

SIERRA CLUB LAUNCHES 'NO COAL BAILOUTS' ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN AGAINST OHIO UTILITIES

AEP, Duke Energy and FirstEnergy seek to increase customers' bills to pay for aging coal plants

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COLUMBUS, Ohio -- Today the Sierra Club is taking to the streets of downtown Columbus with [new kiosk ads](#) at eight highly visible locations calling out utilities for trying to keep outdated coal plants in operation by charging electricity customers in cases pending before the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). Statewide online ads, animated [web gifs](#), accompany the aggressive curbside kiosk ads in downtown Columbus. Following a press event outside the PUCO, the Sierra Club also delivered 1,500 petitions to the commission as part of the new "No Coal Bailouts" campaign.

The campaign focuses on Columbus-based American Electric Power (AEP), Duke Energy and [Akron-based FirstEnergy](#). While most states are focusing new investments in clean energy, Ohio utilities are increasing their reliance on dangerous fossil fuels following the passage of Senate Bill 310, a new, controversial law that guts Ohio's renewable energy and energy efficiency standards.

"These utilities are essentially asking for a blank check to bail out their dirty, aging coal plants at the expense of customers, the environment and public health," said **Daniel Sawmiller, senior campaign representative for the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign**. "We are urging the PUCO and Governor Kasich not to make Ohioans pay more every month for dirty coal plants."

AEP is seeking to charge Ohio customers an estimated \$117 million to bail out two coal plants that were built in the early 1950s -- Kyger Creek in Cheshire, Ohio, and Clifty Creek in Madison, Ind. The coal plants are not competitive with today's market prices for electricity. The measure, if approved by the PUCO, would guarantee AEP a revenue stream for its aging coal plants, forcing other electricity to compete in an unfair market that benefits AEP and makes customers' electric bills higher than they should be.

Duke Energy has requested a similar bailout (a Power Purchase Agreement rider) for its coal plants, but for an even longer period of time. As recently as yesterday,

Akron-based utility FirstEnergy also [filed a request](#) for a rider to continue operating its Sammis coal plant and Davis Besse nuclear plant.

The kiosk ads' locations include: Broad Street/4th Street, Broad Street/3rd Street, Broad Street/High Street, State Street/High Street, State Street/3rd Street, Spring Street/Marconi Boulevard, Long Street/Marconi Boulevard.

To see examples of the new online ads, click [here](#). For the kiosk ads, click [here](#).

To learn more about the “No Coal Bailouts” campaign, visit sc.org/nobailouts.