

# EPA Funding and Health



Cuts to EPA's budget would impede the ability of the EPA to fulfill its mission of protecting public health and the environment. Initiatives that aim to protect air, land, and water quality, as well as the ability of our nation to respond to threats to health posed by climate change would be greatly impacted. Congress should prioritize investments that build a healthier future for all.

## **EPA budget cuts threaten human health:**

- The essential life and cost savings standards under the Clean Air Act would be weakened. Since 1970 under the Clean Air Act, dangerous air pollutants such as smog and particulate matter have been reduced by more than 60 %<sup>i</sup>, saving an estimated \$1.3 trillion as a result of health and environmental benefits.<sup>ii</sup>
- EPA budget cuts threaten enforcement and implementation of vital safeguards for our air and water that protect children from mercury, lead, arsenic, and other pollution.
- EPA Brownfield and Superfund programs and environmental justice grants have assisted with clean up of contaminated sites, keeping communities safe. Cutting funding for Superfund programs would likely halt many cleanups.
- Reducing funding for grants to states to assist with enforcement and implementation of environmental programs will likely lead to elimination of these critical health programs.
- These cuts would eliminate EPA jobs, close down essential programs that keep our air and water clean, and hinder the ability of EPA to protect health.
- Riders, such as delaying implementation of the 2015 ozone standard for ten years, as added in the House Interior and Environment appropriation<sup>iii</sup> weaken clean air protections.

## **EPA budget cuts weaken response to climate change:**

- Maintaining funding for climate change research and international programs is urgently needed to combat threats posed by climate change.
- Eliminating funding for the Clean Power Plan, which would cut carbon and other hazardous air pollutants from existing power plants, could lead to more premature deaths, asthma attacks in children, and missed work and school days every year.
- Reducing EPA's ability to address the carbon pollution that fuels climate change only increases the health-related risks of climate change.

*For more information, contact the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments:*

Katie Huffling, MS, RN, CNM, Executive Director – [katie@enviRN.org](mailto:katie@enviRN.org)

Cara Cook, MS, RN, AHN-BC, Climate Change Program Coordinator – [cara@enviRN.org](mailto:cara@enviRN.org)

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<sup>i</sup> Zichal, H. (2011). *So what does the Clean Air Act do?* Retrieved from <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/blog/2011/02/09/so-what-does-clean-air-act-do>

<sup>ii</sup> Johnson, C. R., Banks, S. C., Barrett, N. S., Cazassus, F., Dunstan, P. K., Edgar, G. J., . . . Helidoniotis, F. (2011). Climate change cascades: Shifts in oceanography, species' ranges and subtidal marine community dynamics in eastern Tasmania. *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology*, 400(1), 17-32.

<sup>iii</sup> Natural Resources Defense Council. (2017). *2017 anti-environmental riders*. Retrieved from <https://www.nrdc.org/resources/anti-environmental-budget-riders>