

# State of Risk: Florida

How Hobbling the Environmental Protection Agency Would Threaten Florida's Health, Families, Jobs and Economy



Hollowing out the EPA would be a disaster for Florida's health and tourist economy.

## Introduction

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Dear Reader:

Decisions are being made in Washington, DC that could move Florida'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 Florida's health and tourist economy. Millions of Floridians could be at risk of exposure to dangerous or even toxic pollution in the air they breath and the water they drink, and the state's beaches would be more vulnerable to contamination. Cleanup of toxic superfund sites and some of the nation's most polluted air could languish. Millions of dollars in hazardous waste cleanup costs could be shifted from polluters to taxpayers.

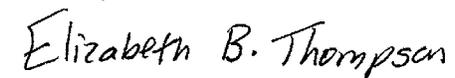
This report, *State of Risk: How Hobbling the Environmental Protection Agency Would Threaten Florida's Health, Families, Jobs and Economy* shows how shrinking the EPA and its programs could imperil a generation of environmental safeguards across the state. For

more than 20 million residents who depend on a safe and healthy environment to live a good life and support good jobs, undermining EPA's work would move Florida 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: Florida

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## How hobbling the Environmental Protection Agency would threaten Florida's health, families, jobs and economy

More than 20 million Floridians, including more than 4.3 million Latinos and three million African-Americans, depend on a safe and healthy environment to live a good life, along with more than 112 million tourists who come to Florida each year for a taste of it. They need clean water, air and soil to raise healthy children and care for vulnerable seniors. Florida needs vibrant oceans and beaches, and a healthy Everglades, to attract millions of job-producing tourists. Florida's future rests on healthy communities.

Florida's environmental health and future depend on strong partnerships with the federal government. Over the last five years, Florida 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. Millions more have been spent to ensure that states such as Florida 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 Floridians who depend on the agency to protect their health and the state's tourism and business climate. The cuts would put millions of Floridians at risk of exposure to dangerous or even toxic pollution in the air they breathe and the water they drink, threaten the state's beaches and tourist economy, and shift the cost of cleaning up hazardous waste from polluters to taxpayers by cutting efforts to hold polluters accountable.

For Florida'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, brownfield 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 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 \$329,000 dollars spent in Florida in the last decade alone.

These cuts will imperil a generation of legacy efforts across Florida. World-class estuaries at the Indian River Lagoon and Charlotte Harbor will face more fish-killing "superblooms" of algae. Tainted water systems in places like Palm Bay and Mulberry and dangerous waste sites like "Mt. Trashmore" in Broward County, which is home to more than half a million African-Americans and almost as many Latinos, will find it harder to get resources to clean up. Additionally, on beaches up and down both coasts of Florida, fecal contamination will be more common and harder to detect.

For every family, especially their vulnerable children and seniors, these cuts will move

Florida'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 when 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 untreated waste sites that threaten community health and sap economic development. And fewer investigations to make polluters pay for the costs of cleaning up their waste.

As Congress moves toward adopting a new budget this fall, cuts have already been proposed by both the administration and by 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 weaken the EPA and 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 Floridians 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 Florida's environment

Programs, grants and initiatives	Purpose	Trump Proposal	2012-2016 Grants
Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program	Fights runoff pollution	Eliminate	\$29.8 million
National Estuary Program (Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay, Charlotte Harbor, Indian River Lagoon)	Protects coastal areas	Eliminate	\$11.7 million
BEACH Act Grants to 30 coastal counties	Monitor fecal beach pollution	Eliminate	\$2.5 million
South Florida Geographic Initiative	Monitor Everglades toxic substances	Eliminate	\$9.0 million
Brownfield Grants (1,272 active sites)	Cleanup and redevelopment	Cut 30%	\$16.5 million
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	Protects water and soil from tanks leaking chemicals	Eliminate	\$10.4 million
Trust Fund monies to address Backlog of Hazardous Tanks		Cut 48%	\$3.9 million

# The threat to Florida's waters

From pristine beaches, to the Everglades, to farmland, to drinking water for millions of Floridians, water is Florida's most precious resource. One-sixth of Florida is water, including more than three million acres of lakes, 12,000 miles of streams, and the second-longest coastline in the United States. But Florida has the second highest number of people in the country — more than 7.5 million — served by water systems with health-based Safe Drinking Water Act violations.<sup>4</sup> And the Trump Administration's proposed budget would slash nearly every EPA program that supports clean water in Florida, exposing Floridians and visitors to dangerous toxic substances and threatening its \$17.9 billion tourist economy, along with the \$7.6 billion worth of saltwater and \$1.7 billion freshwater fishing in the state.<sup>5</sup>

