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“COAL COSTS AMERICANS” METHODOLOGY

Environmental Defense Fund Legal &
Regulatory Team

Grace Hauser, Lexi Ambrogi, Surbhi Sarang

About Environmental Defense Fund

Guided by science and economics, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) tackles our most urgent environmental challenges with practical solutions. EDF is one of the world's largest environmental organizations, with more than 2.5 million members and a staff of 700 scientists, economists, policy experts, and other professionals around the world.

“Coal Costs Americans” Methodology

Grace Hauser^a, Lexi Ambrogio^b, Surbhi Sarang^c

a Technical Analyst

b Senior Communications Manager

c Senior Attorney

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Facility Information

The universe of this dataset is all coal-burning plants subject to Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) recorded in Clean Air Markets Program Data (CAMPD). CAMPD is used to administer and track compliance with certain federal emissions and allowance-trading programs, including MATS. These programs generally focus on electricity generating units (EGUs) that supply power to the broader electric grid.

Combined heat and power (CHP) facilities often operate differently. Many CHP systems are located at industrial, commercial, or institutional sites, such as hospitals, universities, and manufacturing facilities, where they are designed primarily to meet on-site electricity and thermal energy needs rather than sell power into wholesale markets. As a result, many CHP units fall outside the scope of CAMPD reporting requirements and are not reflected in this dataset.

Facility Information

To obtain the “facility_2026.csv” file, follow these steps: Download “facility_2026.csv” from the [“Bulk Data Files” tab](#) on the Clean Air Markets Program Data (CAMPD) website. Filter for rows where “Program code” contains the word “MATS.” Filter out any plants that do not burn coal as a primary or secondary fuel.

Facility ID

- Source: [CAMPD bulk data files](#), “facility_2026.csv”
- Date of last update: 09/05/2026
- Date of download: May 2026

- Notes: A code unique to each facility, created by the Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Information Administration (EIA). Codes vary between one to six digits. This is synonymous with "ORIS code," "ORISPL code," and "Facility code."

Facility Name

- Source: [CAMPD bulk data files](#), "facility_2026.csv"
- Date of last update: 09/05/2026
- Date of download: May 2026
- Notes: Name used by owners and operators for a facility.

Unit ID

- Source: [CAMPD bulk data files](#), "facility_2026.csv"
- Date of last update: 09/05/2026
- Date of download: May 2026
- Notes: Unique identifier for each unit at a facility. Can be numbers, letters, or a combination.

Owners

- Source: [CAMPD bulk data files](#), "facility_2026.csv"
- Date of last update: 09/05/2026
- Date of download: May 2026
- Notes: Any company/companies that own a specific unit. Note that EDF assumes this is limited to majority owners.

Operators

- Source: [CAMPD bulk data files](#), "facility_2026.csv"
- Date of last update: 09/05/2026
- Date of download: May 2026
- Notes: Any company/companies that operate a specific unit. Note that EDF assumes this is limited to majority operators.

Operating Status

- Source: [CAMPD bulk data files](#), “facility_2026.csv”
- Date of last update: 09/05/2026
- Date of download: May 2026
- Notes: Status of a unit in 2026.

Commercial Operation Year

- Source: [CAMPD bulk data files](#), “facility_2026.csv”
- Date of last update: 09/05/2026
- Date of download: May 2026
- Notes: The first date that a unit produces electricity and supplies it to the grid.

Location

To obtain the “facility_2026.csv” file, follow these steps: Download “facility_2026.csv” from the [“Bulk Data Files” tab](#) on the Clean Air Markets Program Data (CAMPD) website. Filter for rows where “Program code” contains the word “MATS”

County

- Source: [CAMPD bulk data files](#), “facility_2026.csv”
- Date of last update: 09/05/2026
- Date of download: May 2026
- Notes: County where the facility/unit is located.

State

- Source: [CAMPD bulk data files](#), “facility_2026.csv”
- Date of last update: 09/05/2026
- Date of download: May 2026

- Notes: State where the facility/unit is located.

