

# State of Risk: Ohio

How hobbling the Environmental Protection Agency would threaten Ohioans' health, jobs, families and property values



Hollowing out the EPA would be a disaster for Ohio's health, economy and tourism.

## Introduction

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Dear Reader:

Decisions are being made in Washington, DC that could move Ohio's environment, public health and economy backward in the coming months and for years to come. The Trump Administration and many Members of Congress are working to weaken the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and cut its budget to its lowest level since the 1970s.

Hollowing out the EPA would be a disaster for Ohio's health, economy and tourism. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and Ohio River cleanup efforts could be imperiled, along with other efforts to keep drinking water safe. Millions of Ohioans living in some of the most polluted cities in America depend on EPA help to clean up dangerous or even toxic pollution in the air they breathe. More than three dozen toxic waste Superfund sites would get less attention.

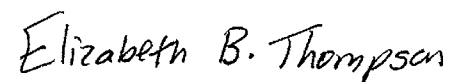
This report, *State of Risk: How Hobbling the Environmental Protection Agency Would Threaten Ohio's Health, Families, Jobs, and Economy*, shows how shrinking the EPA and its programs could imperil a generation of environmental safeguards across the state. For more than 11 million residents who depend

on a safe and healthy environment to live a good life and help support their economy, and for the more than 40 million tourists who visit each year, President Trump's efforts to undermine EPA's work would move Ohio backward to a dirtier and more dangerous era.

The Environmental Defense Fund works to solve the most critical environmental problems facing the planet. We are guided by science and economics to find practical and lasting solutions to our most serious environmental problems. We work in concert with other organizations, business, government and communities to preserve natural systems.

I invite you to read the report and see how EPA budget cuts and eliminating environmental safeguards would harm the health of our children and families. I hope you'll join us in protecting our environment for our children and the generations who will follow us.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth B. Thompson, Vice President  
U.S. Climate and Political Affairs

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### Acknowledgments

This is one in a series of Environmental Defense Fund reports cataloguing the impact of President Trump's proposed cuts to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency funding that protects public health and the environment in communities across America. The report was prepared and edited under the direction of Elgie Holstein, Senior Director for Strategic Planning at Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) and former Associate Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget. Special thanks to Ben Schneider, Senior Communications Manager, for coordinating the project and for overseeing the production and release of this series.

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# State of risk: Ohio

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## How hobbling the Environmental Protection Agency would threaten Ohioans' Health, Families, Jobs, and Economy

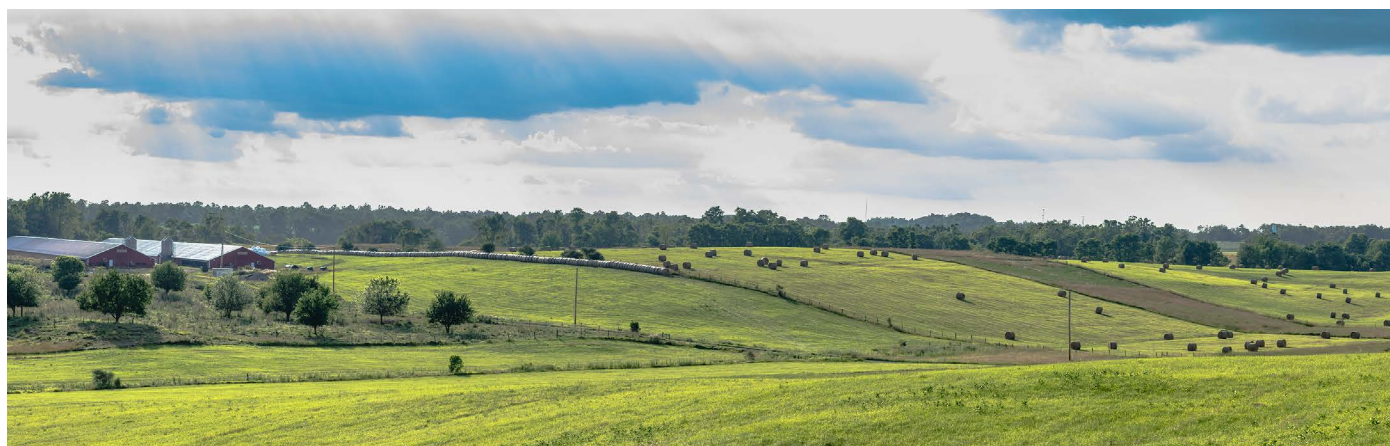
The Trump Administration cuts would move Ohio's environment backward to a dangerous and dirtier era.

More than 11 million Ohioans depend on a safe and healthy environment to live a good life. They need clean water, air and soil to raise healthy children and create jobs. For decades, the state has been working to rebound from a legacy of unique and often troubling environmental challenges, including some of the most polluted rivers and dirtiest air in the country, and dangerous levels of ozone and particle pollution in eight separate counties.