## More dangerous runoff in our water

### PROGRAM AT RISK: Nonpoint source pollution program grants

The Trump Administration would eliminate EPA grants to Florida that have totaled nearly \$30 million over the last five years, helping to control pollutants carried by rainfall runoff into Florida's drinking water, rivers, and lakes. 1.8 million Floridians rely on surface waters such as headwater, rain-fed, and seasonal streams for their drinking water.<sup>6</sup>

Polluted runoff, sometimes called "Non-point Source Pollution,"<sup>7</sup> is the leading cause of water quality problems in the United States.

Year	Nonpoint source grants
2012	\$6.1 million
2013	\$5.8 million
2015	\$11.8 million
2016	\$6.1 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$29.8 million</b>

Stormwater can threaten our water with animal waste laden with harmful pathogens, leaky sewers, industrial waste, pesticides, abandoned mines, and oil and gas dribbling onto roadways. EPA provided Florida with \$29.8 million to help protect Florida's water from FY2012-2016.

For years, runoff from fertilizers and sewage fueled excess algae levels in Robert's Bay, which starves out nutrients that plants and animals need. It was an EPA initiative that brought algae and accompanying chlorophyll contamination in Roberts Bay back to more normal levels, along with five other nearby water bodies.<sup>8</sup> EPA funding also helped filter untreated stormwater pouring into Palm Beach County's Lake Worth Lagoon,<sup>9</sup> where 40 percent of the population is Hispanic or



“For months during 2016, plumes of toxic algae turned South Florida’s emerald waters the color of coffee and smothered its inlets under a fetid blanket of guacamole-green goop that killed off fish, suffocated oyster beds and triggered a ferocious outcry from coastal residents. The fouling of the ocean was an ecological and economic calamity for South Florida’s Treasure Coast. Coastal fishing guide Mike Connor said his business was off 50 percent because of the algae blooms.”

The Weather Channel: “Toxic Lake: The Untold Story of Lake Okeechobee”

Latino and 20 percent is African-American.

These environmental challenges continue to grow, and Florida needs the EPA’s full support now more than ever. Last year, runoff pollutants like phosphorus and nitrogen helped trigger algae blooms that fouled South Florida beaches with potentially dangerous levels of toxic substances. And when a massive sinkhole collapsed near Mulberry, near Tampa, 215 million gallons of phosphoric acid-laden wastewater drained into Florida’s sole aquifer — and its most important source of drinking water.<sup>10</sup>

## Poisoned estuaries

### PROGRAM AT RISK: National estuary program

The Trump Administration’s proposed budget would entirely eliminate the National Estuary Program, which protects and restores vulnerable coastal watersheds where Floridians live, fish, swim, and create jobs serving tourists. (Estuaries are where fresh water from rivers and streams mixes with the salt water of the ocean.)

During the last five years, \$11.7 million in support from the EPA (which has triggered almost \$8 million more in matching state and local funds) has supported estuaries in Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay, Charlotte Harbor and the Indian River Lagoon. Healthy estuaries support millions of families, thousands of jobs, and strong real estate values, even as they protect against rising sea levels and support irreplaceable wildlife habitat.

But Florida’s estuaries are facing huge challenges that are threatening human health. Just last winter, new data revealed an alarming spike in human waste in the Charlotte Harbor estuary. Ultimately, the human waste contributed to a “red tide” of algae on the local beaches. “Eventually,” says Dr. Brian Lapointe of Florida Atlantic University, “there will be so much fecal contamination in the water you’ll have to avoid contact with the water.”<sup>11</sup> The Conservancy of Southwest Florida says that more than half of the Greater Charlotte Harbor watershed is impaired, suffering from

excessive levels of metals, nutrients or oxygen.<sup>12</sup>

EPA funding is critical to preventing and restoring poisoned estuaries. In Sarasota Bay EPA funds helped cut fish-tainting nitrogen pollution by 64 percent, and boost water-purifying seagrass coverage by 55 percent.<sup>13</sup> The agency helped investigate a “superbloom” of harmful algae in the Indian River Lagoon that leaves water scummy and toxic.<sup>14</sup> And the EPA protected and restored thousands of acres of mangrove forests and salt marshes around Tampa Bay, home to 80,000 African-Americans and 60,000 Latinos, that help limit hurricane damage and protect against rising sea levels.<sup>15</sup>

