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## Groups call for clean energy to fight pollution, protect health as Detroit Asthma Summit kicks off today

DETROIT – As the [Detroit Asthma Summit](#) kicks off today, health, environmental justice and conservation groups urged support of the **Clean Power Plan** to spark more clean renewable energy and energy efficiency, which will reduce dangerous pollution from coal fired power plants linked to asthma, lung disease and other illnesses.

“By embracing a strong and equitable Clean Power Plan and increasing our use of clean, renewable energy, we can protect the health of our citizens from dangerous pollution here in Detroit and across Michigan,” said **Kimberly Hill Knott** from **Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice and the Detroit Climate Action Collaborative, which is leading the development of the city of Detroit’s Climate Action Plan**. “As we shine a spotlight on asthma and other respiratory illnesses, we have an urgent need and responsibility to demand and establish common sense limits on dangerous carbon pollution that threatens the health of Michigan kids, families and seniors, especially those living in close proximity to coal-fired power plants.”

The Clean Power Plan sets strong, achievable standards for power plants, and customized goals for states like Michigan to reduce carbon pollution from coal fired power plants that drive climate change. The Clean Power Plan provides national consistency, accountability and a level playing field while reflecting each state’s energy mix.

In March 2015, Gov. Rick Snyder set a goal of meeting 40 percent of Michigan energy needs through renewables and energy efficiency, which will lower electricity bills for families and businesses. Michigan’s 2008 energy policy establishes the foundation for more renewable energy and energy efficiency, but so far lawmakers have failed to update those policies needed to achieve the Governor’s goals, and the Governor has suspended planning to help meet future Clean Power Plan standards.

“Business leaders, nurses and doctors, faith leaders of all denominations and many others across the board support more clean energy because it is critical to our future,” said **Charles Griffith** from the **Ecology Center**. “Through events such as the Asthma Summit, we are calling on policymakers to put the health of Michigan kids, seniors and families ahead of polluter profits.”

“Detroit has the highest asthma rate for children in the country, and adults are 50% more likely to have asthma compared to the rest of Michigan” said **Clay Carpenter of Clean Water Action**. “Reducing carbon and sulfur dioxide pollution from coal fired power plants means reducing asthma and other respiratory diseases, which protects the health of Michigan families and the Great Lakes.”

Additionally, renewable energy now costs less than all other forms of energy due to advances in technology, with the latest wind contracts now costing less than half the cost of coal and nuclear energy per megawatt/hour.

In addition to the summit, which is being held at Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the groups' call for more clean energy also coincides with Asthma Awareness Month in May. For more information, visit [www.epa.gov/mi/draft-registration-agenda-detroit-asthma-summit-2016](http://www.epa.gov/mi/draft-registration-agenda-detroit-asthma-summit-2016).

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