

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS MINING DELEGATION

Weekend of April 29 through May 1, 2011

ECO-JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE in collaboration with the
HEARTLAND COALFIELD ALLIANCE

THE TRUE COST OF COAL

Interested in learning first-hand about the true cost of coal in Illinois? Join citizen activists and water quality professionals from the Heartland Coalfield Alliance for a guided tour of the southern Illinois' coalfields. Participants will explore the impacts that the entire coal life cycle has on the lands, waters, health, and quality of life of southern Illinois communities.

We will leave Chicago at noon on Friday, joining a group in Carbondale for a weekend tour of the nation's largest new coal-fired power plant and examples of contemporary surface and underground coal mines that feed such a plant. Participants will see a massive coal slurry and coal ash dump, a strip mine, areas subsided from longwall mining, and get the chance to hear directly from local residents who are concerned about the affects mining has on the quality of life and health of citizens, communities and coal miners. We'll conclude the Saturday the tour at a beautiful retreat center high atop bluffs overlooking the Ohio River, with entertaining, topical storytelling and poetry reading.



We'll begin our Sunday tour taking in the magnificent views from the bluff top at the edge of the Garden of the Gods Wilderness Area. From there we will drive down into Eagle Creek Valley to witness the devastation that occurs to the land and communities when the land is cleared and stripped away. We'll continue with a spectacular drive over Eagle Mountain into the Saline River valley where strip mining is occurring a rapid pace.

This tour is intended for concerned citizens and activists who want to learn what they can do to promote a just transition from a coal economy to a sustainable economy in America's heartland.

Cost: \$185.00

Includes travel & lodging
Does not include meals

Interested?

Contact Pam or Lan Richart
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For more information, visit: www.heartlandcoalfieldalliance.org



What You Will Do

- First stop – Knight Hawk Creek Paum Mine; a view of an active strip mine operation.
- Travel to Peabody's Prairie State Energy and listen to residents talk about problems related to living in the shadow of the largest new coal-fired plant to be built in America in the last 20 years.
- Visit the Coulterville Gateway mine. This mine includes an unlined slurry and ash impoundment and you'll see where an expansion is planned within site of the town's nursing home.
- See the new Sugar Camp longwall mine and experience the Pond Creek longwall mine; hear from former residents and learn how this form of underground mining devastates communities and farmland.
- Visit the site of the mine that broke the miners' union in Illinois and holds the distinction today of being one of the most dangerous mines in America.
- Stand on the very spot that author Jeff Biggers' ancestors were driven from their land by strip mining.
- Experience the luxuriant beauty of springtime in Southern Illinois from the bluff top at Garden of Gods Wilderness and scenic drive across Eagle Mountain.
- Meet and network with partner organizations working to protect and preserve America's heritage.