

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 3, 2022



Moms Clean Air Force Joins “Clean Up MidAm” Campaign on World Asthma Day

IOWA - Moms Clean Air Force, an organization that works to protect children from air pollution and climate change, announced today on World Asthma Day that it has joined the Clean Up MidAm campaign.

“Because at Moms Clean Air Force we fight for justice in every breath, and because we know that children’s lungs are particularly susceptible to air pollution, we must hold coal plants and other polluters accountable – for the sake of our children and vulnerable communities, and for the sake of our climate,” said Karin Stein, Iowa Coordinator, Moms Clean Air Force.

The Clean Up MidAm campaign was launched in March by a coalition of organizations and concerned Iowans to hold MidAmerican Energy accountable and ask for a public plan to close its Iowa coal plants by 2030. While the monopoly utility advertises a 100% renewable energy vision, it runs one of the largest coal fleets in the country, and is the single largest carbon polluter in Iowa.

In 2020, the total coal generation from MidAmerican was 7,222,282 MWh, resulting in 8,889 tons of SO₂, 5,402 tons of NO_x, 33 pounds of mercury, and 8,426,410 tons of CO₂ released into the air we breathe, and 195,579 tons of fly ash waste placed in Iowa landfills. The health impact of MidAmerican Energy’s coal usage in Iowa is an increase in the health care costs of Iowans ranging from \$64.6 to \$145 million every year.

“I saw my father die at a young age after suffering from a variety of chronic health problems. My mother, brother, and youngest son suffer from chronic asthma which severely affects their quality of life. My youngest son must stay indoors on most days due to poor air quality. Our medical bills consume much of our household income. Clean air would significantly reduce the need for costly medicines like inhalers and steroids,” said Alyson Glynn, Environmental Scientist and volunteer for Moms Clean Air Force, Muscatine, Iowa.

According to the National Institutes of Health, [reducing coal power plant emissions can help with asthma improvements](#). Coal-fired power plants release air pollutants, including sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and a type of fine particle called PM_{2.5}. For people with asthma, exposure to these pollutants are associated with increased symptoms and more emergency room visits, hospitalizations and deaths from the disease.

Health care providers agree about the damaging health impacts of coal generation.

“Health care providers are guided by the principle ‘first do no harm.’ Burning coal has been known to harm the lungs of people, especially infants, children, elders and outdoor workers -- even killing 5-13 Iowans annually - for more than a century,” said Maureen McCue MD PhD, Board Chair of Physicians for Social Responsibility, Iowa. “That burning coal harms our climate causing increasingly severe storms further impacting people’s health has been known and felt for almost half a century. It’s about time that

our energy companies be held to account, to do no harm, and stop burning coal.”

The Clean Up MidAm Coalition includes multiple organizations including the Iowa Environmental Council, Environmental Law & Policy Center, Sierra Club, Clean Energy Districts of Iowa, Iowa Interfaith Power & Light, and countless Iowans who care about the future of our state. Visit www.CleanUpMidAm.com for more information.

###