Ohio's environmental health and future depend on strong partnerships with the federal government. Over the last five years, Ohio has received more than three-quarters of a billion dollars in grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to protect the state's environment and economy. Additional EPA dollars have gone straight to local and regional projects. Millions more have been spent to ensure that states such as Ohio have the benefit of the best environmental protection and cleanup science and technology, as well as the legal support to go after polluters.

But the Trump Administration and many Members of Congress are working to hollow out the EPA and cut its budget to its lowest level since the 1970s, posing threats to millions of Ohioans who depend on the agency to protect their health and the state's tourism and business climate. These historic cuts would reverse decades of progress in cleaning up the toxic substances that foul our drinking water, air and soil, posing grave threats to our health and safety. They would strip the EPA of decades of scientific and technical expertise that Ohio has turned to time and again to support state and local cleanups of toxic pollution.

For Ohio's minority populations, these cuts would do extra damage. For example, the EPA indicates that 156 million people, including 62 percent of all minorities in the United States, live within three miles of a Superfund, brown-field or solid and hazardous waste "corrective action" site.<sup>1</sup> But the Administration is proposing to cut 100 percent of the funding for the



These historic cuts would reverse decades of progress in cleaning up the toxic substances that foul our drinking water, air and soil, posing grave threats to our health and safety.

EPA's environmental justice work under the Superfund cleanup program, along with a 37 percent cut in funding to notify communities everywhere about what chemicals are being stored and used at industrial locations.<sup>2</sup>

The Trump Administration is also trying to shut down a modest program, EPA's Office of Environmental Justice, which has enjoyed bipartisan support for its efforts to ensure that everyone gets equal protection from environmental and health hazards. The Environmental Justice Small Grants Program, for instance, has made large impacts with low-dollar amounts, providing more than \$24 million in funding to more than 1,400 projects nationwide since 1994,<sup>3</sup> with more than \$154,000 spent in Ohio in the last decade alone.

These cuts would imperil generations of environmental and economic progress in Ohio. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and Ohio River cleanup efforts are critical to heading off disasters like the toxic algae bloom that shut down Toledo's water supply in 2014, and to keeping fecal contamination out of children's drinking water and off Lake Erie's job-creating beaches. More than three dozen Superfund sites await cleanup of toxic waste. And some of the most polluted cities in America desperately need more help to prevent thousands of extra cases of asthma among children and seniors.

For every family, especially their vulnerable children and seniors, these cuts will move Ohio's environment backward to a dangerous and dirtier era: More poisons in our soil and toxic substances in our water, and more of the cancers that follow. More asthma attacks and smog, and more "Code Red" days where kids and seniors should stay indoors. More mercury, arsenic, lead and other toxic substances that have no place in anyone's lungs, drinking water or dinner. More untended waste sites that threaten community health and sap economic development. And fewer investigations to make polluters pay for the costs of their waste.

As the Congress moves towards adopting a new budget this fall, cuts have already been proposed by both the Trump Administration and Appropriations Committee members in Congress. Many vital spending decisions will be made behind closed doors as members horse-trade and make deals with an administration that is eager to jettison pollution prevention and cleanup programs. That's why it's so important to understand which antipollution programs are being targeted for elimination or deep reductions: so that Ohioans can weigh in with their Members of Congress to ensure that EPA funding is fully preserved.

## The Trump Administration's road map: Eliminating and slashing EPA Programs that protect Ohio's environment

Programs, grants and initiatives	Purpose	Trump proposal	2012-2016 Grants
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative	Monitor water quality, fight runoff pollution and clean up toxic sites	Eliminate	\$43.0 million
Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program (Section 319)	Fights runoff pollution from roads, parking lots and excessive fertilizer	Eliminate	\$23.2 million
Performance Partnership Grants	Helps states with their priority issues	Cut 45%	\$59.3 million
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	Protects water and soil from tanks leaking chemicals	Eliminate	\$4.5 million
Trust Fund monies to address Backlog of Hazardous Tanks		Cut 48%	\$8.5 million
Water Pollution Control Grants (Section 106)	Supports water quality improvement and clean up	Cut 30%	\$18.4 million

2.3 million Ohioans drink from water systems with health-based Safe Drinking Water Act violations, the third highest number in the country.

## The threat to Ohio's waters

From the shores of Lake Erie to the banks of the Ohio River, clean water is essential to support Ohioans' everyday lives and the agricultural economy on which so many depend. But Ohio has the third highest number of people in the country — more than 2.3 million — served by water systems with health-based Safe Drinking Water Act violations.<sup>4</sup> The proposed Trump Administration budgets cuts would decimate funding for programs that protect rivers, lakes, streams and groundwater across the state.

### More dangerous runoff in our water

#### PROGRAM AT RISK: Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

The Trump Administration's proposed budget would entirely eliminate the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which has provided hundreds of millions of dollars to Great Lakes states since 2010 to address threats to the lakes such as "Toxic Areas of Concern," including harmful invasive species and degraded wildlife habitats.

Year	Ohio Great Lakes restoration grants
2012	\$6.6 million
2013	\$1 million
2014	\$11.7 million
2015	\$11.8 million
2016	\$11.8 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$43.0 million</b>

For example, after decades of hazardous waste dumping, the Ashtabula River, which empties into Lake Erie northeast of Cleveland, was designated an Area of Concern in 1987. Fish had begun to show deformities, wildlife were threatened, and critical organisms living near the river bottom were endangered.<sup>5</sup>

Protecting Lake Erie is vitally important to Ohio's health and its economy. The Great Lakes Commission estimates that Lake Erie provides drinking water for more than three million Ohioans, generates nearly \$13 billion annually (nearly a third of all tourism spending in the state), supports recreation for more than 1.5 million hunters and anglers, and supports more than 25,000 jobs in the recreational boating industry.<sup>6</sup>

Senator Rob Portman has called the initiative "a highly effective tool for protecting and restoring our Great Lakes." And Senator Sherrod Brown called it "one of our most effective tools to protect the water quality of the Great Lakes."<sup>7</sup>

Since 2012, Ohio has received \$43 million in EPA grant funding for Great Lakes projects. This money has helped clean up contaminated sediments, restore bluffs and beaches to prevent erosion, eradicate invasive plant species, and combat harmful invasive animal species such as the sea lamprey. Grants awarded elsewhere in the Great Lakes watershed have supported efforts to prevent the Asian carp, a destructive fish, from entering the lakes.

Among EPA 2016 grants for Ohio:

- **The Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments:** \$497,258 to partner with farmers to implement agricultural conservation practices to protect waterways from nutrient runoff.

“There aren’t recall options. You can’t send water out and then, you know, wait a minute, that was a bad batch and call that back.”

Henry Biggert  
 Superintendent, Carroll Water & Sewer District, who ordered the Ohio township’s water supply off-limits because of dangerous levels of microcystin from Lake Erie algae.<sup>8</sup>

- **Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development:** \$500,000 to work with farmers to reduce the discharge of nutrients and sediments to Lake Erie.
- **The Cleveland Metropolitan Park District:** \$316,830 to control up to 54 acres of an aquatic invasive plant in Cleveland Metroparks waters and the Cuyahoga River.

The president would like to end these types of grants. His proposed budget zeros out the program.

**PROGRAM AT RISK:**  
**Nonpoint source pollution grants**

Polluted runoff, sometimes called “Nonpoint Source Pollution,” is the leading cause of water quality problems in the United States.<sup>9</sup> Stormwater can threaten our water supply with animal waste laden with harmful pathogens, sewage, industrial waste, pesticides, waste from abandoned mines, and oil and gas from roadways.

Year	Ohio nonpoint source pollution grants
2012	\$4.8 million
2013	\$4.5 million
2014	\$4.6 million
2015	\$4.6 million
2016	\$4.7 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23.2 million</b>

Pollution from agricultural fertilizers, a major contributor to nonpoint source pollution, contributes to explosive growths of slimy algae such as the toxic bloom that forced the shutdown of the Toledo water system in 2014. A recent study by Ohio State researchers showed that algae infestations in lakes cost homeowners near Columbus and in western Ohio \$152 million in lower property values. They also found that algae blooms are dampening fishing license sales on Lake Erie, and that a repeat of 2011’s severe bloom there could reduce summertime fishing expenditures by \$5.6 million.<sup>10</sup>

The Trump Administration’s proposed budget would eliminate an EPA grant program that has provided more than \$23 million to Ohio to control pollutants carried by rainfall runoff into Ohio’s drinking water, rivers and lakes.

From 2012 to 2016, Ohio received more than \$23 million in EPA grant funds to combat nonpoint source pollution. EPA grants go to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) which is required to sub-grant at least 50 percent of federal money to local non-point source pollution efforts across the state.

These grants can make a major difference in dealing with the flow of harmful chemicals such as phosphorus and nitrogen, eroded sediment, and untreated sewage into Ohio’s lakes and streams. Ohio EPA estimates that projects funded in 2015 will prevent 46,000 pounds of nitrogen, 15,000 pounds of phosphorus and 15,000 pounds of sediment each year from flowing into Ohio waters.<sup>11</sup>





