

Power Plants to Parklands Project

ELPC's Power Plants to Parklands + Renewable Energy (P2P+RE) project works to transform coal plant sites into natural and clean energy community assets after they have shut down. Usually these sites sit idle, as fenced-off brownfields along rivers and lakes, however there is an opportunity here to turn these sites into public parklands, expanded wildlife refuges, solar energy projects, and energy storage development. Starting in Michigan, ELPC is engaging with utilities, community stakeholders, and policymakers to strategically analyze specific sites where this vision could be especially effective.

Regional Vision

There are approximately 150 coal plants in the Midwest. We estimate about 2/3 are retired or will retire in the coming years. With the help of ELPC and our partners, utilities and communities have the unique opportunity to build new assets by:



Taking advantage of existing grid connection to develop renewable energy and battery storage, which accelerates timelines, reduces costs, and provides jobs and local tax revenue.



Restoring public access to waterfront properties, where coal plants were historically located, & connecting them to adjacent natural areas and parklands.



Next Steps

ELPC is starting with a set of coal plants in Michigan that are slated for closure or have recently closed. Turn the page to learn about the J.H. Campbell, Dan E. Karn, and Trenton Channel coal plant sites. As we develop our P2P+RE model, ELPC is reviewing potential new projects across the Great Lakes region, prioritizing:

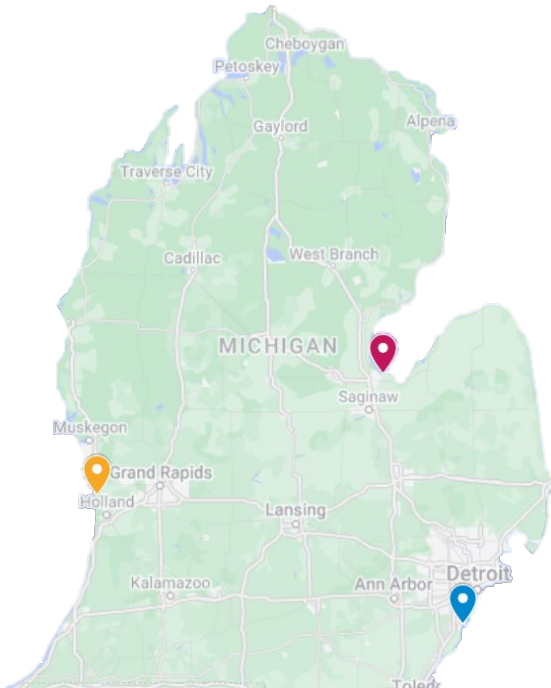
- Sites along Great Lakes shorelines and major rivers and/or where adjacent parks can be connected for public recreation
- States and utilities that have supportive clean energy and climate plans
- Utilities with clean energy commitments or climate plans





Current P2P+RE Sites in Michigan

ELPC is currently working with partners on 3 coal plant site restoration processes in Michigan, where we have strategic opportunities to create benefits for generations to come.



Dan E. Karn Power Plant

Essexville, MI – Bay County

Owned by: Consumers Energy

Partner: Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy

- 2,400 acres
- Closed two coal units in June 2023; converted two units to natural gas & fuel oil to run as a peaker plant until May 2031.

Future Plans:

- 85-MW solar array (250K panels)
- Conservation, including along Saginaw River & Saginaw Bay/Lake Huron
- Public path connecting to Soehnel Nature Trail

J.H. Campbell Generating Plant

West Olive, MI – Ottawa County

Owned by: Consumers Energy

Partner: Ottawa County Parks & Recreation

- 2,440 acres
- Set to close in May 2025 demolition & restoration through 2029

Future Plans:

- 750-MW battery energy storage facility
- 1,500 ft of restored Lake Michigan frontage & 12,500 ft of Pigeon Lake & River system lands
- Completion of Pigeon River Greenway with connection to boat launch, boardwalk and Lake Michigan pier.

Trenton Channel Power Plant

Trenton, MI – Wayne County

Owned by: DTE Energy

Partner: University of Michigan SEAS

- 458 acres
- Closed in 2022; demolition will continue through 2025

Future Plans:

- 220-MW energy storage
- Greenway path, construction starting end of 2025
- 225 acres of open fields, woods, ponds, and sound berms.

