

Where the numbers come from:

Coal is Ontario's swing fuel for electricity generation. That is, when the demand for electricity rises, the output of our coal-fired power plants is increased. Conversely, when electricity demand declines (e.g., at night), the output of our coal plants is reduced. In contrast, our large hydro-electric and nuclear power plants are run full out 24/7 to meet our base load electricity requirements. As a consequence, to make electricity exports to the U.S., Ontario has to increase the output of its coal-fired power plants.



The people of Ontario are paying the health and environmental costs of coal-fired electricity exports.

According to the Independent Electricity System Operator, Ontario's net electricity exports (exports – imports) in 2006 equaled 5.2 billion kilowatt hours.

According to a report prepared for the Government of Ontario, each billion kWh of coal-fired electricity produced in Ontario: a) kills 25.1 people in Ontario; b) causes 34.9 hospital admissions in Ontario; c) causes 41.4 emergency room visits in Ontario; and d) causes 12,543.6 minor illnesses in Ontario.

Therefore Ontario's net electricity exports in 2006 caused approximately 130 deaths (5.2 billion kWh x 25.1), 181 hospital admissions (5.2 billion kWh x 34.9), 215 emergency room visits (5.2 billion kWh x 41.4) and 65,226 minor illnesses (5.2 billion kWh x 12,543.6).

But don't we import electricity?

Due largely to the unreliability and premature aging of Ontario's nuclear generating plants, the province had to turn to electricity imports to meet its domestic energy needs over the past decade. However, in 2006, 2007 and 2008 thanks to energy conservation programs and new domestic energy sources – such as large wind farms and high-efficiency natural gas-fired power plants – coming on line, Ontario's electricity generation capacity exceeded its domestic requirements on virtually every day of the year.

Join the OCAA to knock out coal, reduce Ontario's climate impact and clear our air.

If you would like to help us with our campaign to phase-out coal and move to a renewable electricity future, please contact Angela Bischoff at Angela@cleanairalliance.org or (416) 926-1907, ext. 246.



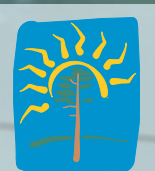
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Coal-fired electricity exports:

Not worth dying for

FRONT PANEL PHOTO: MARTIN EDMONDS



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Export profits carry a big price tag

More than 100 Ontarians died in 2006 thanks to the pollution caused by coal-fired power exports that earned Ontario Power Generation (OPG) an extra \$104 million in profits. If OPG were to pass on all of these profits to its customers through a rate rebate, the monthly electricity bill of a typical Ontario residential customer would fall by a token 77 cents.

The pollution from these exports is responsible for close to 200 hospital admissions, and more than 65,000 minor illnesses (e.g., asthma attacks) while also contributing to global climate change — that's a big price to pay for small change in our pockets.

Ontario must immediately ban non-emergency coal-fired power exports to protect human health and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions that are contributing to the climate crisis.

Ontario plans to keep power exports humming

In 2006, 2007 and 2008 Ontario was a net power exporter to the United States. These exports were fuelled by our coal-fired power plants — the dirtiest and most greenhouse gas-intensive electricity source in Ontario. And it is likely that these exports will continue. In fact, in 2008 approximately 47% of the coal power produced in the province was used for exports. These exports are not necessary to keep our neighbour's lights on. Rather, OPG is simply selling surplus coal power to the highest bidder in the U.S. to increase its profits.

Ontario Clean Air Alliance Bulletin

For more information visit
www.cleanairalliance.org

If you think that saving lives and preventing up to 65,000 asthma attacks or other illnesses is more important than a 77 cent per month reduction in your electricity bill, please ask Energy Minister George Smitherman to ban non-emergency coal-fired electricity exports to the United States.

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The Ontario Government says we have to wait until 2014 to phase out dirty coal power generating plants, such as the giant Nanticoke Station (above) — Canada's No. 1 air polluter and our single biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions. Meanwhile, Ontario is now a net exporter of coal-fired power to the United States, despite Dalton McGuinty's 2003 promise to ban non-emergency coal-fired exports.

In 2006, our coal-fired exports were equivalent to putting approximately 1 million extra cars on the road for a year.