### National estuary program: Florida funding

Year	EPA funding	Nonfederal funding
2012	\$2.4 million	\$1.7 million
2013	\$2.1 million	\$1.6 million
2014	\$2.2 million	\$917,307
2015	\$2.5 million	\$1.8 million
2016	\$2.6 million	\$1.9 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11.8 million</b>	<b>\$7.9 million</b>

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

### PROGRAM AT RISK: BEACH Act grants

The Trump Administration budget would eliminate all funding for federal BEACH Act grants that protect water quality and fecal monitoring in the Atlantic Ocean. Millions of Floridians and tourists swim at Florida’s beaches. The Natural Resources Defense Council found that 10 percent of Florida beaches they sampled exceed federal safety standards for fecal matter in the water.<sup>16</sup>

Since 2012, \$2.5 million in EPA “BEACH Act” grants — designed to reduce the risk of illness to recreational swimmers—have helped 30 Florida coastal counties strengthen water quality and conduct regular monitor-



ing of intestinal bacteria from animal feces and human sewage, which can cause rashes, gastro-intestinal illness, infections in the eyes, ears and nose, and disease.<sup>17</sup> This year, EPA funds paid to test 243 Florida sites across in the summer and 142 year-round. Adequate monitoring also allows health officials to promptly reopen beaches after an outbreak.

Year	Florida BEACH Act grants
2012	\$516,000
2013	\$488,800
2014	\$500,000
2015	\$496,000
2016	\$495,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2.5 million</b>

In addition to threatening health and recreation, these cuts would also damage one of the pillars of Florida’s tourist economy by increasing and lengthening the number of public health beach closures. That means fewer tourists and hotel guests, less fishing and boating, and more uncertainty in the business climate. Miami-Dade County residents, two-thirds of whom are Latino, do more than \$7.3 billion dollars of business related to the Atlantic Ocean, at nearly 3,000 businesses employing more than 76,000 people, according to the National Ocean Economics Program.<sup>18</sup>

## Dirtier water, toxics in the Everglades, and vanishing coral

### PROGRAM AT RISK: South Florida geographic initiative

The Trump Administration budget would eliminate the EPA’s South Florida Geographic Initiative, which for 25 years has made Florida’s water cleaner by replacing 25,000 ineffective septic tanks and 4,000 cesspits.<sup>19</sup>

One of the Initiative’s key jobs is to monitor the flow of toxic substances like mercury and phosphorus into the Everglades, as well as Biscayne Bay, Florida Bay, the Caloosahatchee Estuary, the Indian River Lagoon, and water along the Florida Reef Tract from Martin County through the Florida Keys.<sup>20</sup> The Initiative’s data was key to a 2012 court settlement that provided \$880 million to protect the Everglades from encroaching pollution. John Garder, the National Parks Conservation Association’s director of budget and appropriations, called the proposed cuts to the Initiative’s clean-water efforts “nothing short of alarming.”<sup>21</sup>

The Initiative has also supported the Coral Reef Evaluation and Monitoring Project (CREMP), which has tracked alarming growth in the threats to Florida’s coral reefs, including

### Red Alert: The Indian River Lagoon

Estuaries like the Indian River Lagoon —the most biodiverse lagoon ecosystem in the Northern hemisphere, stretching almost halfway down Florida’s east coast — have suffered from years of pollution from fertilizer, septic tanks, sewage plants and stormwater. Sheets of brown algae drape its surface, blocking sunlight and depleting oxygen, annihilating critical seagrasses, and triggering a “staggering die-off” of fish and creatures like manatees and dolphins. Brevard County had to bring in dumpsters to haul off more than 65,000 pounds of dead fish.<sup>23</sup>



“Latinos and communities of color are more likely to live, go to school and work amid pollution levels that no family should have to endure. We need effective EPA programs to ensure that everyone has access to the necessary resources to live healthy and productive lives with access to clean air, water, and land.”

