

Eric Sorensen supports a proposal that would cause families' monthly energy costs to increase, while bailing out Exelon and ComEd with 700 million dollars in ratepayer's money.

NOTE: "Coalfired power plants have been the state's second-largest electricity provider for the past decade, but their output has declined from about half of Illinois' net electricity generation in 2008 to about a fifth in 2020, according to the EIA. Illinois is the country's fourth largest coal producer, after Wyoming, West Virginia and Pennsylvania, the EIA says."

Eric Sorensen championed the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act:

- **VIDEO:** During an April 2022 Democratic forum, Sorensen cited the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act in his answer to how green jobs could be created equitably. "We need to make sure that are kids are connecting to these trade programs because that means that they are going to be able to have and partake in the society as we build into this green future. And also, I'd like to mention the Clean and Equitable Jobs Act, CEJA, here in the state of Illinois. To be able to say that climate change is an equity issue – we need to make sure that everyone is connected to the solutions of climate change." ((Eric Sorensen, Maurice West, "17th Congressional Democratic Candidate Virtual Forum," [Clip](#), 4/27/22, 0:59 – 1:25)

Editor's Note: The bill [number](#) for the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act was SB 2408.

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- **SB 2408 puts Illinois on a path to achieve carbon-free power by 2045 and 100 percent clean energy by 2050.** "There's a lot for an environmentalist – or anyone suffering from terror of the climate apocalypse – to love about this bill. SB 2408 makes Illinois the first coal-producing state – and the first Midwestern state – to commit to a carbon-free future, putting the state on a path to achieve carbon-free power by 2045 and 100 percent clean energy by 2050. The bill shuts down all the state's fossil fuel plants by 2045." (Liza Featherstone, "Illinois Just Won a Big Green Jobs Victory," [Jacobin Magazine](#), 9/21/2022)
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Editor's Note: While the bill would shut down coal-based power plants; coal mining [is not directly](#) impacted.

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shuts down all the state's fossil fuel plants by 2045." (Liza Featherstone, "Illinois Just Won a Big Green Jobs Victory," [Jacobin Magazine](#), 9/21/2022)

In 2020, Illinois was the #4 coal producing state in the United States, coal is the second largest energy provider in the state and about a fifth of the state's net energy:

- In 2020, Illinois was the #4 coal producing state in the United States. (United States Energy Information Administration, "[Coal Explained](#)," Accessed: 1/20/2022)



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- Over the past decade, coal-fired power plants were Illinois' second-largest electricity provider. "Coal-fired power plants have been the state's second-largest electricity provider for the past decade, but their output has declined from about half of Illinois' net electricity generation in 2008 to about a fifth in 2020, according to the EIA. Illinois is the country's fourth largest coal producer, after Wyoming, West Virginia and Pennsylvania, the EIA says." (Sebastien Malo, "In Midwest first, Illinois bans fossil fuel electricity sources," [Reuters](#), 9/15/2021)

***Editor's Note:** There are no coal mines currently [active](#) in Illinois' 17th congressional district. The district gets its power from five [active stations](#) in northwest-central Illinois two of which are powered by coal and [one](#) by natural gas. One of them – the Powerton Generating Station – is [powered](#) by burning coal and must reduce their emissions to zero by 2030 under CEJA. Another coal powered station – the Edwards Generation Plant – is set to [close](#) by the end of 2022.*

The Climate and Equitable Jobs Act's largest impact is on municipally owned utilities, including a coal plant in Springfield, which could cause utility rates to rise and hundreds in the state to lose their jobs:

- The Climate and Equitable Jobs Act's largest impact is on municipally owned utilities in Springfield and Marissa. "Power plants that churn out electricity by burning fossil fuels will by 2035 have to cut emissions by 45% and permanently close by 2045. The largest impact will be on municipally-owned utilities in the capital city of Springfield and in Marissa, 41 miles (66 kilometers) southeast of St. Louis." (KSDK Staff, "Pritzker: Illinois a 'force for good' by cutting carbon gas," [KSDK](#), 9/15/2021)

