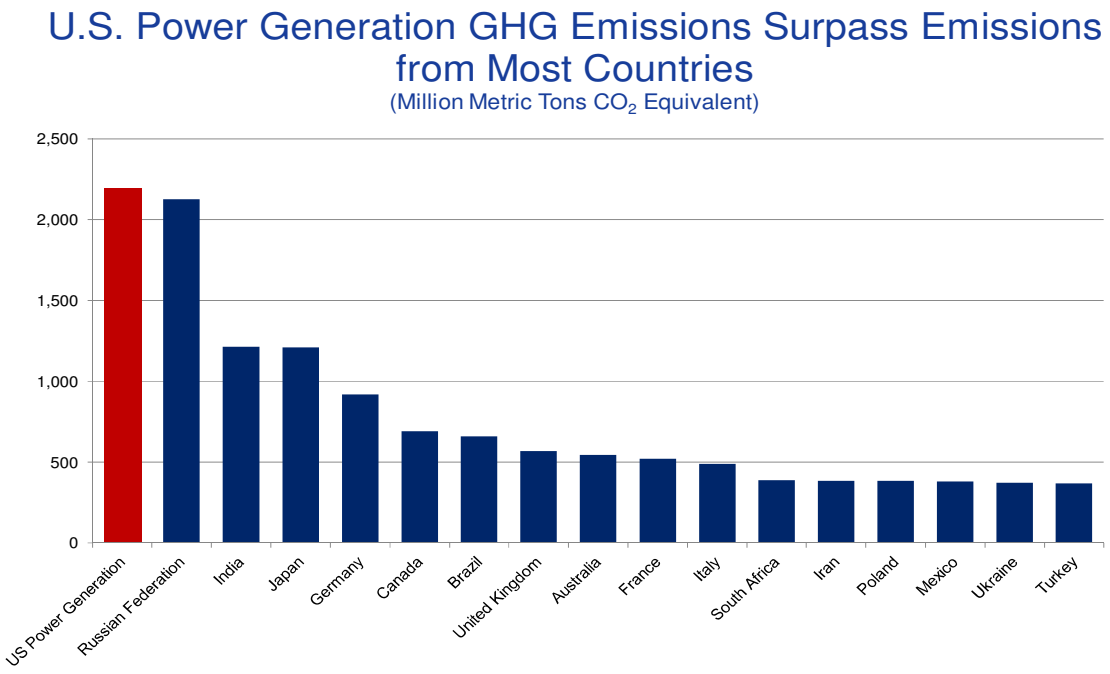
A STRONGER AMERICA:
REDUCING POLLUTION, GENERATING CLEANER ENERGY, & BUILDING A STRONGER ECONOMY

Climate Impacts Harm Americans' Health and Our Economy. Climate impacts are already affecting American communities—and the impacts are projected to intensify. The U.S. Global Change Program has determined that if greenhouse gas emissions are not reduced, there is **at least a two-thirds chance** that American communities will experience:

- increased severity of dangerous smog in cities;
- intensified precipitation events, hurricanes, and storm surges;
- reduced precipitation and runoff in the arid West;
- reduced crop yields and livestock productivity;
- increases in fires, insect pests, and the prevalence of diseases transmitted by food, water, and insects; and
- increased risk of illness and death due to extreme heat.

Carbon Pollution Imposes Heavy Costs on Our Nation. In the first six months of 2011, data from the insurance industry shows that **the U.S. experienced ten climate disasters causing more than a billion dollars of damage**, including two major river floods in the Upper Midwest and the Mississippi River, drought and wildfires in the Southwest, a blizzard that paralyzed the Midwest and Northeast, and Hurricane Irene which threatened the coastal cities of the East Coast and led to the devastating flooding in the Northeast. Although any particular individual storm or wildfire cannot be directly connected to climate change, **these are precisely the type of impacts projected to affect American communities with increasing frequency and severity as climate-destabilizing emissions continue to accumulate in the atmosphere.**

We Cannot Afford Further Delay. The power sector is the largest source of carbon pollution in the U.S.—and one of the largest sources in the world. As illustrated below, carbon pollution from the U.S. power sector exceeds total pollution levels from many other nations.



Source: UNFCCC - Sixth compilation and synthesis of initial national communications from parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, and National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Data for the period 1990 – 2009 (reflecting Annex I countries).

Our Nation Cannot Afford Reckless Investments in High Polluting Power Plants. Power plant infrastructure is extraordinarily long-lived: **the average retirement age of a coal plant is 50 years. Some of the power plants in use today were built before WWII.** Building just one inefficient, emission-intensive plant today locks us into millions of tons of future climate pollution—or the expensive after the fact shuttering of built infrastructure that releases harmful pollution. **Just five new coal plants like the one recently built in Texas would discharge enough carbon pollution over an average lifetime to entirely offset the emission savings from Phase II of the Clean Cars Standards.** We cannot effectively address climate-destabilizing emissions without addressing the pollution emitted by the power sector.

New Clean Air Standards for Power Plants Provide Certainty for Prudent Investments in 21st Century Power Infrastructure that Will Reduce Pollution and Strengthen Our Economy. Under EPA's standards the nation's energy needs can be met through a diverse, efficient mix of power sources, including renewable energy, efficient natural gas power plants, combined heat and power, and improvements in the efficiency of our energy use. The standards also provide a pathway for the development of carbon capture and sequestration for coal plants. The New Source Performance Standards for carbon pollution will provide power companies with regulatory certainty for prudent, long-term investments in cleaner, homegrown energy that puts Americans to work. The technology we need is available today. Working together, America can build the energy generation infrastructure we need to protect our health and strengthen our economy.