Brent Wilkes, Chief Executive Officer, League of United Latin American Citizens

disease and bleaching that have wiped out large amounts of coral and caused two varieties to be recognized as endangered species. “If the Geographic Initiative’s program was eliminated within the EPA that would basically cripple the CREMP program and we would not be able to carry on our monitoring like we do now,” says Rob Ruzicka with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The Initiative provided more than \$540,000 for Florida under CREMP from 2014-16.<sup>22</sup>

### More pollution and vanishing coral and marine life in the Florida Keys

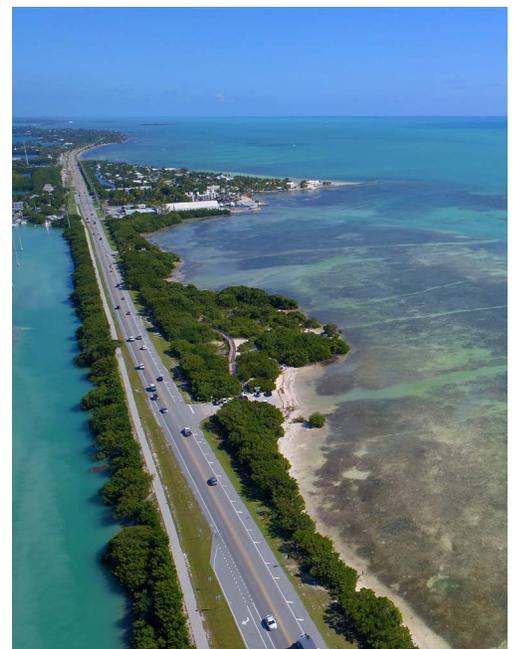
#### PROGRAM AT RISK: Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Cutting the South Florida Geographic Initiative could also leave the world-famous Florida Keys — where recreation and tourism generate \$2.3 billion in annual revenue and support 33,000 jobs — more vulnerable to pollution damage.<sup>24</sup>

For years, EPA support has been crucial to the health of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, which is larger than two U.S. states, and which supports more than 6,000 species of plants, fish, and invertebrates a rare and threatened coral reef and one of the largest areas of seagrass in the hemisphere.<sup>25</sup> In designating the Sanctuary, Congress called these environments “the marine equivalent of

tropical rain forests in that they support high levels of biological diversity, are fragile and easily susceptible to damage for human activities, and possess high value to human beings if properly conserved.”<sup>26</sup>

Since 1995, the Sanctuary has benefited from an average of \$2.1 million a year in federal appropriations from the EPA’s Water Quality Protection Program to monitor coral, seagrass, and water quality.<sup>27</sup> In March, the bipartisan Monroe County Board of County Commissioners unanimously passed a resolution urging Congress to fund the EPA and its “important role” in the Water Quality Protection Program.”<sup>28</sup>



# The threat to Florida's soil

The Trump Administration's proposed EPA budget would endanger programs that protect Floridians 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

The Trump Administration's budget would slash funding designed to deal with these toxic sites. 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. Hazardous substance cleanup spending through Super-

fund 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 37 percent cuts in enforcement efforts to track down toxic polluters to make them pay for cleaning up sites for which they are responsible.

Florida has 54 sites listed on the Superfund National Priorities List, one of the highest totals in the country.<sup>29</sup> One study found that cancer rates were more than six percent higher in Florida counties with Superfund sites.<sup>30</sup> Since 44 percent of people living within a one-mile radius of a Superfund site nationwide are minorities,<sup>31</sup> Superfund cleanups are critical to helping communities of color enjoy an opportunity to build better lives.

By cleaning up vast amounts of toxic waste, the EPA's Superfund program has reduced severe threats to Floridians' 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.

Thanks to EPA funding and management of the program, there are 26 sites in Florida that have been removed from Superfund's National Priorities List because cleanup goals were achieved and human health was protected. For years, Broward County's Davie Landfill — nicknamed "Mt. Trashmore" — featured a lagoon of greasetrap sludge, septic tank waste, and treated municipal sludge. The landfill was closed when the sludge seeped into local ground water. Thanks to Superfund assistance, the Davie Landfill has been transformed into the immensely popular Vista View Park.<sup>32</sup>

In Hillsborough County, where 25 percent of the residents are Latino and 17 percent are

Florida superfund sites



African-American, the Raleigh Street Dump site was added to the Superfund list after an investigation showed that that battery waste was contaminating water and soil. The EPA and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection oversaw a cleanup that has turned the site into an award-winning wetlands habitat.<sup>33</sup>

## Fewer cleanups and economic development at polluted properties

### PROGRAM AT RISK: Brownfield Grants

Florida has more than 1,200 sites where pollutants threaten public health and prevent economic development. For two decades, EPA brownfield grants have helped Florida counties and communities clean up polluted properties to protect people's health and to spark job-creating economic redevelopment. These grants, which totaled \$16.5 million from 2012-2016, have helped catalyze private sector loans and other funding to clean up contamination from leaking petroleum tanks, metals, and other hazardous substances.



