

Trump proposes budget cuts for energy and environmental programs

EPA targeted in budget proposal, DOE could also see cuts

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White House draft budget cuts EPA funding, programs



The Trump administration released a preliminary FY 2018 federal budget that would cut EPA spending by 24% by reducing their budget from \$8.3 billion to \$6.1 billion. This would be the smallest budget since the early 1990s.



The EPA's workforce would also be reduced from 15,000 employees to 12,000. This would be the lowest staffing level since the 1980s.



Pruitt and other aides say state environmental grants won't see funding cuts, but 2 out of every 5 dollars in the EPA's budget go to state, tribal and local governments. These states would then be given more responsibility to create and comply with environmental regulations while underfunded.



This is a part of the \$54 billion cut in domestic discretionary spending to offset a sizable increase in the defense budget.



The Trump administration's budget is dependent on economic growth of 2.4%, below campaign promises of 3-4% and above the 1.6% average growth seen during the Obama administration.



In addition to running into opponents in Congress, the budget could face legal obstruction from the Budget Control Act (BCA). The BCA was put in place to maintain a balance between military and civilian spending, and would require 60 votes in the Senate to be overturned.



The administration's budget document states that if the agencies request any increase or reallocation of funds they would need to also include budgetary offset by suggesting alternative cuts or the implementation of user fees.



In the event of a public health crisis, like the contamination of water in Flint, Michigan, the Trump administration could face public backlash.

Sources: Devin Henry, "Trump to propose 24 percent cut in EPA spending: reports," The Hill, February 27, 2017; Glenn Thrush, Kate Kelly and Maggie Haberman, "Trump to ask for sharp increases in military spending, officials say," The New York Times, February 26, 2017; Jennifer A. Dlouhy, "Trump's EPA budget cuts may unleash a backlash risks remain," Bloomberg, February 27, 2017; David Malakoff, "Trump's 2018 budget will squeeze civilian science agencies," Science Magazine, February 27, 2017; Robert Walton, "Report: DOE target for massive cuts in Trump budget draft," Utility Dive, January 20, 2017; Juliet Eilperin and Brady Dennis, "White House eyes plan to cut EPA staff by one-fifth, eliminating key programs," The Washington Post, March 1, 2017; Brad Plumer, "The Heritage Foundation has a plan for gutting EPA and the Energy Department. It's eerily plausible." Vox, March 1, 2017.

Federal budget timeline



Sources: Sylvan Lane, "Trump to ask for major EPA, State cuts to boost military spending: reports," The Hill, February 27, 2017;

Programs suggested for funding cuts



Trump's suggestions of programs in the EPA to face funding cuts

- Grants to states and air and water programs would be cut by 30%
- The Chesapeake Bay cleanup project received \$73 million in FY 2017, but would receive only \$5 million in FY 2018
- The Office of Research and Development could lose 42% of their budget
- Programs that deal with surface water cleanup and regulate diesel truck emissions would have less funding
- The U.S. would contribute less aid to countries to help them deal with ozone depletion and climate change



Trump's suggestions of programs in the Dept. of Energy to face funding cuts

- Office of Nuclear Energy
 - Funding for research into advanced reactors would be cut, while some funding for the Yucca Mountain project would be maintained if the proposed cuts follow the Heritage Foundation's recommendations
- Advanced nuclear computing research

Heritage Foundation suggestions of programs to receive less funding

- EPA's National Estuary Program, Pollution Prevention Program, Federal Vehicle and Fuels Standards and Certification Program, and waste minimization and recycling programs
- Cut contributions to the Stratospheric Ozone Multilateral Fund



They're talking about massive cuts to an agency whose budget has basically been flat. They're not hiding their overall goal in terms of a long-run effort to basically hobble the ability of the government to protect the public."

-- David Goldston, director of government affairs for the Natural Resources Defense Council

Heritage Foundation

- The budget that Trump released was modeled after a blueprint released by the Heritage Foundation.
- The foundation also included other funding cuts based on their belief that climate change is not a significant problem, but it's not clear yet if these will be included in the Trump administration's final budget proposal.

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Programs suggested for elimination



Trump's suggestions of programs to be eliminated from the EPA

- Grants to clean up abandoned industrial sites
- The radon program
- Funding for Alaskan native villages
- U.S. Global Change Research Program
 - This program was started in 1989 under George H.W. Bush
- Federal research into wind, solar and nuclear power, electric vehicles and other clean technology

Trump's suggestions of programs to be eliminated from the Dept. of Energy



- Office of Electricity
- Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
- Office of Fossil Energy
 - If the coal industry were to be revived, it would depend on carbon capture and sequestration advances funded and overseen by this office

Heritage Foundation suggestions of programs to be eliminated



- EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program, Global Methane Initiative, Climate Resilience Evaluation Awareness Tool, Green Infrastructure Program and Climate Ready Water Utilities Initiative
- Climate research funding for the EPA's Office of Research and Development
- Funding for the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- Dept. of Energy's Biological and Environmental Research Program, ARPA-E and Energy Innovation Hubs
- The National Clean Diesel Campaign and environmental justice programs



I am concerned about the grants that have been targeted, especially around water infrastructure, and those very important state revolving funds."

-- EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, after Trump's address to Congress on Feb. 28th

Congressional mandates

- Congress has mandated a portfolio of work that the EPA is required to conduct.
- This includes measuring and reporting greenhouse gases, setting air quality standards, scrutinizing the toxicity of chemicals, reviewing state permits for construction on wetlands, setting standards for contaminants in drinking water, supervising oil spill cleanup operations, providing sewage treatment operations after disasters and overseeing the restoration of toxic Superfund sites.
- Congress can't just cut all funding to eliminate key programs, but would need to rewrite environmental statutes, which would be more difficult and less likely to happen.

Sources: Devin Henry, "Trump to propose 24 percent cut in EPA spending: reports," *The Hill*, February 27, 2017; Glenn Thrush, Kate Kelly and Maggie Haberman, "Trump to ask for sharp increases in military spending, officials say," *The New York Times*, February 26, 2017; Jennifer A. Dlouhy, "Trump's EPA budget cuts may unleash a backlash risks remain," *Bloomberg*, February 27, 2017; David Malakoff, "Trump's 2018 budget will squeeze civilian science agencies," *Science Magazine*, February 27, 2017; Robert Walton, "Report: DOE target for massive cuts in Trump budget draft," *Utility Dive*, January 20, 2017; Juliet Eilperin and Brady Dennis, "White House eyes plan to cut EPA staff by one-fifth, eliminating key programs," *The Washington Post*, March 1, 2017; Brad Plumer, "The Heritage Foundation has a plan for gutting EPA and the Energy Department. It's eerily plausible." *Vox*, March 1, 2017.