

THE UNPAID HEALTH BILL

How coal power plants make us sick



Opt out of coal power to prevent disease and protect the climate



Coal power plants are causing ill-health in Europeans valued at up to €43 billion each year. The burning of coal is an important contributor to air pollution in Europe, which European respiratory experts have called an 'invisible killer' and which represents one of today's most important public health threats. Exposure to coal pollution is linked to a number of health impacts including higher rates of respiratory and cardiovascular disease.

WHO IS PAYING FOR THESE COSTS?

The continued reliance on coal comes with a price: an unpaid health bill through a high environmental burden of chronic disease. This health bill is paid by individuals, national health care budgets, and by the economy at large due to productivity losses.

What's in the report?

- Overview of the scientific evidence on how air pollution impacts health.
- Testimonies from leading health experts on why they are concerned about coal.
- First economic assessment of health costs associated with coal pollution.
- Recommendations on how policy-makers and health experts can address this unpaid health bill.

Annual health costs due to coal pollution (upper bound estimate):

Poland	€8.2 billion	Bulgaria	€4.6 billion
Turkey	€6.7 billion	Greece	€4.1 billion
Romania	€6.4 billion	UK	€3.7 billion
Germany	€6.4 billion	Czech Republic	€2.8 billion
Serbia	€5 billion	France	€1.9 billion

Costs for 20 other European countries and the total costs for the EU can be found in the report.

Download the full report at: www.env-health.org/unpaidhealthbill

(Related materials available in Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Polish, Romanian and Spanish).



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