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 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 clean-up (two to seven times more than the \$12.4 million EPA contributed to cleaning up those brownfield sites).<sup>34</sup> EPA brownfield grants have even greater positive impacts on communities with higher poverty rates, large minority populations, and lower than average incomes.<sup>35</sup>

Year	Florida brownfield restoration grants
2012	\$2.0 million
2013	\$5.5 million
2014	\$1.7 million
2015	\$5.0 million
2016	\$2.3 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16.5 million</b>

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 was 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>36</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/underground storage tanks 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.

For example, in West Palm Beach, \$800,000 in EPA funding helped attract more than \$30 million in private funding that turned an abandoned golf course, badly contaminat-

ed with arsenic from years of fertilizer and pesticide use, into a development of 264 units of affordable housing.<sup>37</sup> In Miami, the site of an auto repair shop where chlorinated solvent leaked into the water has been cleaned up and developed into housing for more than 260 families.<sup>38</sup> A Palm Beach golf course tainted with arsenic insecticide was cleaned up and is now the site of new department store.<sup>39</sup>

The Trump Administration would cut brownfield grants by 30 percent.

## 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>40</sup> 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.

Preventing and addressing spills from these backlogs is a major environmental priority — especially in Florida. According to EPA, Florida in 2016 had more than 10,700 underground tanks in need of monitoring and/or cleanup — the highest total in the nation and more than 15 percent of the nationwide total of more than 70,000 such tanks.<sup>41</sup>

Year	Tank Cleanup Backlog
<b>Florida</b>	<b>10,745</b>
Michigan	8,109
Illinois	5,783
New Jersey	4,774
North Carolina	4,121



EPA support is essential to Florida 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. Florida's underground storage tank program received more than \$14 million in EPA grant funding from 2012 to 2016.

### Florida leaking underground storage tank (LUST) grants

Year	LUST Prevention Program	LUST Trust Fund
2012	\$1.0 million	\$2.8 million
2013	\$753,044	\$1.9 million
2014	\$700,000	\$1.9 million
2015	\$700,000	\$1.9 million
2016	\$700,000	\$1.9 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3.9 million</b>	<b>\$10.4 million</b>

The proposed Trump Administration EPA budget would slash these grants, costing Florida more than \$1.4 million a year in funding—more than half the state's annual budget for storage tank programs. Florida receives these grants from two sources. The first — Prevention, Detection and Compliance Grants, which totaled \$3.9 million over the last five years — would be eliminated entirely. The second—a trust fund paid for by a one-cent federal fuel tax, which has provided \$10.4 million for monitoring and cleanup assistance — would be cut in half.

# The threat to Florida's air

“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<sup>39</sup>

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

### PROGRAM AT RISK: Air pollution control grants

The Trump Administration budget would cut 30 percent from programs that help state, local and tribal communities monitor air quality.

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 1 million Floridians with asthma, and fewer health threats to workers. The lives of 2,240 Floridians are saved every year by EPA programs cutting air pollution and toxic mercury.<sup>42</sup>

Programs to monitor and cut air pollution are especially important to minority populations, who are disproportionately located in urban areas like Miami.<sup>43</sup> 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>44</sup> and nearly three-fourths of African-Americans live in counties that don't meet federal air quality standards.

### EPA Air Pollution Grants to Florida by Year

Year	Air pollution grants
2012	\$3.4 million
2013	\$1.8 million
2014	\$2.4 million
2015	\$3.2 million
2016	\$2.1 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13 million</b>



“The prevalence of asthma among Hispanics in Florida is ranked 12th highest in the United States. Cutting programs that help states and communities monitor air quality would add to more missed school and work days and increased strain on health care providers.”

Dr. Elena V. Rios  
 President & CEO, National  
 Hispanic Medical Association

Since 2012, EPA has provided more than \$13 million in grants to local governments to support their air pollution control efforts, including monitoring of harmful particulates, ozone, lead and other pollutants. EPA grants for air pollution programs have gone to six Florida counties and to the city of Jacksonville.