## At the beach: more feces and bacteria, fewer tourists

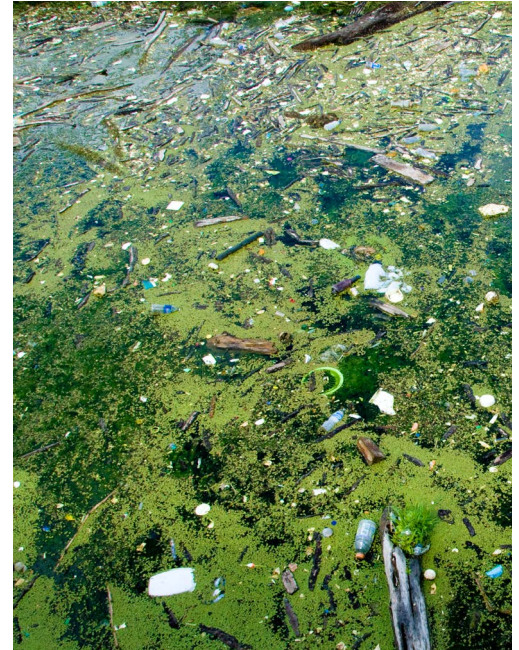
### PROGRAM AT RISK:

### Beach monitoring funds, other grants

The Trump Administration's proposed budget would eliminate all funding for federal BEACH Act grants that protect water quality and support fecal monitoring. Millions of Ohioans and tourists swim every year at Ohio's Lake Erie beaches. Since 2012, more than \$1 million in EPA BEACH Act grants — designed to reduce the risk of illness to recreational swimmers — have helped 60 beach communities along the Lake Erie shore strengthen water quality and conduct regular water monitoring for dangerous bacteria from animal feces and human sewage.<sup>12</sup> Such contamination can cause rashes, gastro-intestinal illness, infections in the eyes, ears and nose, and disease.

Year	Ohio BEACH Act grants
2012	\$222,000
2013	\$210,000
2014	\$215,000
2015	\$213,590
2016	\$213,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1.1 million</b>

In addition to threatened health and recreation, the local businesses and economies of beach communities are harmed when public health outbreaks occur and when beach closures are extended due to a lack of staff available to resample after a pollution incident is detected. For example, sport-fishing, a \$1.8 billion dollar industry in Ohio that accounts for 10,000-full-time-jobs, are vulnerable to algal blooms. As Paul Pacholski, President of Lake Erie Charter Boat Association, puts it, "If people perceive that the water is not safe to drink are you going to want to go there to have a convention, or to go fishing, or to anything else? Chances are, not."<sup>13</sup>



These cuts would also slash funding levels for other EPA grant programs that help protect Ohio waters. From 2012 to 2016, Ohio received \$18.1 million in water pollution control program grants from EPA, and \$3.9 million in water quality management planning grants. Both programs would be cut by about 30 percent, hampering the ability of state and local governments to prevent threats to clean water and address them when they occur. EPA grants have provided core funding for water pollution control and quality management projects in the Columbus and Cincinnati areas.

The Ohio River, a source of drinking water for five million people, topped the list of American waterways contaminated by industrial pollution for more than 15 years. Nonpoint source pollution from urban runoff, agricultural activities and abandoned mines is a major cause of its water pollution.<sup>14</sup>

In the Cincinnati area, the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission received \$7.6 million in federal EPA grants for water pollution control projects. In Columbus, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency received \$12.2 million for water pollution control projects and nearly \$4 million for water quality management projects.

Millions of Ohioans and tourists swim every year at Ohio's Lake Erie beaches.

## The threat to Ohio's land

The Trump Administration's proposed EPA budget would endanger programs that protect Ohioans from the health and safety risks of contaminated soil and help clean up pollution so that properties can be returned to productive economic use. The positive effects of clean soil multiply through the environment, since contaminated soil can also pollute groundwater.

### Fewer cleanups of toxic substances, less accountability for polluters

**PROGRAM AT RISK:**  
Superfund program, including emergency response and enforcement funds

Ohio in mid-2017 had 38 hazardous waste sites on the EPA Superfund National Priorities List.<sup>15</sup> EPA's expertise is vital in assessing chemical contents and the risks they present, putting measures in place to protect health and safety, and holding polluters accountable. Since 44 percent of people living within a one-mile

radius of a Superfund site nationwide are minorities,<sup>16</sup> Superfund cleanups are critical to helping minority communities build better lives.

The Trump Administration's budget would slash funding designed to deal with these hazardous sites. Hazardous substance cleanup spending through Superfund would be cut by 30 percent, including an 18 percent cut to emergency response funds, which help clean up the most urgent threats. And the Administration's cuts would shift more cleanup costs from polluters to taxpayers, by instituting a 37 percent funding cut in enforcement efforts to track down polluters to make them pay for cleaning up sites for which they are responsible.

By cleaning up vast amounts of toxic waste, the EPA's Superfund program has reduced severe threats to Ohioans' health and returned contaminated properties across the state to job-creating productivity (or restored them as vital natural habitats). Without Superfund cleanups, toxic chemicals like lead, mercury, arsenic and dioxin are left to render entire locations dangerous or uninhabitable, and to leak into water and food supplies.

