

## Press Release

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# OEC joins FutureGen Task Force

## Eco group endorses project to build world's first near-zero pollution power plant in Ohio

(Columbus, OH)—One of Ohio's leading environmental-conservation groups is throwing its support behind FutureGen, a unique government-industry proposal to build the world's first near-zero pollution power plant.

The Ohio Environmental Council announced today that is joining the Ohio FutureGen Task Force to help advocate for the futuristic power plant to be built in Ohio. Ohio is one of several states vying for the project, which will be awarded by the U.S. Department of Energy.

"FutureGen is truly the cleanest clean-coal technology: It can generate power with nearly zero air pollution, global-warming gas emissions or waste byproducts. This is a great opportunity for Ohio," said Jack Shaner, public affairs director for the OEC.

The power plant will use coal as its fuel, produce hydrogen for use as a clean fuel source, and test the ability to store large amounts of carbon dioxide deep underground, rather than emitting it into the air. At the heart of the project will be coal-gasification technologies that turn coal into a highly enriched hydrogen gas, which can be burned much more cleanly than directly burning the coal itself. Coal-gasification is a proven technology that eliminates common air pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and mercury. Future Gen will take this technology to the next level by significantly reducing the emissions of global warming pollution. This step is critical given that almost half of Ohio's global warming, carbon dioxide emissions are from coal-fired power plants.

The FutureGen plant will be sized to generate approximately 275 megawatts of electricity, which is roughly equivalent to a medium-size coal-fired power plant and sufficient to supply electricity to approximately 275,000 average U.S. households.

"Ohio is one of the nation's top producers and consumers of electricity. But because of its reliance on aging power plants, Ohio also is one of the nation's largest emitters of harmful air pollutants. These realities coupled with Ohio's large reserve of high-sulfur coal make FutureGen a perfect fit for Ohio," continued Shaner.

"The OEC supports a broad portfolio of clean energy policies, including greater investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy, advanced fossil fuel technologies and the most environmentally protective mining and mine reclamation practices. We are especially enthusiastic about the promise of FutureGen's worldwide deployment to significantly reduce global-warming gas emissions from coal power."

The Ohio Environmental Council (<http://www.TheOEC.org/>) is a network of more than 100 state and local groups that advocates for clean air and water and natural resource protection.