Latitude

- Source: [CAMPD bulk data files](#), “facility_2026.csv”
- Date of last update: 09/05/2026
- Date of download: May 2026
- Notes: Latitude of facility in NAD83.

Longitude

- Source: [CAMPD bulk data files](#), “facility_2026.csv”
- Date of last update: 09/05/2026
- Date of download: May 2026
- Notes: Longitude of facility in NAD83.

Electricity Generation**Unit Type**

- Source: [CAMPD bulk data files](#), “facility_2026.csv”
- Date of last update: 09/05/2026
- Date of download: May 2026
- Notes: Type of unit or boiler.

Primary Fuel

- Source: [CAMPD bulk data files](#), “facility_2026.csv”
- Date of last update: 09/05/2026
- Date of download: May 2026
- Notes: Primary fuel combusted by the unit.

Capacity (MW)

- Source: [CAMPD bulk data files](#), “facility_2026.csv”

- Date of last update: 09/05/2026
- Date of download: May 2026
- Notes: Nameplate capacity refers to the maximum electrical generating output (in MW, rounded to the nearest tenth) that the generator is capable of producing on a steady state basis and during continuous operation (when not restricted by seasonal or other deratings). This value is usually indicated on a nameplate physically attached to the generator.

2025 Capacity Factor

- Source: [EIA form 860](#), 2025 data, “3_1_Generator_Y2025_Early_Release.xlsx” file, “Operable” tab, “Nameplate Power Factor” column
- Date of last update: 06/09/2026 (early release data)
- Date of download: 07/21/2026
- Notes: Value on a generator that indicates the ratio of active power (kW) to apparent power (kVA) while operating. This value is used to convert a nameplate capacity value recorded in kVA to kilowatts, which can then be converted into megawatts—the most common unit used for measuring electricity production at a facility/unit.

2025 Net Generation (MWh)

- Source: [EIA form 923](#), 2025 data, “EIA923_Schedules_2_3_4_5_M_12_2025_Early_Release_30JUN2026.xlsx” file, “Page 4 Generator Data” tab, “Net Generation Year To Date” column.
- Date of last update: 07/01/2026 (early release data)
- Date of download: 07/20/2026
- Notes: A unit’s gross generation minus the electrical energy consumed at the unit for self-sustenance.

Emissions

Emissions

To download unit-level SO₂, CO₂, and NO_x emissions for 2025, follow these steps: select data type: emissions, select data subtype: annual emissions, select aggregation: unit (no aggregation), enter the time period: 2025. To download unit-level Hg emissions for 2025, follow these steps *for each unit*: select data type: Mercury and Air Toxics Emissions (MATS), enter the time period: 01/01/2025 – 12/31/2025, enter the facility of interest.

2025 CO₂ (US tons)

- Source: [CAMPD custom data download](#), unit-level emissions data
- Date of last update: 08/20/2026
- Date of download: May 2026
- Notes: 2025 unit-level carbon dioxide emissions recorded in US tons.

2025 SO₂ (US tons)

- Source: [CAMPD custom data download](#), unit-level emissions data
- Date of last update: 08/20/2026
- Date of download: May 2026
- Notes: 2025 unit-level sulfur dioxide emissions recorded in US tons.

2025 NO_x (US tons)

- Source: [CAMPD custom data download](#), unit-level emissions data
- Date of last update: 08/20/2026
- Date of download: May 2026
- Notes: 2025 unit-level nitrogen oxide emissions recorded in US tons.

2025 Hg (lbs)

- Source: [CAMPD custom data download](#), hourly MATS data
- Date of last update: 08/20/2026

- Date of download: May 2026
- Notes: 2025-unit-level mercury emissions recorded in US pounds.