For example:

- EPA in mid-2017 was removing 55-gallon drums and smaller containers full of possibly toxic or ignitable materials from a facility in Alliance, an industrial city near Canton. Superfund will pay for the cost of the cleanup, though EPA also is working to identify a responsible party for hazardous materials on the site. About 5,800 people reside within one mile of the facility.<sup>17</sup>

Superfund has reduced threats to Ohioans' health and returned contaminated properties to job-creating productivity.





Brownfield grants have helped communities clean up polluted properties and create jobs.

- EPA was cleaning up contaminated land and water in mid-2017 at the Lammers Barrel Superfund site in Beavercreek, near Dayton, and the agency has pursued legal action and negotiated settlements to ensure that 38 companies with a role in polluting the site help pay for its cleanup. Toxic substances leached into the soil and into underground wells and rock when a fire destroyed the chemical recycling facility in 1969. More testing is needed to determine how best to clean up the toxic substances.<sup>18</sup>

### Fewer cleanups and economic development at polluted properties

#### PROGRAM AT RISK: Brownfield grants cut by 30 percent

Ohio has 921 sites where pollutants threaten public health and prevent economic development. For decades, EPA brownfield grants have helped Ohio counties and communities clean up polluted properties to protect people's health and to spark job-creating economic redevelopment. These grants, which totaled \$18.4 million from 2012 to 2016, have helped catalyze private sector loans and other funding to clean up contamination from leaking petroleum tanks, from metals, and from other hazardous substances.

Brownfields are properties where contamination prevents economic development and threatens public health and safety. Research has shown that residential property values near restored brownfield sites around the country have increased between 5 and 15 percent and can increase property values in



Year	Ohio brownfields grants
2012	\$2.9 million
2013	\$800,000
2014	\$5.8 million
2015	\$3.8 million
2016	\$5.1 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18.4 million</b>

Includes Brownfield Cleanup and Assessment Grants to local entities and State and Tribal Assistance Grants to state agencies

a 1.24-mile radius of that site. Studies cited by the EPA analyzing data near 48 brownfield sites show an estimated \$29 million to \$97 million in additional tax revenue was generated for local governments in a single year after cleanup (two to seven times more than the \$12.4 million EPA contributed to cleaning up those brownfields).<sup>19</sup> EPA brownfield grants have even greater positive impacts on communities with higher poverty rates, large minority populations, and lower than average incomes.<sup>20</sup>

More than 124,000 jobs and \$24 billion of public and private funding have been leveraged as a result of pollution assessment grants and other EPA brownfield grants. On average, \$16.11 is leveraged for each EPA brownfield dollar spent and 8.5 jobs leveraged per \$100,000 of EPA brownfield funds expended on assessment, cleanup, and revolving loan fund cooperative agreements.<sup>21</sup>

Before redevelopment can happen safely and be permitted to go forward, brownfield sites must be assessed and tested for soil contamination, and the risk of hazardous substances, petroleum or asbestos being released when digging around land or dismantling properties. To carry out this assessment work, EPA funds pay for expert tests of soil, ground water, sediment, surface water and vapors.

The Trump Administration would cut brownfield grants by 30 percent.

EPA funds pay for expert tests of soil, ground water, sediment, surface water and vapors. Before redevelopment can happen safely and be permitted to go forward, brownfield sites must be assessed and tested for soil

“Our sleeves are rolled up and we’re ready to work. But we need the tools — grants, technical assistance, etc. — held by the federal government. The White House has promised a rebuilding of the nation’s infrastructure. That can start by launching a major project to clean up brownfields. And in this age of advancing sustainability and cleaner energy sources, it is time.”

Cleveland City Councilman  
Matt Zone<sup>24</sup>

contamination. The risk of releasing additional hazardous substances, such as from leaking underground storage tanks and asbestos during cleanup and when dismantling properties must also be assessed. EPA funds pay for expert tests of soil, ground water, sediment, surface water and vapors.

Youngstown was awarded a \$200,000 2017 Brownfields Assessment Grant to collaborate with community partners to redevelop sites of former gas stations on major streets. The grant will also help with vacant lots that have petroleum or oil based hazards buried beneath them. According to Mayor John McNally, there are about 300 such lots in Youngstown. “It’s what’s underneath the ground that is the problem, and this grant is going to help begin the process of trying to solve that.”<sup>22</sup>

In 2014, EPA awarded a grant for \$600,000 to do environmental assessments of 40 suspected brownfield sites in Lorain County. The intent was to make a large field of rubble usable again. Fast forward to 2017: Camaco LLC, which makes frames for car seats, will receive a tax credit as its plant in Lorain grows. The project, which will add warehouse and manufacturing space, will keep 463 jobs with more than \$18.71 million in existing annual payroll in Lorain. The county participated in the project by using a brownfield assessment grant from EPA to pay for environmental reviews that saved Camaco more than \$30,000.<sup>23</sup>

## The enemy underground: leaking storage tank grants

### PROGRAM AT RISK: Leaking underground storage tank trust fund

Across the country, thousands of underground storage tanks and accompanying pipes — many of them made from older, corroding steel — hold and carry a variety of fuels and chemicals.<sup>25</sup> When tanks leak harmful chemicals such as oil, gas, benzene and toluene into soil and ground water, drinking water and soil

## Ohio Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) grants

Year	LUST Corrective Action grants	LUST Trust Fund
2012	\$1.5 million	\$740,411
2013	\$1.4 million	\$1.4 million
2014	\$1.8 million	\$626,184
2015	\$1.9 million	\$805,464
2016	\$2.0 million	\$924,215
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8.6 million</b>	<b>\$4.5 million</b>

are fouled, community health is jeopardized, and economic development is crippled.

