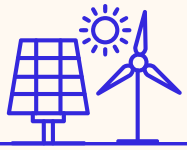
A Clean Energy Pathway
for Southwestern Pennsylvania

Ohio River Valley Institute

A new report from Strategen and the Ohio River Valley Institute sketches a pathway for clean energy transition in Southwestern Pennsylvania. The pathway cuts polluting emissions, creates lasting job growth, and lowers costs for families. Here's how it works:

Curbing harmful, polluting fossil fuels.

The Clean Energy Pathway phases out coal energy and most natural gas energy in the region by 2050. cutting our power grid's planet-warming CO2 emissions by 97% and saving nearly $2.7 billion per year in environmental and health costs.



Investing in wind, solar, and hydropower.

Southwestern Pennsylvania has lots of opportunity for wind and hydropower energy. Renewable energy is now cheaper than ever. It's the most effective way to cut our region's carbon footprint.

Electrifying cars, trucks, and buildings.

Heating our homes and powering our vehicles with clean energy reduces CO2 emissions. It also saves the region an extra $1.5 billion in environmental and health benefits.

Making our homes, stores, and workplaces more energy efficient.

Energy efficiency upgrades—things like improving insulation, updating appliances, and repairing HVAC systems—cut down on energy use and save families money on their utility bills. They will also create 15,000 local, good-paying jobs by 2050.

Sharing renewable resources with the region.

Nearby states also have great potential for wind, solar, and hydropower energy. Sharing resources allows us all to reduce our carbon output.

Learn more:

By the Numbers

Why the Clean Energy Pathway is the best choice for Southwestern Pennsylvania:

It's cheaper for Pennsylvania families.

The fossil fuel industry wants to use natural gas & carbon capture technology to make blue hydrogen. The problem? The technologies are expensive, and they would raise taxes or utility rates. Altogether, hydrogen and carbon capture could cost Pennsylvania families upwards of $1,000 per year.

13%

The Clean Energy Pathway is **13% less expensive** than competing natural gas and carbon capture pathways.

92%

The Clean Energy Pathway **reduces power sector CO2 emissions by 92%** by 2035.

It does a better job of lowering CO2 emissions.

More natural gas means more emissions. Making hydrogen with natural gas and carbon capture is a step backward for the climate. The Clean energy pathway allows us to meet our climate goals.

It creates more jobs.

The natural gas industry hasn't grown jobs in the Ohio River Valley since the beginning of the fracking boom. Doubling down on more gas production is a dead end. Renewable energy and energy efficiency investments are proven job creators.

12,416

Investing in efficiency and renewables **supports 12,416 total jobs by 2035.**

It makes the region a better place to live.

More natural gas means more emissions. Making hydrogen with natural gas and carbon capture is a big step backward for the climate and the environment. A clean energy pathway would allow the region to meet our climate goals.