

Stuck in Reverse: The Trump Administration's Record of Rolling Back Health and Climate Protections for All Americans

Since entering office in January 2017, President Trump and his political appointees to the Environmental Protection Agency have undertaken a steady stream of actions to reverse progress on public health protections – at a cost of American lives, jobs, and standing in the world. Here are just some examples. These and other actions are detailed in the EDF report: [*Marching Backwards: How Andrew Wheeler and Donald Trump are Endangering our Families' Health by Rolling Back Environmental Safeguards.*](#)

Clean Power Plan: Stalling Climate Progress

In 2015, President Obama unveiled a Clean Power Plan to phase-in limits on carbon pollution from power plants, gradually reducing this pollution to 32% below 2005 levels once the policy was fully implemented.

In 2019, the Trump Administration replaced the Clean Power Plan with a rule that does not have any binding limits on carbon pollution. This rule squanders a vital opportunity to advance clean energy and secure urgently needed, cost-effective reductions in carbon pollution from the power sector.

Clean Car Standards: Rolling Back Successful Standards

Transportation is now America's largest source of climate pollution, contributing greatly to the harmful health consequences of the climate crisis. Clean Car Standards, in effect since 2012, have already achieved significant progress in cleaning up climate pollution from passenger cars and trucks, while driving fuel efficiency improvements that save Americans' hard-earned money at the gas pump.

In 2018, the Trump Administration proposed rolling back these Clean Car Standards, a step that would yield billions of tons of more climate pollution and cost American families thousands of dollars more at the gas pump over the lifetime of a car.

Mercury and Air Toxics Standards: Attacking Limits on Toxic Pollution

In 2011, EPA finalized the first-ever national standards to reduce toxic air pollutants from coal-fired power plants. The power sector was the largest source of mercury and many other toxic pollutants in the U.S. when these standards were promulgated. Now fully implemented, these standards prevent as many as 11,000 premature deaths every year according to EPA estimates.

The Trump Administration has proposed to eliminate the foundation for these standards, needlessly placing these existing safeguards in jeopardy.

Oil and Gas Methane Pollution Safeguards: Accelerating Climate Change

Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas, 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide in the short term. Methane pollution causes about 25% of man-made global warming. Methane is also released alongside smog- and cancer-causing pollution from oil and gas facilities.

In September 2018, the Trump Administration proposed the first step in a two-part effort to weaken requirements for testing and repairing methane leaks at oil and gas facilities and roll back other best practices, even though the EPA's own analysis found the existing standards are even more necessary—and more cost-effective—than expected.