EPA support is essential for Ohio programs to monitor underground storage tanks, detect leaks of petroleum products, address the causes, repair any damage to soil or groundwater and hold polluters responsible or pay for cleanup if the responsible party can’t be found or is no longer in business. Ohio’s underground storage tank program, operated by a bureau of the state fire marshal’s office, received \$13 million in grants from EPA’s Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) program from 2012 to 2016, or about \$2.7 million a year.

The Trump Administration’s proposed EPA budget would slash these grants, costing Ohio more than \$1.7 million a year in funding — more than half the state’s annual budget for storage tank programs. Ohio receives federal LUST grants from two sources. The first is LUST Corrective Action Grants to state governments. Those grants, which totaled \$8.5 million for Ohio over the last five years, would be eliminated entirely under the Trump budget. The second source of grants is from a trust fund paid for by a one-cent federal fuel tax established by Congress in 1984 to address an enormous backlog in leaking tanks. Those grants, which provided \$4.5 million to Ohio from 2012-16 for monitoring and cleanup assistance, would be cut in half.

## The threat to Ohio's air

“Unfortunately, I am one of the mothers who has to monitor the ozone warnings and the pollution warnings to make decisions about whether my son can play outside (because of his asthma).”

Julie Novel of New Albany, mother of 8-year-old Anthony<sup>24</sup>

For decades, Ohioans have had reason to be concerned about the air they breathe.

Residents of Cleveland, Akron/Canton, and in the Cincinnati/Wilmington/Maysville areas live in what are among the 20 most polluted areas in America for year-round particle pollution, according to the American Lung Association's 2017 State of the Air Report. And eastern Ohioans in areas near Pittsburgh/New Castle, PA and Weirton, WV live in jurisdictions among the 20 most polluted regions in the United States for short-term air pollution.<sup>26</sup>

Akron, Cleveland, and Youngstown were among 72 areas in the United States that suffered through more than 100 days of unhealthy air pollution in 2015, according to a report by the Environment America Research & Policy Center.<sup>27</sup>

Eight counties in Ohio scored an “F” failing grade for high ozone levels in the 2017 State of the Air Report. Three more rated “D,” while

another 16 scored only a “C.” Four counties came close to acceptable with a B grade; only Lorain, Portage and Summit air rated an A. (Ozone was not monitored in 54 of Ohio's 88 counties.)<sup>28</sup> In 2016, central Ohio logged an “F” for smog and the region reported 10 high ozone days in that same Lung Association report.

Programs to monitor and cut air pollution are especially important to minority populations, which are disproportionately located in urban areas like Cleveland where almost two-thirds of the population are minorities. Air pollution can affect heart health and even trigger heart attacks and strokes. Across the country, African-American and Latino children are more likely to suffer from asthma than whites,<sup>29</sup> and nearly three-fourths of African-Americans live in counties that don't meet federal air quality standards. More than 1.8 million Latinos live within a half mile of





“Americans’ lung health is far better protected today than it was before the Clean Air Act health protections began nearly five decades ago. As we move into an ever-warmer climate, cleaning up these pollutants will become ever more challenging, highlighting the critical importance of protecting the Clean Air Act.”

Harold P. Wimmer  
National President and CEO  
of the American Lung Association

oil and gas facilities that often emit harmful pollution, fueling more than 150,000 asthma attacks among children and resulting in 112,000 lost school days each year.<sup>30</sup>

### **More code red days: slashing Clean Air Act grants**

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**PROGRAM AT RISK:**  
**Air pollution control grants**

The Trump Administration budget calls for 30 percent cuts in air pollution control grants that help states and local communities monitor air quality. Nationwide, EPA funds almost one-third of state and local programs to monitor air quality and alert residents when air quality is potentially harmful. Cleaner air means more productive workers, fewer Code Red or other alert days when parents must keep kids indoors; fewer attacks for the more

than 900,000 adults and nearly 200,000 children already diagnosed with asthma.<sup>31</sup> An estimated 3,769 Ohioans are saved every year by EPA programs cutting air pollution and toxic mercury.<sup>32</sup>

