



Hobbling the Environmental Protection Agency would threaten Ohio's health, families, jobs and economy

Support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is essential to protecting Ohio's air, water, and land. From protecting waterways from dangerous runoff to enforcing clean air standards, EPA grants provided the state with more than \$764 million in funding from 2012 to 2016.¹ Unfortunately, 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.

EPA's budget will be negotiated in a backroom by a President and EPA Administrator who have laid out a roadmap to cripple the EPA, along with many Congressional leaders who have shown little interest in protecting environmental safeguards. The EPA's budget could be bargained away in the blink of an eye, and Ohioans could be the losers.

Environment and public health are at risk

More dangerous runoff in the water

Program at Risk: Nonpoint source pollution program grants. Proposed cut: Eliminated

Polluted runoff, sometimes called "Nonpoint Source Pollution," is the leading cause of water quality problems in the United States. 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.

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 nonpoint 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.

Fewer cleanups and less economic development at polluted properties

Program at Risk: Brownfield grants. Proposed cut: 28%

Brownfield sites are properties where contamination prevents economic development and threatens public health and safety. But they have the potential – once cleaned up – to generate new jobs. Research has shown that residential property values near restored brownfield sites increased between 5 and 15 percent and can increase property values in a 1.24-mile radius of that site. A study analyzing data near 48 brownfield sites shows an estimated \$29 million to \$97 million in additional tax revenue was generated for local governments in a single year after cleanup. This is two to seven times more than the \$12.4 million EPA contributed to those brownfield sites.

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

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.

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.

The enemy underground: leaking underground storage tank grants

Program at Risk: Leaking underground storage tank categorical grants. Proposed cut: Eliminated

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. When tanks leak harmful chemicals such as oil, gas, benzene and toluene into soil and ground water, drinking water and soil 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 program from 2012 to 2016, or about \$2.7 million a year.

More Code Red days

**Program at Risk: State and Local Air Quality Management Grants/Tribal Air Quality Management Grants
Proposed cut: 33% | 30%**

For decades, the Clean Air Act and EPA grants have helped states and communities make historic strides in reducing air pollution, with EPA grants covering almost 30 percent of state and local air monitoring costs. Cleaner air means fewer Code Red and other alert days when parents must keep kids indoors, fewer attacks for more than 900,000 adults and nearly 200,000 children already diagnosed with asthma. An estimated 3,769 Ohioans are saved every year by EPA programs cutting air pollution and toxic mercury.

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.

Learn more at [edf.org/EPACuts](https://www.edf.org/EPACuts)

ⁱ * FY12-16 funding totals obtained from <https://www.usaspending.gov/Pages/Default.aspx>