

Powering Past Coal Alliance: The End of Coal is in Sight

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Across the globe, governments, industries and communities are turning away from coal-fired power and building energy systems that are cleaner, fairer and more climate-resilient. At the centre of this transition is the **Powering Past Coal Alliance (PPCA)**, an international coalition committed to phasing out unabated coal power and ensuring a just and inclusive shift to clean energy. Through coordinated policy, financial leadership and knowledge-sharing, the PPCA is helping accelerate real-world change, one power plant at a time. Website: <https://poweringpastcoal.org/>

Who They Are

Established in 2017 by the governments of **Canada** and the **United Kingdom**, the PPCA now includes more than **180 members**, including national and sub-national governments, businesses and financial institutions. These members share a clear vision: a world powered by clean, affordable energy that supports public health, economic resilience and global climate goals.

Why Coal Must Go

Coal is the single largest source of carbon dioxide emissions globally. It is also a major cause of air pollution, which is linked to over **800,000 premature deaths each year, according to the PPCA declaration** (download here: <https://poweringpastcoal.org/sign-up/>). As solar and wind technologies become more affordable and scalable, coal is no longer a necessary or economically sensible option. To meet the goals of the **Paris Agreement**, coal must be phased out by **2030 in OECD and EU countries**, and by **2040 globally**.

Phasing out coal is not just a technical or economic issue. It is also a matter of justice. Many regions still depend on coal for jobs and revenue, and leaving these communities behind would only deepen existing inequalities.

What They Stand For

PPCA members agree to a core set of commitments:

- Phase out existing unabated coal power generation.
- Place a moratorium on new coal plants without carbon capture and storage.
- Support clean power generation through policy and investment.
- Restrict financing for unabated coal projects.
- Promote a just transition that prioritises workers and affected communities.

These commitments are backed by practical tools, policy guidance and collaborative forums. The **Coal to Clean Transition Platform** offers tailored support for members designing coal phase-out strategies that suit their unique national or regional context.

A Just and Inclusive Transition

The PPCA is unique in its focus on people. It works with partners such as the **World Bank**, national governments and development banks to make sure no one is left behind in the clean energy transition. This includes helping communities access reskilling programs, investment in new industries and support for economic diversification.

The Alliance defines a "just transition" not as a slogan but as a framework for policy, planning and finance. It recognises that the move away from coal must be inclusive and locally informed to be truly sustainable.

What They Have Achieved

Since 2017, the PPCA has had a significant global impact:

- **Membership growth:** From 27 founding members to more than 180, including countries on six continents (PPCA Members).
- **Influence on national policy:** Countries like **Germany**, **Chile** and **South Korea** have developed coal phase-out strategies aligned with PPCA principles.
- **Finance sector reform:** Financial institutions have adopted the **PPCA Finance Principles**, ending investment in new unabated coal and scaling up green finance (PPCA Finance Principles).
- **Regional planning:** Local governments such as **Scotland** and regions in **Spain** have used PPCA networks to support just transition planning.
- **Climate leadership:** PPCA members regularly participate in **UN Climate Conferences**, helping to push for stronger international commitments to phase out coal.

These achievements show that the PPCA is more than a pledge. It is a platform for real, collective action that contributes to global progress.

Why Now

The world is at a crossroads. Clean energy has become more affordable, reliable and widespread. Still, many countries continue to expand coal power or maintain existing plants, often due to political inertia or legacy infrastructure.

The PPCA plays a vital role in shifting the global conversation. It shows that moving away from coal is not about loss, but about gain. Clean air, job creation, health benefits and energy security are all part of what comes next. By highlighting successful transitions and promoting shared learning, the PPCA encourages other actors to follow suit.

Current Projects and Campaigns

The PPCA is actively leading or supporting several key initiatives:

- **Coal to Clean Transition Platform:** A resource hub with policy tools, case studies and expert support.
- **Just Transition initiatives:** Events, workshops and collaborative forums to support coal-dependent regions.
- **Finance engagement:** Working with banks and investors to implement climate-aligned portfolios.
- **High-level advocacy:** Active participation in major international events, including **COP climate summits**, to promote a coal-free future.

These projects are designed to bring decision-makers, technical experts and communities together in a shared effort to transform energy systems.

Stay Informed and Get Involved

The PPCA welcomes new members and invites all stakeholders to participate in the shift toward a cleaner energy future. Whether you are a government agency, financial institution or business leader, the Alliance provides tools, guidance and peer support.

Subscribe to the **free newsletter** to receive regular updates, event invitations and transition stories from around the world: <https://poweringpastcoal.org/sign-up/>

Why It Matters

The future of energy is being shaped now. Coal powered the last industrial revolution, but it cannot power the next one. With clarity of purpose and coordinated action, the world can move toward clean, affordable and fair energy systems.

The **Powering Past Coal Alliance** is helping to lead that shift. By supporting bold commitments and practical collaboration, it is clearing the way for a future that is better for people, the economy and the planet.

Learn more or get involved: <https://poweringpastcoal.org/>
