

# Clean Wisconsin

(Founded as Wisconsin's Environmental Decade)

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## **Clean Wisconsin Hails Illinois Energy Plan as Great Opportunity for Wisconsin**

Clean Wisconsin applauds Illinois Governor Blagojevich's Energy Plan, a far-reaching initiative that – like Governor Doyle's recently released *Declaration of Energy Independence* - includes support for biofuels, energy efficiency, and renewable energy.

The Illinois Energy Plan raises the bar even further, however, as it also calls for Illinois to be the first state in the nation to construct a pipeline that will transport carbon dioxide so it can be safely stored underground, and commits more than \$750 million to help construct new coal gasification plants.

“Governor Blagojevich understands that we can no longer invest in old-technology coal plants that contribute to global warming, because they won't capture carbon dioxide,” said Katie Nekola, attorney for Clean Wisconsin. “His commitment to building a carbon pipeline means that carbon sequestration and transport would be feasible for Wisconsin power plants. This is critically important, since the power plants we build now will be around for at least fifty years contributing billions of tons of global warming gases to the atmosphere.”

Clean Wisconsin also commends Governor Blagojevich for his bold leadership in advocating coal gasification, a state-of-the-art technology that many Wisconsin utilities claim is not developed enough to replace old, dirtier technology.

“Not only does coal gasification offer the opportunity to capture carbon, but the amounts of other toxic pollutants like sulfur dioxide, mercury, and nitrogen oxides are dramatically lower from a gasification plant,” said Nekola. “In the long run, we need to meet our energy needs with efficiency, conservation and renewables, but as we make that transition, gasification offers a much cleaner alternative to old-style coal plants.”

In the last few years, Wisconsin has approved the construction of three large old-technology coal plants that will worsen global warming, because they cannot cost-effectively capture the tons of carbon dioxide they produce. They will also add to Wisconsin's air pollution and mercury contamination problems.

“It's time to act responsibly and invest in cleaner, 21<sup>st</sup> century technologies,” said Nekola. “If Illinois can do it, so can we.”

*Clean Wisconsin, an environmental advocacy organization, protects Wisconsin's clean water and air and advocates for clean energy by being an effective voice in the state legislature and by holding elected officials and corporations accountable. Founded in 1970 as Wisconsin's Environmental Decade, Clean Wisconsin exposes corporate polluters, makes sure existing environmental laws are enforced, and educates citizens and businesses. On behalf of its 10,000 members and its coalition partners, Clean Wisconsin protects the special places that make Wisconsin such a wonderful place to live, work and play. Phone: 608-251-7020, Fax: 608-251-1655, Email: info@cleanwisconsin.org, Website: www.cleanwisconsin.org.*

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