Grant funding helps support air quality monitoring to detect Code Red days when the concentration of pollutants in the air could be harmful to vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, or people with health conditions such as the nearly 350,000 Florida children and more than 940,000 Florida adults diagnosed with asthma.<sup>45</sup> Beyond the dangers, suffering and inconvenience, the medical costs for asthma sufferers exceeded an annual \$2.6 billion in Florida within the last decade — and more than \$53 billion nationwide.<sup>46</sup>

### EPA air pollution program grants by jurisdiction, 2012-2016

Community	Air pollution grants
Broward County	\$1.6 million
City of Jacksonville	\$2.7 million
Hillsborough County	\$2.6 million
Miami - Dade County	\$2.3 million
Orange Co. Board of County Commissioners	\$1.2 million
Palm Beach County Health Department	\$1.4 million
Pinellas County Board of Commissioners	\$1.2 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13 million</b>

## Weakening flexible response to new and pressing problems

### PROGRAM AT RISK: Performance partnership grants

The Trump Administration has proposed a 44 percent reduction in EPA Performance Partnership Grants, which allow Florida to apply EPA grant money to their most pressing air, water and land issues. These grants allow recipients to use EPA awards with greater flexibility for 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.

Florida received more than \$81 million in Performance Partnership Grants from 2012 to 2016. A 2017 grant will provide \$1.38 million to support a broad range of environmental programs.<sup>47</sup>

For example, one EPA award of \$449,231 helped the Seminole Tribe of Florida improve management of runoff water; train staff; monitor surface and ground water quality; strengthen its assessment, permitting, and enforcement actions; and develop a more comprehensive Tribal Response Program.<sup>48</sup>

# Florida EPA Grants, FY2012-2016

Recipient	Grants	Recipient	Grants
FL Dept of Environmental Protection	515,645,335	Multiple Recipients	993,555
Seminole Tribe of Florida	4,804,306	City of Sunrise	970,000
City of Jacksonville	4,141,154	Central Florida Regional Planning Council	898,032
FL Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Services	3,828,587	Orange County Environmental Protection Division	784,366
FL Dept of Health	3,716,063	Southwest FL Water Management District	773,700
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program	3,526,167	Orange Co. Board of County Commissioners	753,886
University of South FL Board of Trustees	3,345,585	Pinellas County	709,409
Florida International University	3,300,000	Florida State College at Jacksonville	692,296
Miami — Dade County	2,941,968	City of West Palm Beach	685,000
Hillsborough County	2,820,717	Env Protection Commission Hillsborough Co.	661,747
St. Johns River Water Management District	2,752,165	Indian River — IRL Council	625,000
Broward County	2,065,514	City of Edgewater	600,000
City of Punta Gorda	1,970,886	City of Orlando	600,000
Palm Beach Co. Government	1,885,000	Flagler County	600,000
FL Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission	1,789,945	Pasco County Board of County Commissioners	595,000
Tampa Bay National Estuary Program	1,694,167	University of Florida	569,325
Palm Beach County Health Department	1,639,365	Florida State University	500,000
Miccosukee Corporation	1,514,877	Manatee County Board of Commissioners	500,000
Miami —Dade County/Solid Waste Management	1,500,000	Brevard County Board of Commissioners	485,000
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council	1,500,000	City of Coral Gables	485,000
Southwest FL Regional Planning Council	1,475,129	City of Crescent City	432,175
Tampa Bay Estuary Program	1,468,000	City of Quincy	426,000
City of Opa-locka	1,370,000	National Caucus & Center on Black Aging Inc.	402,530
Pinellas County Board of Commissioners	1,343,485	City of Brooksville	400,000
City of Tampa	1,091,000	City of Cocoa	400,000

