

Tell Your Coal **Story** to President Obama

In President Obama's first 100 days of office, hundreds of communities all across the country will have planned over 250 actions to **Power Past Coal**. On April 30th, communities from across six impacted regions of the United States will celebrate the 100th day by each sending a delegate to Washington D.C. These delegates will share with Congress the stories of their struggle against coal and will **demand that Obama and the new Congress lead a swift, just transition away from coal.**

At the heart of the Power Past Coal campaign are our stories –our stories about coal and environmental injustice, stories of energy privilege and energy sacrifice, stories of brown air over our cities and forests, and stories of packing and saying goodbye to our family home because of coal.

We need your help – we need you to tell your story about coal, about the need for new power in America. You can also collect the stories from your family and your community and pass them a long as well. When our six delegates from communities impacted by coal take the stage on April 30th, we want them to be supported by the chorus of voices from across the United States, telling President Obama why we need to **Power Past Coal.**

Sign the attached letter, or write your own letter to the President, and then take a few minutes to write your own story about coal. You can also send in pictures, drawings, music – anything you can fit in the mailbox, to tell your story about why you want the United States to Power Past Coal.

The coal lobby has thousands of lobbyists and millions of dollars – but we have the millions of Americans who know we can have a clean and just energy future – and we have the power of our voices.

Why is it that you support a just and swift transition away from this dirty and destructive energy source?

Send your letters and stories soon so that we'll receive them before April 29th. On the 100th Day, our delegates will present the letters to the national press, Congress, and the President.

Send Your Stories To:

Power Past Coal
P.O. Box 54362
Washington, D.C. 20009
Email: info@powerpastcoal.org
Visit: www.powerpastcoal.org



- **Who inspires you?**
- **What is your vision for a clean energy future?**
- **When do you notice coal's impacts in your community?**
- **Where does your electricity come from?**
- **Why do you want a swift and just transition away from coal?**
- **How can we build a better future to Power Past Coal?**

Why do we need to **Power Past Coal**?

Coal is yesterday's fuel – it is dirty and dangerous from **Mining, Processing, Transportation, Burning, to Waste Disposal**. It releases heavy metals and other toxins into our water and air, it's fueling global warming, and it endangers workers and families. Our nation needs to stop new coal power plants, put an end to destructive coal mining, and reinvest in communities that have been harmed by coal.

Collect letters in your community – Help us get thousands of letters!

In the classroom—Kids have a strong voice, a fierce understanding of injustice – and the biggest stake in the fight for a swift and just transition past coal. College students represent the next generation that will be making the switch to clean energy. Could a class, Girl Scout troop, or local afterschool program be interested in writing letters to President Obama to Power Past Coal?

On the street—Set up a table in a public area or during a Power Past Coal event with materials for people to tell their coal stories and sign the letter. Don't forget to collect names, addresses and email contacts!

Among people of your faith—Faith based groups understand the need for justice and equality – and they know that sacrificing entire communities for electricity is wrong. Ask them to share this knowledge with our President.

To your leaders—Does your town council, college president, state representative or Senator understand why we need to Power Past Coal? Educate them, and then ask them to sign our letter to President Obama.

At a party—Host a letter writing party – at your home or at a local park, and serve up food for the letter writers. Watch a short movie about coal (see www.powerpastcoal.org for suggestions) to learn together about the impacts of coal, and then write about why you believe we need to Power Past Coal.

Everywhere—You know your community – and you have a lot of power there – Spread the Power Past Coal message in town, on the internet, and among your friends. Help us create a national symphony of voices calling for a new, clean, and just energy future – that benefits everyone, not just a select few.

Don't forget to share your great ideas for gathering letters with us!

Learn more about the coal in your community:

Go to www.iLoveMountains.org and see if you're connected to mountaintop removal coal mining.

Visit <http://www.energyjustice.net/map/> to see if there is an operating or proposed coal plant near you.

Check out www.followthecoalmoney.org to see how much coal money your politicians take.

Is there dangerous coal waste stored in your state, find out here: <http://www.nrdc.org/energy/coalwaste/existingplants.asp>.

In Chicago, Hispanic residents are working to stop the emissions of nearby coal plants and create clean energy alternatives.
www.LVEJO.org

In Appalachia, mountaintop removal coal mining has claimed 500 mountains, and 2,000 miles of streams, and destroyed communities.
www.iLoveMountains.org

In Arizona, Navajo and Hopi are working together to stop destructive strip mining, protect their water and pass green jobs legislation.
www.BlackMesaWaterCoalition.org

In the Powder River Basin of Wyoming strip mines have drained aquifers and dried up surrounding farms, but wind and solar are plentiful.
www.WORC.org

In South Carolina's mercury-polluted river valleys proposed coal plants could add millions of tons of CO₂ to our atmosphere annually. www.SCsaysNo.com

In New England's coastal towns wind farms to replace coal are quickly becoming a reality.
www.CleanPowerNow.org

Dear President Obama,

On the day you took office, you addressed the American people with a call to action. “Starting today,” you said, “we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of remaking America.”

That’s exactly what we did. Since the morning after your inauguration, hundreds of communities and organizations across the country have taken action everyday to “power past coal.” We’ve spoken in our town hearing rooms and in the halls of Congress. We’ve carried clean water to our neighbors’ with sludge-filled wells, and we’ve peacefully blocked roads to keep new mines from taking our land. We’ve marched in streets, rallied in town greens, and set to work building solar panels in our neighborhoods.

Today marks your 100th day of office, and in these hundred days, we’ve amassed a movement. It’s a movement that’s been brimming for decades in the coalfields and the ghettos, mobilizing those who know first-hand the injustices of coal to take to the streets, and those who listen to join them.

We know you’ve been listening, and we thank you for your recent efforts to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from coal plants and coal ash from slurry ponds.

But we also know this is not enough.

That’s why we’re uniting to demand a just and swift transition away from coal.

The first steps in this transition are an end to dangerous and destructive mining practices, a moratorium on new coal-fired power plants, and a reinvestment in the communities directly impacted by coal with green job opportunities and clean energy development.

This transition will be challenging, but we are here to support you. We’re the hands behind a green workforce, and the minds behind innovation.

Read our stories with compassion, but mostly with assurance that the injustices we’ve faced have only made us stronger and readier to work for positive change. If you’re committed, as we are, to stopping global warming, strengthening the economy, and bringing justice to the communities that have shouldered our nation’s energy burden for too long, then you must lead the transition away from coal as swiftly as possible.

We hope you’ll join us.

Sincerely,

Power Past Coal

MY STORY

Name:

Email:

Zip Code: