

White Earth Reservation, MN

Two organizations on the White Earth Ojibwe Reservation, **Honor the Earth** and the **White Earth Land Recovery Project**, recently erected a 75 kW wind turbine to power their offices in Callaway, Minnesota. A nearby reservation town installed a 20kW tower in 2002. In addition, ten houses on White Earth have Native-built and -installed solar air heaters from Lakota Solar Enterprises

on the Pine Ridge Reservation. These small-scale, cooperative efforts exemplify a thriving Native energy movement. The Department of Energy's Tribal Energy Program has funded 70 projects across the country. Many more have been initiated through grants, pooled funds, and the accumulated knowledge of other successful projects. Solar and wind generation aligns with traditional spiritual beliefs and provides jobs

across Indian Country. The lands and lifeways of native people have been disproportionately harmed by the waste and pollution of coal and nuclear power. Groups involved in Native energy projects see renewable energy as an extension of tribal sovereignty and part of achieving energy justice.

Cleveland, OH

The **Evergreen Cooperative Laundry** belongs to a new business network based on principles of worker ownership, energy self-reliance, and democratic community development. In a neighborhood with 30% unemployment, Evergreen has hired local residents as co-owners at living wages. By providing bulk laundering services, the Evergreen Laundry gives large local institutions — a hospital, a university, and a clinic — a way to become the economic “anchors” of the neighbor-

hood. The facility features efficient heat exchangers and uses passive solar to heat water and generate electricity, with plans to add active solar technologies soon. Financing was supplied by a coalition of foundations, the anchor institutions, a local bank, and the Ohio Employee Ownership Center, which promotes employee cooperatives. Enterprises still in the planning stage include Solar Cleveland, which installs solar panels on rooftops of large institutions to create a power cooperative, and Evergreen City Growers, farming greens commercially in a year-round hydroponic greenhouse.

Region From Below: Power Plants

Compass Group
in the
Midwest Radical Culture Corridor

- Coal Burning Power Plants
 - Municipal Co-ops
 - Utility Companies
 - Government Run
 - Industry Specific
- Coal Mines
- Ethanol Refineries
- Alternative Energy Communities
- Corn Growing Regions
- Coal Fields

Decatur, IL

Archer Daniels Midland is the largest US producer of ethanol and has seven facilities in the greater Midwest. Although ethanol is a biofuel, it requires a lot of energy to produce, and that energy comes from coal. In addition, the production of each gallon of ethanol uses 4.5 gallons of water and emits wastes into water and air. ADM's ethanol and other agricultural processing facilities made it one of the top ten corporate polluters worldwide in 2002. In Decatur, ADM operates its own coal plant to provide electricity to its wet

corn mill. The factory produces high fructose corn syrup, animal feeds and ethanol. It is also the site of a carbon capture experiment that will inject one million metric tons of CO₂ 6000 feet underground in ancient sandstone beneath Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky. The US government paid much of the cost of the project. By combining corn processing, electricity generation and experimental carbon capture, ADM uses dirty processes to make “clean” energy.

Pilsen/Little Village, Chicago, IL

Chicago's largest sources of particulate pollution are the **Crawford and Fisk electricity generating stations, located in Pilsen and Little Village**. Crawford, at 85 years old, and Fisk, at 100 are relics from Chicago's unregulated industrial heyday. The emissions from these two coal-powered plants bring Chicago's air quality below federal standards. In Pilsen and Little Village, working class and immigrant families disproportionately bear the health risks caused by Crawford and Fisk. The plants' emissions are blamed for high incidence of asthma and respiratory prob-

lems in these districts, but their impact reaches farther. Midwest Generation, a subsidiary of the Edison International conglomerate, does not provide electricity for Illinois utilities. Midwest uses outmoded Illinois plants to burn coal from badly regulated out-of-state mines, such as **A&G Coal Corporation's strip mine in Black Mountain, Virginia**. The cheap power is sold on the open market nationwide, while the health costs are borne by Illinois, its families, and by the people and places where the coal is sourced. In so many ways the grid connects us all.

Resources

- + Pilsen Environmental Rights & Reform Organization
- + ilovemountains.org
- + Energy Information Administration's data on coal mines
- + Ethanolproducer.com
- + USDA's data on corn growing
- + Sourcewatch.org's data on coal plants
- + *Toxic 100*, Political Economy Research Institute
- + US DOE's Tribal Energy Program
- + White Earth Land Recovery Project, Nativeharvest.com