

State of Risk: Florida Report Summary

Over the last five years, Florida received **nearly \$600 million** in grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to protect the state's public health, environment and tourist economy.

President Trump's proposed budget would cut EPA funding by more than 30% -- putting Florida at grave risk.

Water

- The Trump administration's proposed budget would **slash nearly every EPA program** that supports clean water in Florida, exposing residents and visitors to dangerous toxic substances and threatening its \$17.9 billion tourist economy.
- Florida has the second highest number of people in the country – more than 7.5 million – who rely on water systems with health-based Safe Drinking Water Act violations.
- 1.8 million Floridians rely on surface waters (such as lakes, rivers and streams) for their drinking water.
 - The Trump Administration would entirely **eliminate the Nonpoint Source Pollution grant program** which helps control pollutants carried by rainfall runoff into the state's drinking water, rivers and lakes. Florida has relied on nearly \$30 million in these grants over the last five years.
- Florida has four estuaries that are part of The National Estuary Program, which protects and restores vulnerable coastal watersheds where Floridians live, fish, swim, and create jobs serving tourists: Charlotte Bay, Indian River Lagoon, Sarasota Bay and Tampa Bay
 - The **National Estuary Program would be eliminated** under the Trump Administration's proposed budget.
- 30 Florida coastal counties strengthen their water quality and conduct regular monitoring of fecal pollution and other bacteria with help from EPA "BEACH Act" grants—designed to reduce the risk of illness to recreational swimmers.
 - The Trump Administration's proposed budget **eliminates the BEACH Act program**. 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 beach closures due to public health risks.
- The Trump Administration budget would **eliminate the South Florida Geographic Initiative**, which has made Florida's water cleaner over the past 25 years by replacing 25,000 ineffective septic tanks and 4,000 cesspits.

Soil

- **Florida has 54 sites listed on the Superfund National Priorities List, one of the highest totals in the country.**
- One study found that cancer rates were more than six percent higher in Florida counties with Superfund sites.
 - The Trump Administration proposes a **30 percent cut to the Superfund program**, which supports the cleanup of toxic and radioactive sites.
 - The Trump budget proposal includes a **37 percent cut to Superfund enforcement functions** that make polluters pay for cleanups rather than taxpayers. It also includes an **18 percent cut to Superfund emergency response funds**, which help clean up the most urgent threats.
 - The Trump budget **seeks a 37 percent cut in funding to notify communities** about what chemicals are being stored and used at nearby industrial locations.
- **Florida has more than 1,200 brownfield 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, protecting people's health and sparking job-creating economic redevelopment.
 - The Trump Administration would **cut Brownfield grants by 30 percent**.
- **Florida had more than 10,700 active underground tanks in need of monitoring and/or cleanup in 2016, – the highest total in the nation** and more than 15 percent of all 70,000 tanks nationwide.
 - When tanks leak harmful chemicals such as oil, gas, benzene and toluene into soil and ground water, drinking water is fouled, backyards and businesses become dangerous, and economic development is crippled.
- Two EPA programs fund efforts to prevent and detect leaks as well as clean up damaged soil and groundwater.
 - The Trump budget **plan eliminates one of the leaking tanks programs and cuts the other in half**.

Air

- There are six Florida counties, along with the city of Jacksonville, that receive support for 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.
- There are nearly 350,000 Florida children and more than 940,000 adults diagnosed with asthma.
 - Since 2012, EPA has provided more than \$13 million in grants to local governments in Florida to support their air pollution control efforts.
- The Trump Administration budget would **cut nearly one-third from programs that help state, local and tribal communities monitor air quality**.

Environmental Justice

- The Trump Administration eliminates the EPA’s Environmental Justice Office, which has enjoyed bipartisan support for its grants and other efforts to ensure that everyone gets equal protection from environmental and health hazards.

Public health and environmental research at Florida universities

- Florida universities - including Florida State University, the University of Florida and the University of South Florida received EPA Science to Achieve Results (STAR) grants funding research related to human health and safety.
 - The Trump Administration proposes to ***eliminate the STAR grant program***, which provided grants of more than \$3 million to Florida institutions and individual researchers over the last five years.

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) Science to Achieve Results (STAR)	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 (LUST)	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