

Why Coal is Bad?

Coal power plants emit many toxic chemicals into the atmosphere such as sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrous oxides (NO_x), particulate matter, hydrogen chloride (HCl), hydrogen fluoride (HF), arsenic, and heavy metals (chromium, cadmium and mercury). Those plants produce more carbon dioxide (CO₂) gases than any other source leading to increases in global temperatures.

Climate change is the main problem with coal power plants. 83 % of global CO₂ pollution comes from coal power stations. Global warming will eventually lead to irreversible effects. Inside a coal mine there are explosive methane gases that can cause the mine to collapse. Thus sometimes strip mining is used to improve the safety of miners. However, strip mining damages ecosystems. Large amount of toxic waste is a health hazard to neighbouring residents. This waste is stored in slurries. Spills occur often. Acid rain is caused by reaction of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) with water, oxygen and other gases. Acid rain kills aquatic animals, destroys trees and soil and contributes to decay of buildings and statues. Pollution in the form of toxic gases leads to various health problems such as asthma, heart disease, emphysema and lung cancer. Coal power stations produce the most amounts of mercury that contaminates the fish when it falls from atmosphere back to earth. "Coal: Why It's Dirty", <http://greenamerica.org/programs/climate/dirtyenergy/coal/whydirty.cfm>

"Burning coal is a leading cause of smog, acid rain, global warming, and air toxics. In an average year, a typical coal plant generates:

- 3,700,000 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the primary human cause of global warming--as much carbon dioxide as cutting down 161 million trees.
- 10,000 tons of sulfur dioxide (SO₂), which causes acid rain that damages forests, lakes, and buildings, and forms small airborne particles that can penetrate deep into lungs.
- 500 tons of small airborne particles, which can cause chronic bronchitis, aggravated asthma, and premature death, as well as haze obstructing visibility.
- 10,200 tons of nitrogen oxide (NO_x), as much as would be emitted by half a million late-model cars. NO_x leads to formation of ozone (smog) which inflames the lungs, burning through lung tissue making people more susceptible to respiratory illness.", "Why Coal-Fired Power is Bad"

http://sustainablearizona.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1175&Itemid=2

Many coal miners have black lung diseases. And yet the use of coal is growing in poor countries with a rise in demand for electricity.

"How Bad is Coal?", <http://greenenergyhelpfiles.com/articles/3.htm>

Coal is becoming the world's top energy source. "...Coal demand will increase in every region of the world except in the United States, where coal is being pushed out by natural gas...China and India will power the growth in coal consumption over the next five years..."

"Disturbing global warming news: IEA expects coal burning to surge this decade"

<http://investing.covestor.com/2013/03/why-coal-is-destined-to-be-the-worlds-top-energy-source>

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