



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Highlights:

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for implementing and enforcing statutes designed to protect human health and the environment.
- The Budget continues the Agency's work to protect the air, land, and water from pollution, while reducing and eliminating lower priority activities and voluntary programs. Focusing on the core mission supports overall efforts to restrain Federal spending and promote operational efficiencies that enhance the Agency's performance.
- The Budget requests \$5.4 billion for EPA, a \$2.8 billion or 34-percent decrease from the 2017 enacted level.

The President's 2019 Budget:

Environmental protection and public health are key to U.S. prosperity and essential to America's quality of life. EPA was created in 1970 to consolidate into one agency the Federal Government's activities to protect human health and the environment. Through cooperative federalism, EPA works with States and Tribes, as well as local governments, businesses, and the public to protect clean air, water, and land.

Since its creation, the work of EPA and its partners has led to significant reductions in the risks from pollution and has helped to meaningfully improve the lives of all Americans:

- emissions of the major air pollutants identified in the Clean Air Act of 1970 have decreased by 70 percent;
- approximately 90 percent of the U.S. population served by community water systems receives drinking water that meets all applicable water quality standards; and
- more than 2,700 of the most contaminated Superfund and other hazardous waste sites have a remedy in place to reduce human exposure to hazardous substances.

In recognition of the significant environmental and public health gains that have already been made, the Budget would maintain key environmental achievements while furthering work in core mission areas. EPA would continue to invest in protecting the air, land, and water as well as address exposure to toxic chemicals.

EPA Answers the Call to Action

In 2017, faced simultaneously with three major hurricanes, a tropical storm, and major wildfires spanning over eight States and two Territories, EPA provided crucial front line support to its Federal, State, territorial, and tribal partners by:

- evaluating slightly more than 6,300 drinking water systems and close to 500 wastewater systems;
- assessing approximately 250 Superfund sites and 1,700 oil and chemical facilities;
- providing technical assistance as needed to damaged facilities;
- responding to approximately 275 spills and recovering more than 2,000 vessels and 48,600 orphaned containers;
- advising on waste management and debris disposal mechanisms; and
- utilizing its laboratory network, along with specialized equipment such as the Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology airplane and Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer mobile laboratories to monitor the air and water quality in the affected communities.

EPA's support delivered vital data on the potential risks and hazards to first responders and the public.

To achieve these goals, the Budget continues to propose a number of strategic reforms. The Budget eliminates many voluntary and lower priority activities and programs, and invests in process improvements and other operational enhancements to bring greater efficiency and cost-effectiveness to the work of the Agency. EPA is also in the midst of implementing sweeping regulatory reforms. The President's Executive Orders 13771, "Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs," and 13783, "Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth," are guiding the Agency to find new approaches to protecting the environment and human health while also ensuring consideration of economic security, as consistent with law. As EPA continues to focus on its fundamental responsibilities, and strengthens its relationships with States and Tribes on the implementation of Federal environmental laws, there is an opportunity to reshape the Agency's workforce, ensuring that EPA operates efficiently while maintaining critical skills and expertise.

Empowers State Environmental Priority-Setting. States are the primary implementers of many Federal environmental statutes and critical partners in protecting the Nation's environment and human health. States have long sought flexibility to direct grant resources to their individual priorities, rather than receiving funding only through grants dedicated to specific programs. The Budget recognizes and responds to this need by providing \$27 million for "Multipurpose Grants" within EPA's Categorical Grant portfolio totaling \$597 million. States would be able

to spend this funding on any statutorily mandated delegated duty. This proposal would enable each State to set its own environmental priorities and quickly respond to new threats as they arise.

Invests in Water Infrastructure Construction, Repair, and Replacement. The Budget funds water infrastructure through the State Revolving Funds and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) credit program. The 2019 capitalization of the State Revolving Funds would supplement the approximately \$80 billion currently revolving at the State level; in addition, the WIFIA credit subsidy would support more than \$1 billion in direct loans, resulting in more than \$2 billion in total investment. These resources would complement State and local drinking water and wastewater infrastructure investments as well as funding provided through other Federal channels, including the President's Infrastructure Initiative.

Accelerates the Clean Up of the Nation's Most Complex Hazardous Waste Sites. The Budget provides \$762 million for the Hazardous Substance Superfund Account to address the release of hazardous substances and the clean up of hazardous waste sites. The Budget also supports the recommendations made in EPA's Superfund Task Force Report to identify impediments to expeditious

clean up at sites with significant exposure risks and to bring more private funding to the table for redevelopment. Revitalizing contaminated land improves the quality of life for communities around the United States and is part of EPA's core mission.