## Florida EPA Grants CONTINUED

Recipient	Grants	Recipient	Grants
City of DeLand	400,000	Hillsborough Co. Board of Commissioners	190,000
City of Gulfport	400,000	University of South Florida Marine Sciences	174,872
City of Live Oak	400,000	The Florida Aquarium	161,570
City of Ormond Beach	400,000	Taylor Coastal Water & Sewer District	126,538
City of Palatka	400,000	The Nature Conservancy	110,180
City of Pensacola	400,000	Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium	94,997
City of Sanford	400,000	Key Biscayne — Key Biscayne Community Foundation	91,000
City of St. Marks	400,000	Florida Gulf Coast University	90,800
City of St. Petersburg	400,000	Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida	80,000
Town of Century	400,000	LowryPark — Lowry Park Zoological Society of	50,000
Town of Saluda	400,000	Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry	41,275
Monroe County	399,724	Protect Gainesville's Citizens	32,400
Florida A&M University	339,033	Lake Co. Board of County Commissioners	30,868
DreamNGreen — Dream in Green Inc	337,000	The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship	30,000
National Caucus & Center on Black Aged Inc	319,500	Eastside Environmental Council	25,000
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	299,393	The Farmworker Association of Florida Inc	25,000
Escambia County Board of Commissioners	295,500	Rollins College	24,998
City of Gainesville	291,000	Museum of Science Inc.	24,767
Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission	270,193	University of South Florida	23,309
Mote Marine Laboratory	260,352	Lynn University Inc.	15,000
University of Florida — TREEO	244,372	University of Central Florida	15,000
Broward County Board of County Commissioners	232,553	Texas A&M Research Foundation	11,000
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners	223,282	National Caucus & Center on Black Aging Inc	10,000
Casselberry — City of Casselberry	200,000		
City of Palmetto	200,000		
Corporation to Develop Communities of Tampa	200,000		

# 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, Brownfield 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>
- <sup>5</sup> Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, <http://myfwc.com/about/overview>
- <sup>6</sup> [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-04/documents/2009\\_12\\_28\\_wetlands\\_science\\_surface\\_drinking\\_water\\_surface\\_drinking\\_water\\_results\\_state.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-04/documents/2009_12_28_wetlands_science_surface_drinking_water_surface_drinking_water_results_state.pdf)
- <sup>7</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/nps/what-nonpoint-source>
- <sup>8</sup> [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-10/documents/fl\\_roberts.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-10/documents/fl_roberts.pdf)
- <sup>9</sup> <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/nonpoint/docs/319h/Final2010WorkPlan319h.pdf>
- <sup>10</sup> <http://www.tampabay.com/news/environment/water/as-polluted-water-disappeared-down-a-sinkhole-mosaic-avoided-saying-the/2300806>
- <sup>11</sup> <http://www.nbc-2.com/story/34044378/alarmed-amount-of-human-waste-found-in-charlotte-county-water>
- <sup>12</sup> <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=f3785fca68d04023a0820df743253426> (click on 'Greater Charlotte Harbor' tab)
- <sup>13</sup> [http://www.irlcouncil.com/uploads/7/9/2/7/79276172/2017\\_irlnep\\_5\\_year\\_pe\\_cover\\_letter\\_final.pdf](http://www.irlcouncil.com/uploads/7/9/2/7/79276172/2017_irlnep_5_year_pe_cover_letter_final.pdf)
- <sup>14</sup> <http://www.sjrwm.com/indianriverlagoon/initiative.html>
- <sup>15</sup> [http://www.tbep.org/pdfs/Bay\\_Habitats\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](http://www.tbep.org/pdfs/Bay_Habitats_Fact_Sheet.pdf)
- <sup>16</sup> <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/ttw2014.pdf>
- <sup>17</sup> <http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/beach-water-quality/>
- <sup>18</sup> <http://www.oceaneconomics.org/Market/ocean/ocean-Econ.asp?ci=N>
- <sup>19</sup> <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/04/12/donald-trumps-budget-would-eliminate-key-program-testing-everglades-water/100387944/>
- <sup>20</sup> <http://floridapolitics.com/archives/tag/south-florida-geographic-initiative>
- <sup>21</sup> <http://www.naplesnews.com/story/news/politics/2017/04/12/trumps-budget-would-eliminate-key-program-testing-everglades-water/100372524/>
- <sup>22</sup> <http://news.wgcu.org/post/trump-s-budget-would-hit-florida-environmental-monitoring-programs>
- <sup>23</sup> <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/socioeconomic/factsheets/floridakeys.html>
- <sup>24</sup> <http://www.wftv.com/news/local/dumpsters-used-to-clean-up-massive-fish-kill-in-brevard-to-be-re-moved/196176660>
- <sup>25</sup> [https://nmsfloridakeys.blob.core.windows.net/florida-keys-prod/media/archive/mgmtplans/2\\_env.pdf](https://nmsfloridakeys.blob.core.windows.net/florida-keys-prod/media/archive/mgmtplans/2_env.pdf)
- <sup>26</sup> <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-104/pdf/STATUTE-104-Pg3089.pdf>
- <sup>27</sup> <http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/DocumentCenter/View/11866>
- <sup>28</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>29</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/national-priorities-list-npl-sites-state#FL>
- <sup>30</sup> <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/local/environment/2017/03/07/cancer-incidence-slightly-higher-near-florida-superfund-sites/98821788/>
- <sup>31</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/webpopulationrsuperfundsites9.28.15.pdf>
- <sup>32</sup> <https://yosemite.epa.gov/OPA/ADMPRESS.NSF/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/>

