

The Environmental Benefits of FirstEnergy's Nuclear Plants

One of the greatest benefits of nuclear power is environmental protection.

Nuclear power does not involve burning a fossil fuel. As a result, there is no air pollution, water pollution, ash or other residue of combustion. And perhaps even more important, there is no emission of gases that can add to global warming. FirstEnergy's nuclear units steadily make an important contribution to the nation's fight against climate change.

The FirstEnergy nuclear power plants emphasize environmental protection in other ways as well. They closely monitor the status of land, water and vegetation near the plants. These monitoring programs, which started before the plants began operating, verify that they have had no negative radiological impact on the environment. Every year, in the immediate vicinity of the plants, all three nuclear power stations take more than 8,000 samples of:

- Air
- Soil
- Surface water
- Groundwater
- Sediments from nearby lakes and rivers
- Fish
- Fresh fruits and vegetables
- Meat
- Milk
- Wildlife

Samples also are taken from test stations as far as 25 miles away from the facilities to assure that the plants are complying with state and federal environmental standards. In addition, state and federal agencies test independent samples to ensure the accuracy and thoroughness of the company's monitoring programs.

