



## FACT SHEET

# MAINE BENEFITS FROM CLEAN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Federal programs across the government help improve our environment, develop cutting-edge technology, and save consumers money. Agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency work with state and local governments to clean up past pollution and prevent current pollution, while those like the Department of Energy drive cleaner, more efficient technologies for all. These programs provide numerous benefits to Maine, yet President Trump's budget would slash many of the most important programs to the detriment of all.

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY PROTECTS US FROM HARMFUL POLLUTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides broad-ranging [benefits](#) to all Americans. The EPA ensures that our water is clean, our air is breathable, and that our communities are protected from toxic hazards and the impacts of climate change. The EPA coordinates with state and local governments, businesses, and other stakeholders to provide services through grants to states, law enforcement, and health and safety standards. President Trump's budget, however, proposes slashing the agency by nearly a quarter and eliminating thousands of staff—a plan for more pollution, less accountability for breaking the law, and worse health for Maine.

### Protecting Maine's Water Resources:

The EPA sets health-based standards that limit contaminants in drinking water and establish thresholds for safe swimming and fishing. The agency provides billions of dollars to communities to deliver safe drinking water and improve water quality. The EPA can also step in to ensure the safety of drinking water sources threatened by oil and gas operations when states refuse to act. After disasters, the EPA provides resources to get drinking water and sewage treatment back online quickly.

- In 2015, **446 violations** of the Safe Drinking Water Act were recorded in Maine.
  - President Trump's proposed budget for the EPA would make our failing drinking water system worse. Drinking water violation rates clearly show that even at its current level of funding, the EPA and states are doing an inadequate job of monitoring, testing, and enforcing safe drinking water laws.
- **Thousands of Maine residents** were served by a water system in violation of a health-based standard of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Drinking water in violation of the [Safe Drinking Water Act](#) can lead to increased risk of health impacts like cancer, birth defects, and cognitive impairments.
- In Maine, headwater, rain-fed, and seasonal [streams](#) contribute to the drinking water supplies of **more than 450,000 people**. The EPA's [Clean Water Rule](#) protects small streams and other critical water bodies. President Trump wants to repeal the Clean Water Rule and replace it with a disastrous alternative that would roll back clean water safeguards for wetlands and streams.
- Trump's budget proposes cutting categorical grants by roughly 44 percent and would eliminate the non-point source grant program entirely.
  - The EPA provides [grants](#) to states to implement control programs for “non-point” sources of water pollution like agricultural runoff, which are often poorly controlled and can contribute significantly to water bodies' degradation.
  - In fiscal year 2017, the EPA provided Maine with approximately **\$1.9 million** through these grants.

- The Trump budget fails to increase funds for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund despite increasing need.
  - In fiscal year 2017, the EPA provided Maine with **\$10 million in water infrastructure grants** under the [Clean Water Act's State Revolving Fund](#) program.
  - Nationally, the EPA reports that since 1987, the program “provided over ... \$118.7 billion to communities” and supported “38,450 low-cost loans” for wastewater system repairs and upgrades that prevent raw sewage discharges, manage contaminated urban runoff, and upgrade publicly owned treatment facilities.
- The Trump budget would eliminate USDA's rural wastewater program.
  - The Department of Agriculture's rural water and waste disposal programs serve small rural communities. Trump's budget proposal would [reduce](#) overall national investment in water infrastructure and place additional pressure on the revolving funds.

### Defending Clean Air in Maine:

The EPA sets and enforces limits on dangerous air pollutants from factories, refineries, power plants, oil and gas extraction, and vehicles. Ensuring these laws are implemented protects public health and helps prevent asthma attacks, birth defects, respiratory and cardiovascular disease, and cancer. In addition, the EPA helps protect Maine from other states' unsafe air pollution, because dirty air doesn't stop at state lines.

- The EPA plays a central role in protecting our air quality, providing benefits to the 120,546 adults and 24,801 children in Maine [diagnosed](#) with asthma. Asthma attacks caused **78,600 missed days of school or work** and **nearly \$187.1 million in associated total costs** in Maine in 2012.
- Trump's budget proposes cutting clean air Science and Technology funding by 28 percent and clean air Environmental Programs and Management funding by 46 percent.
  - In Maine, EPA programs to reduce dangerous [air pollution](#) and toxic [mercury](#) **save up to 80 lives per year**.
  - EPA standards to reduce dangerous air pollution and toxic mercury from power plants in Maine will create **\$170 million in health benefits** for the state. Cutting funding for the EPA could jeopardize clean air programs that create millions of dollars in health benefits.
- Trump's proposed budget would cut core program enforcement by 19 percent. This would eliminate funding to pursue litigation when power plants violate laws that reduce dangerous emissions in Maine's communities.

### Protecting Maine's Communities from Toxic Hazards:

The EPA regulates hazardous waste treatment, handling, and disposal facilities across Maine and the country to avoid contamination of our air, water, and soils by toxic chemicals. The agency's Superfund Program is also responsible for protecting communities by preventing and cleaning up hazardous releases that endanger community health. Through this program, the EPA provides resources to identify and clean up contaminated sites, such as brownfields.

- There are 13 hazardous waste sites in Maine on the EPA's [National Priority List](#) for the Superfund program, which helps communities clean up toxic pollution.
  - Despite a long list of designated priority sites that need to be cleaned up, Trump's budget provides no additional funding for Superfund. Yet, it simultaneously cuts the EPA's enforcement ability and funding for other programs dedicated to cleaning hazardous waste.
- In Maine, there are 548 [brownfields cleanups](#) listed by the EPA. (Brownfields are contaminated land that need cleanup to be used or redeveloped.)
  - Trump's proposed budget would cut the brownfields program by 37 percent, making it much more difficult for the EPA to assist local communities and states in cleaning up dangerous pollution.

### Fighting Climate Change:

Climate change threatens our health and our economy. **2017 was the 10th hottest year on record in Maine.** The EPA has the responsibility to clean up the dangerous carbon pollution that fuels climate change. In fact, the EPA already finalized a [plan](#) that would save up to \$54 billion and 3,500 American lives by 2030. Cutting funding for EPA climate change programs will endanger lives and worsen the costs of climate change across Maine and the country.

## ENERGY STAR Drives Energy Efficiency in Maine:

The EPA maintains the ENERGY STAR® program, which helps consumers identify the most energy efficient appliances, equipment, and buildings that can save them money and energy.

- Nationally, the [ENERGY STAR New Homes](#) program has saved American homeowners more than \$4.7 billion on utility bills over the last 20 years—enough energy to power 2 million homes for a year—while also improving comfort and indoor air quality.
  - The program allows homeowners to purchase third-party verified, highly-efficient homes. In 2015, almost 10 percent of all single-family homes built were ENERGY STAR-rated, with these new homeowners expected to save \$21 million annually on their electric and gas bills.
- In Maine, 81 buildings are ENERGY STAR-rated.
  - More than [450,000 buildings](#) across the country use ENERGY STAR's Portfolio Manager database to track and publish their energy use.
  - Of these, around 30,000 commercial buildings—representing a diverse set of buildings including offices, hospitals, congregations, and schools—have achieved an ENERGY STAR rating of 75 or higher. This means that the building is more efficient than at least 75 percent of all similar building types in the nation.
- In Maine, 11 schools have earned an ENERGY STAR rating of 75 or higher with an estimated annual cost saving of \$171,000.
  - In the United States, almost 10,000 school buildings have achieved an ENERGY STAR rating that results in cost savings and improved indoor air quality.
- Cutting funding for the ENERGY STAR program would only raise costs for families and other consumers.

## THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY IMPROVES ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND DRIVES CLEAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS

The Department of Energy (DOE) runs many popular and effective energy programs that save families money on their utility bills, help low-income families stay warm during the winter, spur innovation and job growth, and keep the United States a global clean energy and technology leader. The Trump administration's budget proposes to increase nuclear weapons spending by 11 percent and severely cut non-defense energy programs. The proposed budget slashes applied research programs to solve practical everyday problems—including those from the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability by 70 percent and 42 percent, respectively—and the Office of Science by 17 percent.

