



## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

### Funding Highlights:

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for implementing and enforcing statutes designed to protect human health and the environment.
- The 2020 Budget continues EPA's work to ensure clean air, water, and land, and safer chemicals, while reducing regulatory burden and eliminating lower-priority activities. Focusing on the core mission makes EPA a better steward of taxpayer dollars and promotes operational efficiencies that enhance the Agency's performance.
- The Budget requests \$6.1 billion for EPA, a \$2.8 billion or 31-percent decrease from the 2019 estimate.

### The President's 2020 Budget:

Environmental protection and public health are key to U.S. prosperity and essential to America's quality of life. Through cooperative federalism, EPA works with States and Tribes, as well as local governments, businesses, and the public to protect human health and the environment.

The Budget proposes to eliminate many voluntary and lower-priority activities and refocus the Agency on strategic and regulatory reforms such as implementation of:

- Cooperative federalism activities under various environmental statutes;
- Requirements under Executive Order 13807, "One Federal Decision;"
- Activities to support attainment of the national ambient air quality standards and implementation of air toxics standards;
- Waters of the United States (WOTUS) definitional changes;
- The 2016 Amendments to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); and
- The Affordable Clean Energy rule, a replacement to the Obama-era Clean Power Plan.

**Continues Focus on Core Agency Activities.** The Budget maintains EPA's focus on its core mission—providing Americans with clean air, land, and water, and ensuring chemical safety. EPA will continue streamlining programs and processes, eliminating many voluntary and lower-priority activities, and empowering States and Tribes as the primary implementers of environmental

programs. This prioritization supports an efficient, effective approach that will provide tangible environmental results for the American people within the scope of EPA's core statutory obligations.

**Promotes Regulatory and Permitting Reforms, and Enhances Cooperative Federalism.**

The Budget provides resources to ensure EPA is able to meet pressing demands in priority areas including reviewing and revising regulations, improving the permitting process, and enhancing collaboration with State, tribal, and Federal partners. For example, several significant rulemakings are expected to be completed before 2020, including replacement rules for WOTUS and the 2015 Clean Power Plan. EPA will work to provide technical assistance and implementation guidance to States, Tribes, and regulated entities as they adapt to these changes. Efforts to identify and address potential hold-ups in the permitting process will also continue, to ensure that unnecessary delays do not get in the way of environmental protection or economic growth. In addition, EPA will promote joint governance in order to enhance shared accountability between EPA, States, and Tribes, including facilitating and promoting the delegation of environmental programs.

**Supports Healthier Schools.** Approximately 50 million American children spend their time in K-12 school facilities every day. Many of these buildings are old and contain environmental hazards that could pose a risk to children's health. To address this issue, the Budget establishes a \$50 million multi-media grant program to identify and help resolve these hazards. Activities supported by this grant program would result in safer and healthier school environments for American children.

**User Fee Proposals**

By administering select EPA programs through the collection of user fees, entities benefiting from those programs would directly pay for the services and benefits that the programs provide. The 2020 Budget outlines legislative proposals to authorize EPA to administer a handful of mature programs through the collection and expenditure of user fees. For instance, the Budget includes a proposal to fee-fund the ENERGY STAR program, a voluntary certification program that aims to help businesses and individuals save money and protect the environment through improved energy efficiency. Other proposals would authorize EPA to collect and spend fees to provide compliance assistance services related to risk management and spill prevention and response planning at industrial facilities. The Budget also includes a proposal to expand the range of activities that EPA can fund with existing pesticide registration service fees and maintenance fees.

**Sets and Implements Appropriate Air Pollution**

**Standards.** The Budget funds EPA's activities to control air pollution and radiation exposure at \$425 million. Prioritizing funding would help reduce the number of areas of nonattainment across the Nation, ensuring that the United States continues to lead the world in having both clean air and a strong economy. EPA will continue its implementation of national air quality standards and, in close collaboration with States and Tribes, will seek to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of State Implementation Plan review processes. In addition, funding for EPA's vehicle programs would support the review of approximately 5,000 vehicle and engine emissions certification requests.

