

Mississippi



Environmental and Climate Threats in MS

- More than 4 out of 10 people live in counties with unhealthy levels of ozone or particle pollution. This can increase risk for asthma and other respiratory issues, which can lead to missed school days, work days, hospitalization and full respiratory failure.
- In MS: about 1 in 10 people live with asthma.
- To ensure clean air for all, actions must be taken including retiring coal powered plants and passing clean air ordinances.
- Mississippi averages around 20 dangerous heat days a year. By 2050, that number is projected to triple; directly harming the 120,000+ citizens of Mississippi vulnerable to heat, increasing the number of wildfires (which 57% of Mississippians are vulnerable to), and increasing the number and length of droughts.
- Increase in heat also supercharges storms, leading to stronger storms each year.



Does Mississippi meet NAACP standards?

- MS currently does not meet NAACP standards. These standards are policies that every state should have to take steps towards a cleaner, greener, and more equitable future. Mississippi must:
- Have a mandatory Renewable Portfolio standard, with a target of 25% clean energy by 2025
- Have mandatory Energy Efficiency standards that requires a minimum 2% annual reduction on energy sales each year
- Have a mandatory net metering policy that allows for solar panel systems up to 2000 kilowatts
- Have mandatory legislation that gives minority and woman owned businesses equitable access to green jobs and clean energy opportunities
- Have mandatory legislation that allows communities to take advantage of solar energy (whether each individual has solar panels or not!)



Proposed Action Steps

- Every branch has an ECJ committee and chair
- Every branch has an Community Emergency Response Team
- Mississippi State Conference engages in "Power to the People" campaign to strengthen MS environmental standards
- MS NAACP leaders join Climate Action Planning tables
- Jackson Branch passes clean air ordinance