



EPA BUDGET CUTS IMPACT VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

DIRTY FACTS: State of Alaska

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s mission is to protect human health and the environment. Historically, people of color have been and continue to be unequally overburdened by environmental hazards and pollution. The [proposed budget](#) for the EPA will make it more difficult for communities of color and low income communities to achieve environmental equity. Alaska, of EPA Region 10, has a [population](#) of 741,894 with 34% non-white residents and 10% living in poverty. In Alaska, there are two member organizations that participate in the [Environmental Justice Leadership Forum \(EJLF\)](#) to work on advancing climate justice and policies that promote environmental justice. [Alaska Community Action on Toxics](#) and [Arctic Village](#) will have their At Large Congressional District received a \$64.3M decrease under Trump's budget.

What does Alaska have at stake?

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- In 1992, the U.S. EPA's Office of Environmental Equity was established and later changed to the [Office of Environmental Justice](#) to address the inequities in environmental health and decision making opportunities.
- The proposed budget by the Trump Administration would **eliminate the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ)** from the U.S. EPA, meaning there will be no [conscious coordination](#) of environmental justice protection in all policies and activities. These efforts would likely be transferred to the [Office of Policy](#). Under the House budget, **the program would receive a 15% reduction** at \$5.728 million.
- The Office of Environmental Justice has developed EJSCREEN, a [mapping tool](#) that provides demographic and environmental measures, training and workshops on integrating environmental justice into the work of internal and external stakeholders, and created the framework that includes environmental justice concerns into science and policy research at the EPA.
- EJ 2020, which is EPA's strategy for addressing environmental justice concerns until 2020, would likely be removed under the proposed budget by the Trump administration.

HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES

- There are 146 hazardous waste [sites](#) in Alaska, which includes both Superfund and brownfield sites.
- While people of color make up only 37% of the U.S. population, 44% of people of color live within one mile and 46% live within three [miles](#) of Superfund sites. Residents surrounding Superfund sites are more likely to be low income people of color, which means they often have fewer resources to address the issues impacting their community.
- Communities of color and low income communities are more likely to receive EPA Brownfield grants due to historical [factors](#) such as "housing discrimination, residential segregation, and community disinvestment." Census Block Groups receiving EPA Brownfield funding identified as 20% in poverty and 38% people of color, compared to 12% in poverty and 31% people of color from Census Block [Groups](#) nationwide.
- The proposed budget by Trump's administration would **decrease Superfund program funding by 43%**. Under the House budget, it would receive a 2% [increase](#).
- The proposed budget by Trump's administration would **reduce Brownfield program funding by 37%**, Brownfield Projects State Assistance Grants by 14%, and a Brownfield Categorical Grant funding decrease of 30%. Under the House budget, the Brownfield grant receives \$10 million [more](#) in funding than 2017 levels.



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AIR QUALITY

- Low income children of color and elderly people breathe in higher amounts of [air pollution](#), causing respiratory issues, irritation, heart issues, and even death.
- The proposed budget under the Trump administration would [decrease](#) funding for Science and Technology Clean Air Programs by 26%, Indoor Air and Radiation Programs by 44%, Air and Energy Research by 67%, Clean Air Environmental Programs by 47%, Indoor Air and Radiation Environmental Programs by 92%, and State and Local Air Quality Management Categorical grants by 30%. The House budget would [cut](#) Clean Air programs by 17% at \$227.1 million.
- Targeted Airshed State grants, which help to reduce air pollution in the top five most polluted nonattainment areas relative to annual ozone or particulate matter, will be [eliminated](#) under the proposed budget of the Trump administration. Under the House budget, Targeted Airshed Grants receive \$10 million [more](#) in funding.

WATER QUALITY

- Low income communities and communities of color are less likely to have [access](#) to clean water.
- The proposed budget under the Trump administration would [increase](#) the Drinking Water Science and Technology Program by 4%. The proposed budget under the Trump administration would increase the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for Alaska by .002%.
- The proposed budget under the Trump administration would [decrease](#) funding of Safe and Sustainable Water Resources Research by 36%, the Wetlands program by 14%, Drinking Water Program under Environmental Programs and Management by 19%, Surface Water Protection by 83%, Public Water System Supervision by 30%, and Wetlands Program Development Categorical Grant by 30%.
- The proposed budget under the House would keep drinking water and wastewater infrastructure at the same [levels](#) as those in 2017.
- The proposed budget under the Trump administration would [eliminate](#) Water Quality Research and Support Grants, the National Estuary Program, Beach/Fish Programs, Marine Pollution Programs, Nonpoint Source Categorical Grant, and Beaches Protection Categorical Grant.



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