

The Shift Toward Cleaner Energy Sources

Despite the recent rollback of clean air regulations, the Chicago Tribune recently reported that Illinois is still on track to reduce 2005 carbon emission levels 32% by 2030¹. Illinois expects to rely more heavily on cheaper renewables and natural gas-fired power plants for electricity supply in the foreseeable future as older coal plants are retired.



Illinois is not alone in this trend. Other states, including Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Ohio and Tennessee, also intend to achieve a 32% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030¹. The Sierra Club reports that since 2010, more than 270 coal plants in the United States have or are proposed to be retired².

The 2016 Illinois Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA) has made the shift toward cleaner energy sources in Illinois even more certain. FEJA provides additional funding for renewable resources, in addition to creating and providing training for thousands of jobs in the clean energy industry. The resulting new wind and solar projects will strengthen Illinois electricity supply options, while continuing to reduce the state's carbon emissions.

¹ <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-met-trump-coal-plant-regulations-illinois-20180821-story.html>

² <https://content.sierraclub.org/coal/victories>

Teaching Our Future About Energy Conservation

Today's children will shape the energy practices and policies of the future. Why not teach them why it is important to conserve energy now? Here are some simple steps to help you get started:

Step 1: Explain how limited fuel resources such as gas, coal, and oil are typically used to generate electricity.



Step 2: Explain the difference between those nonrenewable sources and renewable ones like solar, wind and water power.

Step 3: Explain easy ways to conserve energy every day. Younger children can do simple things like turning off the lights and television when they leave the room. Teach older kids to wait and run appliances like dishwashers until they are full, take quick showers and keep the refrigerator door closed.

Step 4: Lead by example to help the lessons stick.

For interactive games and fun family activity ideas on energy savings, check out these links:

<https://www.energy.gov/eere/education/teach-and-learn>

<https://www.eia.gov/kids/energy.php?page=3>

<https://www.energystar.gov>

