

# State of Risk: Ohio

## Report Summary

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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 public health, environment and economy.

President Trump's proposed budget would cut EPA funding by more than 30% -- putting Ohio at grave risk – and reducing the agency's budget to the lowest level since the mid-1970s, in real terms.

### Water

- 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.
- The Ohio River supplies drinking water to 5 million people and has for more than 15 years, topped the list of American waterways contaminated by industrial pollution.
  - The Trump budget proposes **eliminating the Nonpoint Source Pollution grant program, which helps water agencies** address run off pollution affecting the Ohio River. This program provided **more than \$23 million to Ohio** from 2012-2016.
- Lake Erie supplies more than 3 million Ohioans with drinking water. And it supports recreation for more than 1.5 million hunters and anglers, and sustains more than 25,000 recreational boating industry jobs, generating nearly \$13 billion annually —accounting for nearly a third of all state tourism spending—
  - The Trump Administration is proposing to **eliminate The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative** - a major EPA program that has provided hundreds of millions of grant dollars to Ohio and other states to address and prevent water pollution.
- The proposed Trump Administration budget cuts **would slash funding for programs that protect rivers, lakes, streams and groundwater across the state** – including eliminating at least three programs that have provided more than \$67 million to Ohio from 2012-2016. The Trump Administration's proposed budget would eliminate an EPA grant program that has provided more than \$23 million from 2012-2016 to Ohio to control pollutants carried by rainfall runoff into Ohio's drinking water, rivers and lakes.

- 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.

## Soil

- Ohio had **38 National Priorities Sites on EPA's Superfund list in mid-2017**. Without Superfund cleanups, toxic chemicals like lead, mercury, arsenic, and dioxin, could render entire locations dangerous or uninhabitable, and leak into water.
  - The Trump budget proposal would **cut hazardous substance cleanup** through Superfund spending by 30 percent, including a **37% cut to Superfund enforcement efforts** which make polluters pay for cleanups instead of taxpayers and an 18 percent cut to emergency response funds, which help clean up the most urgent threats.
- Ohio has **921 Brownfield sites**, where pollutants threaten public health and prevent economic development. For decades, EPA Brownfields grants have helped Ohio communities clean up polluted properties, protecting lives and sparking job-creating economic redevelopment.
  - The Trump Administration would cut these grants by 30 percent.

## Air

- Ohio has several communities that are among the top 20 most polluted for year-round particle pollution and short-term air pollution, according to the American Lung Association (ALA)
  - Eight counties in Ohio scored an "F" failing grade for high ozone levels and three others scored "D's."
- Many communities are served by EPA grants that help monitor air quality for Code Red days that affect vulnerable populations.
- The Trump Administration has proposed a **30 percent cut in air quality monitoring program grants to states**.
- According to the ALA –
  - Cleveland, Akron/Canton and Cincinnati/Wilmington/Maysville are among the top 20 most polluted areas in America for year-round particle pollution.
  - Communities in eastern Ohio, near Pittsburgh/New Castle, PA and Weirton, WV, are among the top 20 most polluted regions in the United States for short-term air pollution.
  - 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.
- More than 900,000 adults and nearly 200,000 children in Ohio have asthma, which puts them at more risk during Code Red or other alert days.

## Environmental Justice

- 156 million people, including 62% of all minorities in the United States, live within three miles of a Superfund, brownfield or solid and hazardous waste 'corrective action' site (designation that requires facilities to clean up hazardous spills).
- The EPA's Office of Environmental Justice works to ensure 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, with more than \$154,000 in Pennsylvania in the last decade alone.
  - The Administration is proposing to cut 100% of the funding for the EPA's environmental justice work under the Superfund cleanup program, along with a 37% cut in funding to notify communities everywhere about what chemicals are being stored and used at industrial locations.

## 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