For decades, the Clean Air Act and EPA grants have helped states and communities make historic progress in reducing air pollution. From 2012 to 2016, EPA provided \$15.7 million in grants to Ohio state and local governments to support their air pollution control efforts, including monitoring of harmful particulates, ozone, lead and other pollutants. Federal grants go directly to county health agencies that serve the Cincinnati and Dayton areas (Hamilton and Montgomery counties). Cleveland’s Cuyahoga County contracts with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and also receives U.S. EPA grants to conduct monitoring.<sup>33</sup>

## **Weakening flexible response to other problems**

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### **Less flexibility to pursue emerging problems**

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**PROGRAM AT RISK:**  
**Performance partnership grants**

The Trump Administration has proposed a massive 44 percent reduction in EPA Performance Partnership Grants, which allow Ohio to apply EPA grant money toward their most

pressing air, water and land issues. These grants allow recipients to use EPA awards with greater flexibility for addressing priority environmental problems or program needs, streamline paperwork and accounting procedures to reduce administrative costs, and try cross-program initiatives and approaches that were difficult to fund under traditional category grants. Ohio received nearly \$60 million in Performance Partnership Grants from 2012 to 2016.

## Ohio EPA Grants, FY2012-2016

Recipient	Grants	Recipient	Grants
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	\$664,854,481	Lorain Port Authority	\$600,000
Ohio Department of Commerce	\$13,021,735	Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District	\$600,000
City of Lorain	\$7,920,000	Stark County Regional Planning Commission	\$600,000
Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission	\$7,681,584	Western Reserve Port Authority	\$600,000
Ohio Department of Natural Resources	\$6,610,000	Council of Development Finance Agencies Inc.	\$598,772
Ohio Department of Agriculture	\$6,233,416	Multiple Recipients	\$564,495
Ohio Department of Health	\$4,978,531	Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments	\$557,258
Hamilton County Board of Commissioners	\$4,541,359	City of Zanesville	\$550,000
City of Toledo	\$3,147,825	Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization	\$534,230
Public Health-Dayton & Montgomery County	\$3,106,075	Butler County Board of Commissioners	\$485,000
University of Cincinnati	\$2,762,454	City of Ashland	\$485,000
University of Toledo	\$2,729,073	City of Cincinnati	\$485,000
Lorain County Board of Commissioners	\$2,334,385	City of Fremont	\$485,000
The Nature Conservancy	\$2,237,482	City of Worthington	\$485,000
Cuyahoga County	\$2,000,000	Community Improvement Corporation of Springfield-Clark County	\$485,000
Battelle Memorial Institute	\$1,645,787	County of Erie	\$485,000
Western Reserve Land Conservancy	\$1,250,000	County of Summit	\$485,000
Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization	\$1,200,000	Muskingum County	\$485,000
Chagrin River Watershed Partners Inc.	\$948,729	Northern Ohio Rural Water	\$485,000
Ottawa County Commissioners	\$885,000	Cleveland State University	\$404,520
City of Barberton	\$788,000	Athens County Port Authority	\$400,000
The Ohio State University College of Public Health	\$748,902	City of Dayton	\$400,000
City of Cleveland	\$733,902	City of Elyria	\$400,000
Ashtabula County Port Authority	\$600,000	City of Norwood	\$400,000
		City of Painesville	\$400,000

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## Ohio EPA Grants CONTINUED

Recipient	Grants	Recipient	Grants
City of Piqua	\$400,000	National Ground Water Association	\$196,300
City of Reading	\$400,000	City of Ashtabula	\$175,000
City of Salem	\$400,000	City of Vermilion	\$175,000
City of Sandusky	\$400,000	City of Euclid	\$174,206
County of Perry	\$400,000	TechSolve Inc	\$137,618
Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation	\$400,000	City of Huron	\$125,439
Belmont County	\$388,000	Ohio Environmental Council	\$125,000
Knox County Commissioners	\$388,000	City of Lakewood	\$107,500
Village of Cadiz	\$340,000	New Albany Plain Local School District	\$102,036
City of Sandusky	\$300,958	Columbus State Community College	\$91,000
Ohio Department of Development	\$300,000	Rural Action Inc.	\$91,000
Cleveland Metroparks	\$291,856	Case Western Reserve University	\$90,000
City of Defiance	\$291,000	Carroll County Board of Developmental Disabilities	\$71,250
Trumbull County	\$291,000	Village of Dillonvale	\$69,131
Combined Health District of Montgomery County	\$253,838	Cleveland Botanical Garden	\$59,680
City of Mentor	\$250,000	Old North Dayton Neighborhood Association	\$50,000
Ohio State University	\$208,922	Environmental Health Watch	\$29,900
City of Newark	\$200,000	Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities	\$25,000
Clinton County Port Authority	\$200,000	Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation	\$24,807
County of Hardin	\$200,000	Ohio Northern University	\$15,000
Crawford County	\$200,000	University of Dayton	\$15,000
Stark County Park District	\$200,000	North CSC — North Central State College	\$14,960
Village of Lockland	\$200,000	Antioch College	\$14,796
Village of Mount Gilead	\$200,000	Miami University	\$14,732
Vinton Baptist Church	\$200,000	Kent State University	\$14,685



