

Stopping Trump's Plans to Tear Down EPA Will Protect the Air We Breathe and the Water We Drink

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Key Takeaways

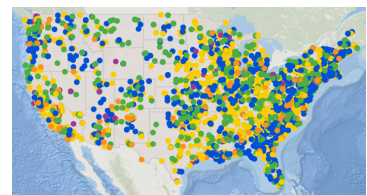
- We must save the Environmental Protection Agency to protect the air we breathe and the water we drink.
- Wealthy corporate polluters close to Trump won't be satisfied until he tears EPA down.
- Without EPA on the job, Americans everywhere will be at greater risk from toxic pollution that causes cancer, asthma attacks, lung disease, and other health threats.
- EPA investments in communities across the country put people to work replacing lead pipes, cleaning up Superfund sites, revitalizing Brownfield sites, and ensuring America's water systems are safe, up-to-date, and more resilient to disasters.
- The public did not sign up for the dismantling of health and environmental protections. According to [a post-election poll](#), 76% of Trump voters and 86% of all voters oppose attempts to weaken the EPA. trump

EPA Protects People's Health

- The Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act are American success stories that have improved the health of Americans across generations.
- Trump's plans to roll back tailpipe and smokestack standards [will lead to](#) 100 million asthma attacks and cause 200,000 premature deaths that could be avoided if we leave the standards in place.
- Efforts to weaken EPA will also lead to more climate pollution, putting our safety, health and economy at risk from fires, storms, floods and droughts.

EPA Provides Funding for Vital Projects Across America

- An interactive map of EPA investments under the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law [is here](#) (and shown in the adjacent image). A full report with regional examples is available [here](#).
- EPA's investments support good-paying jobs, reduce toxic emissions and climate pollution, lower energy costs, and save families money.



- Trump's chaotic and illegal government funding shutdown froze EPA grants to states and communities across the country, stopping brownfields clean-ups, lead pipe replacements and solar installations. See NYT, "[Trump's Halt on Climate Spending Freezes Jobs and Stalls Projects](#)", and Politico, "[Trump's Order Chaos Hits the Water Taps](#)"
- Federal courts have found the action to be illegal and have [ordered EPA and other agencies to restart funding](#).

This is Just the Beginning of Trump's Plan to Traumatize EPA

- This is the most chaotic and vindictive transition in the history of the Environmental Protection Agency. EPA is the center of the bullseye for Trump's vindictive purge of public servants because corporate polluters with close ties to Trump don't want to be held accountable for polluting the air, land and water.
- In the words of a senior Trump official, Russell Vought:
 - *"We want the bureaucrats to be traumatically affected. When they wake up in the morning, we want them to not want to go to work because they are increasingly viewed as the villains. We want their funding to be shut down so that the EPA can't do all of the rules against our energy industry because they have no bandwidth financially to do so. We want to put them in trauma."* ([link](#))
- This is just the beginning of Trump's plans to traumatize EPA. Nobody at EPA is safe when the administration's goal is to tear the place down.
 - Elon Musk has [dangled an ill-conceived and illegal buyout](#) before EPA staff as their jobs are being threatened. This is a chaotic, costly, and vindictive attempt to scare EPA scientists and other employees into quitting.
 - The Trump administration is [preparing to fire](#) as many as 1,100 EPA scientists and other staff who have been recently hired and lack many civil service protections. This directly impacts EPA's ability to attract and retain the next generation of scientists and experts the agency needs.
 - Trump's DEI executive order [threatens EPA staff](#) who work on congressionally-mandated programs to help communities who are disproportionately affected by air and water pollution. These programs follow the pollution, putting resources where they are most needed.

Weakening EPA Will Harm Taxpayers and the Economy

- Trump's assault on EPA is not about reducing spending. EPA's budget accounts for less than half of a penny of every dollar of federal spending. Rather, it is about turning control over to wealthy corporate polluters with ties to Trump.

- The clean air rules that Trump wants to roll back were [on track to deliver](#) \$250 billion in net annual benefits, saving people money on emergency room visits and other health costs.

Congress Must Reclaim its Constitutional Powers

- Trump is bypassing Congress and tearing EPA down through executive actions, many of which are illegal and have already been rejected by the courts.
- The Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and other environmental laws have been enacted by Congress and cannot be undone by Trump without congressional approval.
- Congress must reclaim its constitutional powers of writing the Nation's laws, appropriating funds, and overseeing executive branch implementation.

Congress Must Provide Sufficient EPA Funding and Staffing

- It is incumbent upon Congress to fund the EPA with sufficient budget and staff to carry out its critical work to protect communities from air, water, chemical, and climate pollution.
- EPA's annual budget accounts for less than 0.2% (two-tenths of one percent) of the federal budget. Much of its budget flows to states and municipalities for programs such as building wastewater treatment and drinking water infrastructure.
- Even as congress has given EPA new responsibilities to tackle environmental challenges such as toxic forever chemicals and climate change, EPA's budget and staffing have been in decline. In real dollars, EPA's budget is 15% lower today than it was under President Bush and 20% lower than it was under President Clinton.