



PROTECT OUR CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND OUR ENVIRONMENT:

We Can Reduce Mercury Pollution by 90% or more
from Illinois Coal Plants by 2009

We know what the health problems are. Mercury is a neurotoxin. It can pass through a pregnant woman's placenta and harm fetal brain development. The costs to our children, their families, and to our education and healthcare systems are enormous. Prevention is both medically smart and economically wise, and it is the right thing to do.

We know that coal plants are the largest source of mercury pollution in Illinois. The mercury gets into our lakes, rivers and streams and goes up the food chain through the fish that we eat. Mercury pollution from coal plants has led the Illinois Department of Public Health to warn everyone – particularly women of childbearing age – to severely limit their consumption of fish from state waterways.

Sad, isn't it? The fish we catch in our lakes and rivers are not safe to eat.

Consider the facts:

- **Health advisories on mercury-contaminated fish apply to every lake and river in Illinois.**
(Illinois Department of Public Health)
- **More than 100,000 Illinois women of childbearing age have blood mercury levels that could pose a threat to their developing babies.**
(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- **Illinois ranks fourth nationally for mercury pollution hot spots.**
(U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)
- **About 60% of the mercury pollution in Illinois is linked to coal plants.**
(National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

Governor Blagojevich recently announced a plan to reduce mercury pollution from Illinois coal plants by 90% or more by June 30, 2009. The Governor's initiative has the strong support of the state's leading public health, environmental and children's advocates. It deserves bipartisan support from our legislators.

Please join us in supporting Governor Blagojevich's plan to protect our children's health and environment by reducing mercury pollution from coal plants by 90% or more by June 30, 2009.
To learn more, visit www.stopmercurypollution.org.

Access Living • Action for Children • Advocate Health Care • African American Healthcare Council • Alexian Pediatric Center of Excellence • Alliance for the Great Lakes • American Academy of Pediatrics, Illinois Chapter • Asian Health Coalition of Illinois • Asian Human Services • Business and Professional People for the Public Interest • Center for African American Health • Citizen Action Illinois • Environmental Law & Policy Center • Gilead Outreach and Referral Center • Health and Medicine Policy Research Group • Hospitals for a Healthy Environment • Illinois Academy of Family Physicians • Illinois Environmental Council • Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition • Illinois Public Health Association • Illinois Public Interest Research Group • La Rabida Children's Hospital • March of Dimes Illinois Chapter • Medline Industries • Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council • Ounce of Prevention Fund • Physicians for Social Responsibility, Chicago Chapter • Prairie Rivers Network • Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter • Sinai Children's Hospital • Trout Unlimited, Illinois Council • Voices for Illinois Children • Women's Business Development Center • YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago

