



Wal-Mart's Negative Impact on Communities

Wal-Mart drives down wages and increases poverty in communities

- A 2007 study found that the opening of a single Wal-Mart store lowers average retail wages in that county nearly 1%. In the general merchandise sector, wages fell by 1% for each new Wal-Mart. And for grocery store employees, the effect of a single new Wal-Mart was a 1.5% reduction in earnings.¹
- The average wage for retail workers is 10% lower than it would have been without Wal-Mart's presence.¹
- Nationwide, counties that had more Wal-Marts in 1987 and counties that saw more Wal-Marts built between 1987 and 1998 experienced greater increases in family-poverty rates during the 1990's.²

Money spent at Wal-Mart does not stay in the community

- In Virginia, for example, 60 cents of every dollar spent downtown, stays downtown — compared to just six cents for every dollar spent at a big-box stores like Wal-Mart.³

Wal-Mart negatively impacts the environment, traffic, and sprawl

- In October 2004, the United States Federal Government sued Wal-Mart for violating the Clean Water Act in 9 states, calling for penalties of over \$3 million and changes to its building codes.⁴
- A study of estimated additional driving costs to Wal-Mart Supercenters in the San Francisco Bay area estimated costs of up to \$256 million to the community for infrastructure repair and environmental degradation.⁵

Wal-Mart forced local small businesses to close

- Studies in Iowa showed that some small towns lost up to 47% of their retail trade after 10 years of a Wal-Mart store moving in nearby in the mid 1990's.⁶

Wal-Mart doesn't care what your community thinks

- In 2005, Wal-Mart real-estate manager Jeff Doss spoke about an oft-cited remark by company founder Sam Walton that Wal-Mart would not build stores in towns if the residents did not want them. "Were that the case," he said, "we'd never build a store anywhere".⁷

What you can do

1. Sign-Up

Join our exciting movement to change Wal-Mart:

www.wakeupwalmart.com

2. Adopt-A-Store

Become a local volunteer and help us build a local community group at every Wal-Mart store in America. Community groups meet once per month to take action to educate others about Wal-Mart's negative impact on our communities.

3. Tell Others

Call your friends and family and let them know why Wal-Mart needs to change and ask them to sign up.

¹ Arindrajit Dube, T. William Lester, and Barry Eidlin, "A Downward Push: The Impact of Wal-Mart Stores on Retail Wages and Benefits," *UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education*, December 2007

² Stephan J. Goetz and Hema Swaminathan, "Wal-Mart and County-Wide Poverty," *Social Science Quarterly* June 2006

³ Rocky Mountain Institute

⁴ "Wal-Mart II Storm Water Settlement," *EPA*, 12 May 2004

⁵ "Supercenters and the Transformation of the Bay Area Grocery Industry: Issues, Trends, and Impacts," *Bay Area Economic Forum*, January 2004

⁶ Kenneth E. Stone, "Impact of the Wal-Mart Phenomenon on Rural Communities," 1997

⁷ David Meekle, *Lebanon Daily News*, 13 July 2005