# Notes

*Unless otherwise indicated, all data in this report are current as of July 2017 and figures for government spending and grants are drawn from [www.usaspending.gov](http://www.usaspending.gov), and from official federal government budget documents. Additional information is drawn from state budget sources.*

- <sup>1</sup> [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-03/documents/oswer\\_fy13\\_accomplishment.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-03/documents/oswer_fy13_accomplishment.pdf), p. 23. This figure includes Superfund, Brownfields and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act sites.
- <sup>2</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-06/documents/fy18-cj-04-environmental-programs.pdf>, p. 189.
- <sup>3</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-small-grants-program>
- <sup>4</sup> <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/threats-on-tap-water-infrastructure-protections-report.pdf>; page 17
- <sup>5</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/ashtabula-river-aoc/about-ashtabula-river-aoc>
- <sup>6</sup> <http://lakeerie.ohio.gov/Portals/0/GLRI/Ohio-GLRI-Fact-Sheet-2016-Final-opt.pdf>
- <sup>7</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/us-epa-highlights-seven-great-lakes-restoration-initiative-grants-totaling-over-33>
- <sup>8</sup> <http://archive.alleghenyfront.org/story/lake-erie-algae-threatens-ohio-drinking-water.html>
- <sup>9</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/nps/what-nonpoint-source>
- <sup>10</sup> <https://news.osu.edu/news/2017/08/17/algaehouse/>
- <sup>11</sup> [http://www.epa.ohio.gov/Portals/35/nps/319docs/FFY15\\_Annual\\_Report.pdf](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/Portals/35/nps/319docs/FFY15_Annual_Report.pdf)
- <sup>12</sup> <https://www.odh.ohio.gov/-/media/ODH/ASSETS/Files/eh/BeahMonitoring/AnnualReports/2014ReportToUSE-PA.pdf?la=en>
- <sup>13</sup> <http://www.wtol.com/story/29672443/tourism-and-economy-issues-due-to-lake-eries-algal-bloom>
- <sup>14</sup> <http://www.orsanco.org/river-facts/>
- <sup>15</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/national-priorities-list-npl-sites-state#OH>
- <sup>16</sup> [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-03/documents/oswer\\_fy13\\_accomplishment.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-03/documents/oswer_fy13_accomplishment.pdf), p. 23. This figure includes Superfund, Brownfields and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act sites.
- <sup>17</sup> <http://www.rubbernews.com/article/20170627/NEWS/170629951/hazardous-waste-cleanup-begins-at-former-crest-site>
- <sup>18</sup> <http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/turner-asks-epa-about-delay-beavercreek-superfund-site-cleanup/r7tACjGmdwkddiyVMgK/>
- <sup>19</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-brown-fields-funding-announced-roseville-newark-norwalk-painesville-piqua-port>
- <sup>20</sup> [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/ej\\_brochure\\_2009.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/ej_brochure_2009.pdf)
- <sup>21</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-brown-fields-funding-announced-roseville-newark-norwalk-painesville-piqua-port>
- <sup>22</sup> <http://www.wfmj.com/story/35560799/youngstown-granted-200000-to-revitalize-abandoned-gas-stations>
- <sup>23</sup> <http://www.morningjournal.com/article/MJ/20170424/NEWS/170429641>
- <sup>24</sup> [http://www.cleveland.com/opinion/index.ssf/2017/04/cleveland\\_needs\\_federal\\_brownf.html](http://www.cleveland.com/opinion/index.ssf/2017/04/cleveland_needs_federal_brownf.html)
- <sup>25</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/ust>
- <sup>26</sup> <http://www.lung.org/our-initiatives/healthy-air/sota/city-rankings/most-polluted-cities.html>
- <sup>27</sup> [http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2017/04/akron\\_cleveland\\_youngstown\\_air\\_pollution.html](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2017/04/akron_cleveland_youngstown_air_pollution.html)
- <sup>28</sup> <http://www.lung.org/our-initiatives/healthy-air/sota/city-rankings/states/ohio/>
- <sup>29</sup> [https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/NHIS/SHS/2015\\_SHS\\_Table\\_C-1.pdf](https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/NHIS/SHS/2015_SHS_Table_C-1.pdf)
- <sup>30</sup> <http://www.catf.us/resources/publications/view/230>
- <sup>31</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>32</sup> [https://www.edf.org/sites/default/files/OH\\_EPA\\_Cuts\\_Factsheet\\_6\\_22\\_17.pdf](https://www.edf.org/sites/default/files/OH_EPA_Cuts_Factsheet_6_22_17.pdf)
- <sup>33</sup> <http://www.ccbh.net/ambient-outdoor-air-2/>



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