**Strengthens Protections from Toxic Chemicals.**

In 2016, the Congress passed the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act to modernize TSCA. TSCA, as amended, requires EPA to evaluate whether existing chemicals may pose unreasonable risks and, if so, take immediate steps to protect human health and the environment. EPA must also affirm that new chemicals entering the market are safe and that appropriate measures are taken to address risks. In 2020, this work would accelerate as the Agency reaches statutory deadlines to complete the first set of risk evaluations for existing chemicals and begins the next phase of work. The Budget provides support to these efforts, which would supplement fees paid by chemical manufacturers and processors.

**Invests in Water Infrastructure Construction, Repair, and Replacement.** The Budget funds water infrastructure through the State Revolving Funds, the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) credit program, and the recently authorized America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA). The 2020 capitalization of the State Revolving Funds would supplement approximately \$80 billion currently revolving at the State level. Credit subsidy funding for WIFIA would continue the program's momentum by supporting more than \$2 billion in direct loans which, when combined with other funding sources, would spur more than \$4 billion in total water infrastructure investment. In addition, the Budget proposes funds for AWIA grant programs that would assist in lead testing and drinking water fountain replacement in schools, sewer overflow control, and water infrastructure workforce investment. These resources would complement State and local drinking water and wastewater infrastructure investments as well as funding provided through other Federal channels.

**Optimizes the Approach to Clean-Up Efforts at the Nation's Most Complex Hazardous Waste Sites.** The Budget provides \$1 billion for the Hazardous Substance Superfund Account to address the release of hazardous substances and clean up hazardous waste sites. With EPA on track to complete all of the recommendations made in EPA's Superfund Task Force Report by the end of 2019, the Budget supports the full implementation of the optimized approach to cleaning up Superfund sites. EPA has made significant progress identifying impediments to expeditious clean up at sites with significant exposure risks and developing action plans to overcome those impediments. EPA is also working with prospective purchasers, developers, and responsible parties to bring more private funding for redevelopment, saving taxpayer dollars for the sites that truly need Federal funding. Reducing exposure to hazardous substances and revitalizing contaminated land for use by the community is a priority for the Administration and a fundamental part of EPA's core mission.

#### **Making Decisions and Saving Taxpayer Dollars**

In meeting its commitment to the community of Bridgeton, Missouri, EPA signed a final Record of Decision (ROD) setting forth a \$205 million clean-up plan for the West Lake Landfill Superfund site. The ROD amends a controversial version from 2008 that caused a near stalemate in remedial activity at the site. EPA leadership identified this site as a priority and worked through the challenges to settle on a final remedy that will take less time to complete and cost \$30 million less, while still maintaining the desired public health protections.

**Reinforces Emergency Preparedness and Response Capabilities.** Recognizing weather impacts on U.S. communities and intentional threats made against the homeland, the Administration continues to support capabilities across the Federal Government to prepare for and respond to these hazards. EPA plays a critical role in this capacity, providing technical assistance to drinking water and wastewater utilities, responding to the release of hazardous substances, and advising on disease vector control and waste disposal. Within the Hazardous Substance Superfund Account, the Budget supports EPA's efforts by providing \$176 million to the Superfund Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Response and Removal programs, as well as \$81 million for EPA's Homeland Security programs. This funding supports the development of hazard mitigation and resilience guidance, specialized regional emergency response planning documents, sampling methods, and decontamination technical support tools. Protecting the safety and security of the American people is a Federal priority that ensures a prosperous Nation.

**Enhances Monitoring of America's Significant Watersheds.** The Budget funds programs to measure and assess the health of the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay. These watersheds require coordination and collaboration among numerous States, Tribes, and local governments. In the case of the Great Lakes, international coordination is also necessary. The availability of accurate and

continuous water quality data underpins ecosystem restoration efforts. The Budget provides support for basin-wide monitoring in these watersheds, including efforts to track and address harmful algal blooms and invasive species. These programs support cooperative federalism by building State and local capacity to conduct monitoring.

**Supports Leading-Edge Research and Development for American Safety, Prosperity, and a Better Future.** The Budget funds EPA's research and development activities in support of core mission areas, focusing on air quality, water resources, sustainable communities, chemical safety, and human health risk assessment. These interdisciplinary research programs provide the scientific foundation for EPA to execute its mandate to protect human health and the environment. EPA research programs also support cooperative federalism by developing new approaches and methodologies that States and Tribes leverage to address current and future environmental hazards. The Agency will continue aligning research resources to fulfill its statutory obligations and support EPA programs, regions, States, and Tribes in addressing their most pressing environmental and related public health challenges.