

Physicians' Group Applauds Early Plant Shutdown

Ontario Leads World in Coal Closures, Doctors Say

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TORONTO—Ontario's decision to close its coal-fired generating stations a year early makes the province a world leader in coal elimination efforts, says the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE).

Today's announcement essentially shuts the remaining plants in 2013 – more than a year before the legally-mandated closure date of December, 2014.

“I can't think of any jurisdiction on Earth that is phasing-out coal as quickly as Ontario,” said CAPE Executive Director Gideon Forman. “Our doctors' organization salutes the province for this extraordinary decision.”

The U.S. states of Washington and Oregon are the next jurisdictions planning to eliminate coal-fired power – but their plants will not close for another seven years.

CAPE led a coalition of health organizations during a multi-year campaign that urged the government to shutter the coal plants prior to 2014 and ramp-up renewable energy and conservation.

“We thank the Ontario government for listening to the health community and closing our dirty coal plants ahead of schedule,” said CAPE Campaigner Farrah Khan. “Coal contributes to premature death, asthma attacks, and climate change. By taking leadership on this issue, Ontario has set an international precedent that will motivate other provinces and countries to take similar action.”

The next step, said Forman, is expanding Ontario's renewable energy targets. “We would like to see renewables supplying at least 50% of the province's power by 2030 – and we think it's very doable.”

For More Information

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