

EARTH NEWS

'Acid Rain' Goals In Sight

(NAPSA)—A new report by the US Environmental Protection Agency shows that the country is closing in on the goals set for it under the EPA's 'Acid Rain' Program. Acid Rain, which can be rain, fog, or snow, forms when sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen



oxides (NO_x) emissions mix with oxygen and water in the air and fall to earth. The SO₂ and NO_x emissions are created when fuel is burned at power plants and other industrial facilities. Cars, trucks and construction equipment contribute to these emissions as well.

Under the EPA's Acid Rain Program, power plants must cut SO₂ emissions by almost 50 percent from their 1980 levels by the year 2010. The new EPA report shows power plants have already lowered their SO₂ emissions by 40 percent. In 2004, NO_x emissions from power plants will be cut by a similar amount.

According to Edison Electric Institute, advanced pollution control technologies and cleaner fuels help power plants lower their emissions. So does using fuels such as nuclear power and renewable energy sources. Using a variety of fuels to generate power also helps to keep electricity more reliable and affordable as well. For more information, visit www.eei.org.