



# CENTRAL ILLINOIS COALFIELDS TOUR

Photo By Mike Eaves

## HEARTLAND COALFIELD ALLIANCE & STUDENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

### EVER WONDERED WHERE "CLEAN COAL" COMES FROM?

In Illinois powerful interests are getting behind "clean coal" as a local solution to our energy problems. But just how clean is it? And where exactly does clean coal come from? Join citizen activists and water quality professionals from the Heartland Coalfield Alliance for a daylong tour as we explore the implications our energy choices have on the health of water and communities in central Illinois' coalfields.

Participants will meet in Champaign in the morning and depart as a group on a driving tour of historic and contemporary coal mining sites. The group will learn about the history of the Illinois coal industry and organized labor, including one of only two union coal mines left in Illinois today.

From there, we will explore the impacts that the entire coal life cycle has on the lands, waters, health, and quality of life of central Illinois communities. Participants will see areas subsided from longwall mining, massive coal slurry and coal ash dumps, and get the chance to hear directly from local residents who are concerned about coal's effects. We will also visit a prairie grass biofuel pilot site to hear from researchers who are working to seek cleaner alternatives.

This tour is intended for university students 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.

### POINTS OF INTEREST

- Decatur, IL – Visit pilot prairie grass biofuels plots at the Agricultural Watershed Institute.
- Farmersville, IL – Visit Crown I and Crown III, 1 of only 2 union coalmines left in the state
- Carlinville, IL – Travel to Shay I mine and listen to residents talk about problems related to the coal slurry impoundment and longwall subsidence
- Hillsboro, IL – Experience the Deer Run Mine with Citizens Against Longwall Mining and learn how this form of underground mining devastates communities and prime farmlands
- Springfield, IL – Visit City Water Light and Power, where coal fired electricity generation has been at the heart of local debates over clean air, groundwater protection, and water usage

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2011 FROM 9:00 AM TO 9:00 PM

COST: \$20.00  
Includes travel  
Does not include meals

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