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 with Canada is also necessary. Effective coordination and collaboration among these stakeholders relies on accurate and continuous data. The Budget provides funds to support basin-wide monitoring in these watersheds, which would assist decision-making on health and economic issues including harmful algal blooms and invasive species management. The Budget also supports cooperative federalism by building State and local capacity to conduct monitoring, while recognizing that the primary responsibility for local ecosystem restoration rests with States and local groups.

Ensures Consistent Enforcement and Enhanced Compliance Assistance. The

Budget continues to concentrate EPA's enforcement objectives on programs that are not delegated to State, local, and tribal partners. EPA will work with partners to maintain a consistent and effective enforcement program to avoid duplication and give the regulated community an even playing field for conducting business. To specifically assist the oil and chemical industries in their compliance with EPA regulations, the Budget proposes to institute a voluntary fee that can be paid by a facility to have EPA provide on-site compliance assistance.

Strengthens Protections from Toxic Chemicals. In 2016, the Congress passed the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act to modernize the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). TSCA, as amended, requires EPA to make an affirmative finding of safety on all new chemicals introduced into commerce. EPA must also prioritize and evaluate existing chemicals in commerce and manage chemicals when EPA finds they do not to meet safety standards that are in place to protect people and the environment from unreasonable risks. In 2019, EPA will continue to set up new protocols to implement the modernized TSCA and evaluate the risks of new and existing chemicals in commerce as part of the Agency's commitment to provide for the safety and security of all Americans.

Fee-Funds the Popular ENERGY STAR Program. ENERGY STAR is a trusted resource for consumers and businesses that want to purchase products that save them money and help protect the environment. The Budget includes a proposal to authorize EPA to administer the ENERGY STAR program through the collection of user fees. Product manufacturers that seek to label their products

Restoring the Land to Productive Use

The Budget prioritizes funding for Brownfields site assessment grants in order to accelerate investment in local communities. The EPA Brownfields program provides competitive grants to local communities to address sites where redevelopment is challenged by the presence or potential presence of contamination. EPA's Brownfields program site assessment grants provide useful information to communities about the extent of contamination at a property. Real estate developers use this information to estimate future clean-up costs and to plan for redevelopment of the property. EPA Brownfields grantees report that approximately 30 percent of brownfield properties that are assessed using EPA Brownfields funding do not require remediation for the intended reuse of the property; although, in some cases, institutional controls may be required. Finding that remediation is not necessary for the intended reuse of the site means faster redevelopment and the return of the property to productive use.

under the program would pay a modest fee to support EPA's work to set voluntary energy efficiency standards and to process applications. Fee collections would begin after EPA undertakes a rulemaking process to determine which products would be covered by fees and the level of fees, and to ensure that a fee system would not discourage manufacturers from participating in the program or result in a loss of environmental benefits.

Reinforces Emergency Preparedness and Response Capabilities. The 2017 hurricane season reminded the Administration of how important it is for all levels of government to be ready to assist residents in the face of natural disasters. EPA plays a critical role in this capacity, providing technical assistance to drinking water and waste water utilities, responding to the release of hazardous substances, and advising on disease vector control and waste disposal. The Budget further supports EPA's efforts by providing \$6 million to the Critical Infrastructure Protection program and \$45 million for key emergency response equipment and training under the Homeland Security Preparedness Response & Recovery program. Protecting the safety and security of the American people is a Federal priority that ensures a prosperous Nation.

Invests in Cutting-Edge Research and Development for American Prosperity and a Better Future. The Budget provides \$246 million for EPA to continue to perform 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 would apply the best available science to address current and future environmental hazards, develop new approaches, and improve the scientific foundation for making environmental protection decisions. The Agency will strengthen the alignment of its research resources to support EPA programs, regions, States, and Tribes with the goal of improving America's collective quality of life and preserving the health of the environment for future generations.

Refocuses the Agency on Core Activities. As part of the Administration's initiative to refocus EPA on its core mission, the President's Budget continues to eliminate funding for lower priority programs, programs that have duplicative functions with other agencies, activities that can be absorbed into other functions, and responsibilities that should be primarily for State and local governments. Examples of program eliminations include: the Climate Change Research and Partnership Programs; the Indoor Air and Radon Programs; the Marine Pollution and National Estuary Programs; the Environmental Education Program; and the Beaches Program. Total savings from eliminated EPA programs and activities would save taxpayers approximately \$600 million compared to 2017 enacted levels.