



## **South Carolina Positioned For Success On New Carbon Pollution Rule**

Newly proposed carbon pollution standards provide unprecedented flexibility for states to reduce carbon emissions in an individualized, cost-effective manner. Instead of cookie-cutter requirements for every power plant in the country, the standards allow discretion at the state and utility system level to reduce carbon with clean energy alternatives like efficiency upgrades and solar power. South Carolina is well positioned to meet its targets cost-effectively and cleanly.

Carbon reduction targets for all states, including South Carolina, were developed taking into account each states' own energy mix and applying four factors:

1. Potential to boost system-wide energy efficiency (boosting efficiency reduces total system carbon emissions)
2. Potential for deploying zero-carbon energy resources, including renewable sources like solar and wind, as well as nuclear
3. Potential to boost coal plant efficiency (which decreases carbon emissions per unit of coal burned)
4. Available capacity potential to increase natural gas usage (natural gas produces less carbon pollution than coal)

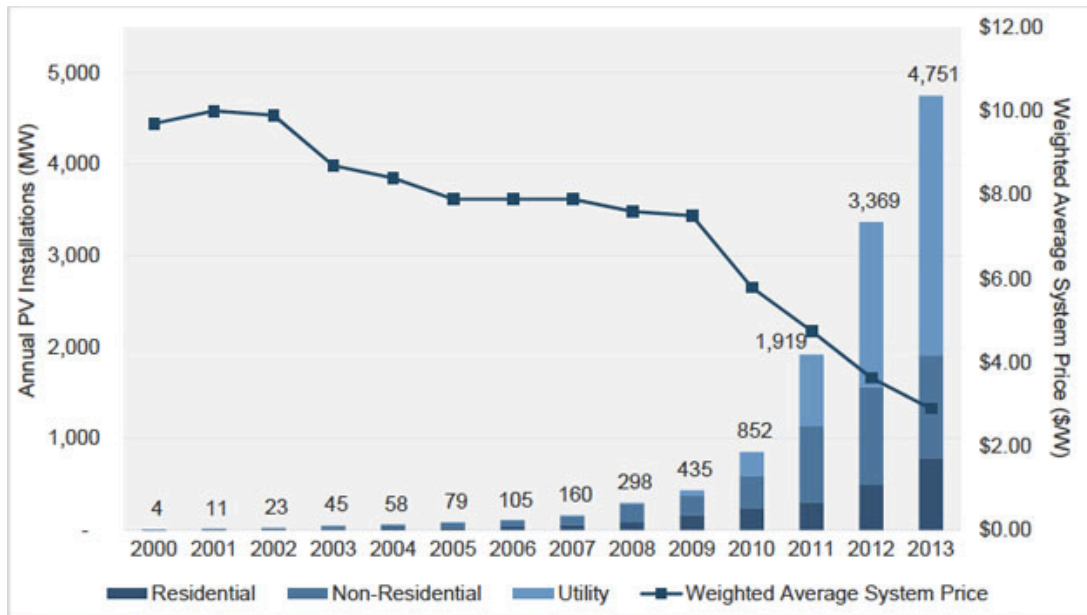
These factors point to substantial carbon pollution reduction potential in South Carolina. Our state's available energy efficiency capacity is vast due to historic underinvestment in efficiency programs that have left customers with some of the highest electricity bills in the nation. Further, South Carolina has tremendous potential for deploying solar power, which thanks to landmark legislation passed this session, is on the verge of being released. Along with already-planned coal retirements and capacity replacements with natural gas and other sources, South Carolina is on track to reduce its power sector carbon emissions quickly and economically.

As an example of cost-savings potential, consider a recent pilot program developed in South Carolina that allowed customers to finance home efficiency improvements with no upfront costs, which reduced energy consumption by an average of 34% with a 15-year savings of \$8,500<sup>1</sup>. Adopted statewide, an on-bill financing program like this would greatly increase energy efficiency penetration, reduce carbon emissions significantly, and save consumers money. Our utilities have also modeled additional efficiency programs that would save their customers billions of dollars over the coming decades.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.cepci.org/assets/HelpMyHouseBrochure\\_June2013.pdf](http://www.cepci.org/assets/HelpMyHouseBrochure_June2013.pdf)

Solar power likewise promises to drive down the costs of power while reducing carbon emissions. The graph below shows that solar power costs have plunged, and they are projected to go even lower. The advent of sun power to compete with coal is great news for South Carolina, which has a tremendous untapped solar resource.



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These demonstrated resources have the potential to result in large, economical carbon pollution reductions. While other states will have a much harder time making cuts due to an over-reliance on carbon-intensive coal, our state goals reflect the fact that South Carolina has already turned the corner towards a clean energy future.

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