

## Debate

# The Impact of Carbon Restrictions

*ISSUE: Will carbon restrictions benefit both the nation and the environment in the long run?*

To combat global warming, the Obama administration used the wide-scale reach of the Clean Air Act to push through regulations placing limits on air pollution. This extends the power of the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate sources of greenhouse gases. One major goal is to obtain a 30 percent reduction in emissions from coal-powered plants by 2030.

The new regulations could have major benefits for the nation. The average age of U.S. coal plants is 42 years, making them less efficient than newer coal plants. Power plants also account for 38 percent of the nation's carbon emissions. Stricter regulation of power plants could reduce carbon emissions and hinder global warming.

On the other hand, many utilities see the regulations as too burdensome and believe they will result in lost jobs. States such as Arkansas would also be affected due to their reliance on coal-powered plants. This has led the EPA to reconsider the timetable and provide more flexibility to states in implementing these changes. The Trump Administration attempted to slow down placing limits on air pollution. In fact, air pollution increased during the Trump administration after a seven-year decline.

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*There are two sides to every issue:*

- 1. There is nothing wrong in providing a legal service many people desire, and those that hack the site to close it down should be punished.*
- 2. From a stakeholder perspective, it is wrong to provide socially irresponsible services, and those who hacked the site to have it shut down were providing a public service.*

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Sources: Jose Pagliery, "Ashley Madison Agrees to \$1.7 Million Settlement," CNN Money, December 14, 2016, <http://money.cnn.com/2016/12/14/news/ashley-madison-settlement/> (accessed April 6, 2017); Zak Doffman, "Ashley Madison Has Signed 30 Million Cheating Spouses. Again. Has Anything Changed?" Forbes, August 23, 2019, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/zakdoffman/2019/08/23/ashley-madison-is-back-with-30-million-cheating-spouses-signed-since-the-hack/#4c80311a3878> (accessed December 18, 2019).

*\*This debate issue was developed by O. C. Ferrell and Linda Ferrell © 2021. This case was prepared for classroom discussion rather than to illustrate either effective or ineffective handling of an administrative, ethical, or legal decision by management. All sources used for this case were obtained through publicly available material.*