- **Utility rates would rise by \$3.50 to \$15 per month.** “Lawmakers said utility rates will increase under the plan, costing ratepayers about \$3.50 more per month, although one interest group calculated a cost as high as \$15.” (KSDK Staff, “Pritzker: Illinois a ‘force for good’ by cutting carbon gas,” [KSDK](#), 9/15/2021)
- **The Climate and Equitable Jobs Act could cause Prairie State Energy Campus to close, causing hundreds to lose their jobs.** “The state’s new law requires Prairie State Energy Campus to be 100% carbon-free by the end of 2045. It sets a goal of 45% emissions reduction by Jan. 1, 2035. If they don’t meet it by the end of that year, Prairie State must retire one or more units or further reduce emissions by 45% by the middle of 2038. Unless advancements in technology allow Prairie State to meet that goal, the roughly 600 people who work there will have to find new jobs.” (Kelsey Landis, “Clean energy law spells an end to coal in Illinois. Will miners resist or change?,” [Belleville News-Democrat](#), 1/7/2022)
- **The Climate and Equitable Jobs Act also impacts a municipally owned coal plant in Springfield.** “The bill passed by the Senate calls for Prairie State (and all other fossil fuel plants) to close by 2045, a deadline Gov. J.B. Pritzker has endorsed. Clean energy and environmental groups say Prairie State, Illinois’s largest carbon emitter by far, should be forced to meet declining emissions caps in the meantime. A statement from Pritzker’s office, published by Capitol Fax, said the office is ‘in discussions with stakeholders to ensure’ that Prairie State and a municipally owned coal plant in Springfield achieve ‘real interim emissions reductions’ leading up to 2045.” (Kari Lydersen, “Prairie State coal plant at center of high-stakes Illinois energy debate,” [Energy News Network](#), 9/3/2021)

The Climate and Equitable Jobs Act provided nearly a billion dollars in what critics call a “bailout” to Exelon, the parent company of ComEd:

- **The Climate and Equitable Jobs Act provided \$700 million to Exelon.** “Exelon Generation said Monday it is preparing to refuel its Byron and Dresden nuclear plants after the Illinois Senate passed legislation that will provide \$700 million in subsidies for the struggling units, which the power giant was poised to close.” (Scott Van Voorhis, “Landmark Illinois climate bill resolves standoff over Exelon nuclear plants,” [Utility Dive](#), 9/15/2021)
- **The Climate and Equitable Jobs Act provided what critics call a “bailout” to Exelon, the parent company of ComEd.** “Others take issue with what they term a ‘bailout’ for Exelon despite an ongoing federal investigation involving its subsidiary, ComEd. ComEd acknowledged to federal prosecutors last year that it had engaged in a decadelong bribery scheme in Springfield that has implicated and led to the ouster of former House Speaker Michael Madigan and produced indictments of Madigan’s closest confidante and a former ComEd CEO, among others.” (KSDK Staff, “Pritzker: Illinois a ‘force for good’ by cutting carbon gas,” [KSDK](#), 9/15/2021)
- **The bailout props up two nuclear power plants – the Byron and Dresden Generating Stations – and the subsidy is paid for by “ratepayers.”** “To reach its goal of a carbon-free Illinois by 2045, the law props up two nuclear power plants – the Byron power station and the Dresden plant in Morris – that owner Exelon declared unprofitable in announcing last month that they would close without legislative intervention. A \$700 million ratepayer-financed subsidy to Exelon saves thousands of jobs associated with the plants and the large

amount of clean power they provide, which boosts the state's race with the climate from the start." (KSDK Staff, "Pritzker: Illinois a 'force for good' by cutting carbon gas," [KSDK](#), 9/15/2021)

Editor's Note: The Byron Generating Station is located outside of Illinois' 17th congressional district, but supplies some of its constituents according to this [map](#).