## Notes CONTINUED

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- [b2c04ad5eb99d63f8525774d007307d0%21OpenDocument](https://www.epa.gov/ust/learn-about-underground-storage-tanks-usts)
- <sup>33</sup> <https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csinfo.cfm?id=0405795>
- <sup>34</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-brown-fields-funding-announced-roseville-newark-norwalk-painesville-piqua-port>
- <sup>35</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>36</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-brown-fields-funding-announced-roseville-newark-norwalk-painesville-piqua-port>
- <sup>37</sup> [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/south\\_floridarpcmalibu\\_bay\\_brag\\_.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/south_floridarpcmalibu_bay_brag_.pdf)
- <sup>38</sup> [http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/quick\\_topics/publications/wc/brownfields/AnnualReport/2016/Success-Stories-2016.pdf](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/quick_topics/publications/wc/brownfields/AnnualReport/2016/Success-Stories-2016.pdf)
- <sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>40</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/ust/learn-about-underground-storage-tanks-usts>
- <sup>41</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-11/documents/ca-16-34.pdf>
- <sup>42</sup> [https://www.edf.org/sites/default/files/FL\\_EPA\\_Cuts\\_Factsheet\\_6\\_22\\_17.pdf](https://www.edf.org/sites/default/files/FL_EPA_Cuts_Factsheet_6_22_17.pdf)
- <sup>43</sup> <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/miami-fl/#demographics>
- <sup>44</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>45</sup> [https://noharm.org/sites/default/files/lib/downloads/climate/Economic\\_Affliction\\_of\\_Asthma.pdf](https://noharm.org/sites/default/files/lib/downloads/climate/Economic_Affliction_of_Asthma.pdf)
- <sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>47</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-provides-138-million-floridas-environmental-programs>
- <sup>48</sup> [https://yosemite.epa.gov/oarm/igms\\_egf.nsf/3b85f9fbd4a5e54b85256fb60070e5a2/c5c059b403b2f21685257d6f0071c082!OpenDocument](https://yosemite.epa.gov/oarm/igms_egf.nsf/3b85f9fbd4a5e54b85256fb60070e5a2/c5c059b403b2f21685257d6f0071c082!OpenDocument)



#### **National Headquarters**

257 Park Avenue South  
New York, NY 10010  
**T** 212 505 2100  
**F** 212 505 2375

#### **Austin, TX**

301 Congress Avenue  
Austin, TX 78701  
**T** 512 478 5161  
**F** 512 478 8140

#### **Bentonville, AR**

1116 South Walton Boulevard  
Bentonville, AR 72712  
**T** 479 845 3816  
**F** 479 845 3815

#### **Boston, MA**

18 Tremont Street  
Boston, MA 02108  
**T** 617 723 2996  
**F** 617 723 2999

#### **Boulder, CO**

2060 Broadway  
Boulder, CO 80302  
**T** 303 440 4901  
**F** 303 440 8052

#### **Raleigh, NC**

4000 Westchase Boulevard  
Raleigh, NC 27607  
**T** 919 881 2601  
**F** 919 881 2607

#### **Sacramento, CA**

1107 9th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
**T** 916 492 7070  
**F** 916 441 3142

#### **San Francisco, CA**

123 Mission Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
**T** 415 293 6050  
**F** 415 293 6051

#### **Washington, DC**

1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20009  
**T** 202 387 3500  
**F** 202 234 6049

#### **Beijing, China**

C-501, Yonghe Plaza  
28 East Andingmen East Road  
Dongcheng District  
Beijing 100007, China  
**T** +86 10 6409 7088  
**F** +86 10 6409 7097

#### **La Paz, Mexico**

Revolución No. 345  
E/5 de Mayo y Constitución  
Col. Centro, CP 23000  
La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico  
**T** +52 612 123 2029

#### **London, UK**

50 Broadway  
London, SW1H 0RG, UK  
**T** +44 20 7152 4433