

Mercer County has a **direct** employment of approx 1990 jobs in the coal industry. Our Population is approx 8,592. (if all of these employed folks lived in Mercer County) This is equivalent to 23% or nearly .1 of 4 people directly employed .

While we could ^{APPARENTLY OR TRADE} "Buy" Carbon credits from out of the area, (that really does nothing for our air quality here) It does not seem right that the State can not "take credit" for pre Jan 2013 efforts to comply or develop non-renewable energy sources or receive credit for the new natural gas-fired power plants!

(that is like telling your son, you have been a very good boy for the past 10 years, but I know/expect you are going to screw up in the next 8 years. So all you get is coal in your stocking this year)

Carbon credit - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carbon_credit

A carbon credit is a generic term for any tradable certificate or permit representing the right to emit one tonne of carbon dioxide or the mass of another greenhouse ...

Carbon offsets exist as compliance instruments in a number of jurisdictions around the world including Alberta, British Columbia and Quebec in Canada. Ontario is anticipated to implement an offset system shortly. In the United States, California uses carbon offsets as a mechanism for compliance as well and allows offset trades with Quebec as well. Internationally there are several other offset markets for both compliance and voluntary emission reduction systems.

A friend of mine suggested that all of our area plants and mines should schedule their 2016 Annual Outages for the same 30 day period, Say July 15th to Aug 15th, 2016 and see what kind of an impact that has through-out the United States.

Bill Treit

Mercer County Commission