 | VA | Brunswick County Power Station | Brunswick | GAS | 3.76 | 809,167 |