The Props

Retirement Changes

Most Recent Retirement Date

- Source: EIA [Electric Power Monthly](#), table 6.6. If facility is not listed, search [EIA form 860](#), 2025 data.
- Date of last update: 08/26/2026
- Date of download: 07/21/2026
- Notes: Unit retirement dates as of late July, 2026. Represents most recent listed retirement date.

Original Retirement Date

- Source: EIA [Electric Power Monthly](#), table 6.6. If facility is not listed, search [EIA form 860](#), 2025 data.
- Date of last update: 08/26/2026
- Date of download: 07/21/2026
- Notes: Represents previous retirement date(s). Have been updating this column since December 2025. May be null if there have been no changes to a unit's retirement date.

Retirement Changed

- Source: Manually created based on “Most Recent Retirement Date” and “If Changed, Original Retirement Date” columns
- Date of last update: N/A
- Date of download: N/A
- Notes: TRUE or FALSE value that indicates if a unit's retirement date has changed.

Retirement Notes

- Source: Manually created based on “Most Recent Retirement Date” and “If Changed, Original Retirement Date” columns

- Date of last update: N/A
- Date of download: N/A
- Notes: Lists when data was updated or potential reason(s) for retirement date change. May be null.

202(c) Orders

202c Order

- Source: [2026](#) and [2025](#) DOE 202(c) Orders
- Date of last update: 09/03/2026
- Date of download: 09/09/2026
- Notes: TRUE or FALSE value that indicates if a plant/unit received a 202(c) order.

202c Order Count

- Source: Manually created based on “Received 202c Order” column
- Date of last update: N/A
- Date of download: N/A
- Notes: Count of the 202(c) orders a facility/unit has received under the Trump administration. May be null if the unit did not receive a 202(c) order.

202c Order Dates

- Source: Manually created based on “Received 202c Order” column
- Date of last update: N/A
- Date of download: N/A
- Notes: Dates of 202(c) orders a facility/unit has received under the Trump administration. May be null if the unit did not receive a 202(c) order.

202c Total Cost Estimate (USD)

- Source: [Sierra Club](#), Unpacking the Cost of 202(c) Orders: Facility-Specific Cost Estimates and Methodological Approach and [EDF](#), 202(c) Orders Blog Post Methodology

- Date of last update: 10/01/2026
- Date of download: 09/09/2026
- Notes: Costs incurred to customers so far due to a facility/unit running under a 202(c) order. See Sierra Club and EDF methodologies for detailed calculations. May be null if the unit did not receive a 202(c) order.

202c Order Links

- Source: Manually created
- Date of last update: 10/01/2026
- Date of download: N/A
- Notes: URLs to 202(c) orders.

Pollution Passes***MATS 112(i)(4) Applied***

- Source: [EDF](#), Records Obtained by EDF Show the Trump Administration’s “Free Passes to Pollute” Were Even More Sweeping Than What Coal Plants Asked For
- Date of last update: February 2026
- Date of download: 07/22/2026
- Notes: TRUE or FALSE indicating whether a facility/unit applied for a presidential exemption from MATS.

MATS Exemption Received

- Source: EDF, [Pollution Pass Map](#)
- Date of last update: August 2026
- Date of download: 07/22/2026
- Notes: TRUE or FALSE indicating whether the facility/unit was granted a presidential exemption from MATS.

MATS Announcement Date

- Source: EDF, [Pollution Pass Map](#)
- Date of last update: August 2026
- Date of download: 07/22/2026
- Notes: If applicable, the date that the facility/unit received a presidential exemption.

MATS Application Link

- Source: [EDF](#), Records Obtained by EDF Show the Trump Administration’s “Free Passes to Pollute” Were Even More Sweeping Than What Coal Plants Asked For
- Date of last update: February 2026
- Date of download: 07/22/2026
- Notes: The link to a company/facility/unit application seeking a presidential exemption from MATS. May be null if the unit did not apply for an exemption.

Must-run Orders***FERC RMR***

- Source: Manually created from company/facility websites.
- Date of last update: N/A
- Date of download: N/A
- Notes: TRUE or FALSE indicating whether a facility received a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Reliability Must-Run (RMR) order. May be null if a facility/unit did not receive a FERC RMR order.

RMR Dates

- Source: Manually created
- Date of last update: N/A
- Date of download: N/A
- Notes: The period for which the facility/unit is ordered to operate under a FERC RMR order. May be null if a facility/unit did not receive a FERC RMR order.

RMR Link

- Source: Manually created
- Date of last update: N/A
- Date of download: N/A
- Notes: The link to the FERC RMR order. May be null if a facility/unit did not receive a FERC RMR order.

DOE Money***DOE Money***

- Source: Manually created based on the “OPERATOR LEVEL: Restoring Reliability: Coal Recommissioning and Modernization (\$)” and “PLANT LEVEL: Defense Production Act Title III Project Selections (\$)” columns.
- Date of last update: N/A
- Date of download: N/A
- Notes: TRUE or FALSE indicating whether a company/facility/unit received money from DOE to restore or update their plants. May be null if the unit did not receive an award.

DOE Restoring Reliability (USD, operator-level)

- Source: DOE Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office, [Funding Notice: Restoring Reliability: Coal Recommissioning and Modernization](#), Topic Areas 1 and 2
- Date of last update: 06/09/2026
- Date of download: 07/22/2026
- Notes: Money awarded to *an operator* by DOE under the Restoring Reliability: Coal Recommissioning and Modernization grant. Award details declare which facilities/units operated by the operator the money goes to. Does not include non-DOE funding. May be null if the unit did not receive an award.

DOE Restoring Reliability Notes

- Source: Manually created based on “PLANT LEVEL: Defense Production Act Title III Project Selections (\$)” column.
- Date of last update: N/A
- Date of download: N/A
- Notes: Project details and non-DOE funding amount. May be null if the unit did not receive an award.

DOE DPA Title III (USD, plant-level)

- Source: Manually created based on “OPERATOR LEVEL: Restoring Reliability: Coal Recommissioning and Modernization (\$)” column.
- Date of last update: N/A
- Date of download: N/A
- Notes: Money awarded to *a plant* by DOE under Title III of the Defense Production Act. Award details declare which facilities/units the money goes to. Does not include non-DOE funding. May be null if the unit did not receive an award.

DOE DPA Title III Notes

- Source: Manually created based on “PLANT LEVEL: Defense Production Act Title III Project Selections (\$)” column.
- Date of last update: N/A
- Date of download: N/A
- Notes: Project details and non-DOE funding amount. May be null if the unit did not receive an award.

Economics

Coal vs. Renewables

Going-Forward Cost (\$/MWh, plant)

- Source: Energy Innovation, [Coal Power 28 Percent More Expensive in 2024 Than in 2021](#)
- Date of last update: 06/05/2025
- Date of download: 09/10/2026
- Notes: Total cost of running the coal plant going forward (\$/MWh) as of 2024

Cheapest Renewable Alternative

- Source: Energy Innovation, [Coal Power 28 Percent More Expensive in 2024 Than in 2021](#)
- Date of last update: 06/05/2025
- Date of download: 09/10/2026
- Notes: Cheapest clean energy alternative (local wind, regional wind, local solar, regional solar).

Min Renewables LCOE (\$/MWh)

- Source: Energy Innovation, [Coal Power 28 Percent More Expensive in 2024 Than in 2021](#)
- Date of last update: 06/05/2025
- Date of download: 09/10/2026
- Notes: Cost (\$/MWh) of producing energy using the cheapest clean energy alternative.

Cost Difference (%)

- Source: Energy Innovation, [Coal Power 28 Percent More Expensive in 2024 Than in 2021](#)
- Date of last update: 06/05/2025

- Date of download: 09/10/2026
- Notes: Percent difference between producing energy using the cheapest clean energy alternative and producing energy using coal power.