- The average utility bill in Maine [saves \\$529 per year](#) thanks to appliance standards.
  - The DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy handles the agency's statutory requirement to develop minimum efficiency standards for appliances and equipment.
  - Trump's budget proposal would cut the office developing these standards by nearly 70 percent.
- Maine [sees \\$11.3 million in annual energy cost savings](#) from the State Energy Projects and leveraged funds that are creating [nearly 1,500 jobs](#).
  - States rely on the DOE for funding and technical expertise to meet their individual energy-related goals and reduce energy costs for their residents.
  - The Trump budget would eliminate this program entirely.
- The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) [saves](#) the average family \$283 every year.
  - WAP provides grants to improve energy efficiency in the homes of low-income families. Typical measures include caulking, insulating, and repairing ducts.
  - Maine [has received](#) more than **\$13 million in funding for weatherization**. In 2015 alone, the state saw **\$60 million in economic benefits** from these investments, including utility bill savings and reduced unemployment and health costs.
  - The Trump budget would eliminate the WAP program entirely.
- Through its SunShot Initiative, the DOE provided Maine with [nearly \\$2 million in funding for solar energy research and development](#) between 2012 and 2016.
  - This initiative funds grants to universities, private companies, and national labs in Maine and nationwide with the aim to make pollution-free solar energy a low-cost electricity source for all Americans.
  - Maine benefits from increased solar energy adoption across the United States. **The solar industry employed more than 770 Mainers in 2016**, the second highest job tally in the electricity generation sector (second only to wind).

- Between 2009 and 2015, the DOE provided Maine with about **\$25 million in funding for offshore and onshore wind research and development**.
  - The DOE’s wind program funds grants to universities, private companies, and national labs focused on technological developments to improve the reliability and affordability of wind energy and targeting barriers to wind energy adoption.
  - Maine also benefits from the increased adoption of wind energy across the nation. The wind industry recorded the largest employment numbers in the electricity generation workforce in 2016, **employing more than 1,200 Mainers**.

## **THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION MANAGES OUR OCEAN AND COASTAL RESOURCES**

[National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) (NOAA) products and services protect the lives and property of millions of people along our coasts and affect an estimated one-third of the country’s gross domestic product. NOAA is responsible for collecting environmental data that advances our understanding of the ocean ecosystem, guides meteorologists’ weather forecasts, and alerts us to toxic algal blooms. NOAA satellites support aviation and ocean navigation decisions, which keeps Americans safe when they are in the air and at sea. NOAA ensures we have sustainable seafood to eat and healthy ocean habitats and wildlife for current and future generations. The Trump administration’s disastrous budget proposal [cuts NOAA overall by 20 percent](#) and eliminates important ocean management, research, and education programs.

- In Maine, NOAA grants have helped support the Maine Coastal Program, which has awarded roughly \$1.5 million since 2012 to projects that stimulate the economy, improve water quality, and increase public access to public resources through the [Coastal Communities Grant Program](#).
  - NOAA’s [National Coastal Zone Management Program](#) partners with states to safeguard coastal communities from storms, protect fish and wildlife, and keep beaches open and water clean for tourists and residents to enjoy. In 2017, NOAA invested nearly \$85 million in coastal communities through this program.
  - The Trump budget would [eliminate](#) this critical grant program and shift the full burden of coastal management over to already-strapped state budgets.
- In 2017, NOAA [provided](#) the Northeast region with nearly \$1 million to increase resiliency through nature-based infrastructure.
  - Regional [Coastal Resilience Grants](#) fund states and local governments to prepare and recover from climate hazards and changing ocean conditions.
  - The Trump administration’s proposed budget would eliminate this grant.
- Maine Sea Grant, based at the University of Maine, **contributed \$3.6 million to the economy** from February 2016 through January 2017 alone.
  - A partnership between NOAA and a national network of 33 university-based programs, the [Sea Grant](#) Program funds coastal research to develop solutions for local and regional challenges, like reducing nutrient pollution and improving methods for shellfish aquaculture.
  - Despite the program’s [widespread success and popularity](#), the Trump administration proposed to [terminate](#) the Sea Grant in their FY19 budget.