



FACT SHEET

# MONTANA 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. The Department of the Interior manages the utilization of America's 500 million acres of federal public land and is responsible for their stewardship. These programs provide numerous benefits to Montana, 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 Montana.

### Protecting Montana's Water Resources:

The EPA sets health-based standards limiting contaminants in drinking water and establishing 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, [1,248 violations](#) of the Safe Drinking Water Act were recorded in Montana.
  - 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.
- [84,185 residents, or about 8 percent of Montanans](#), 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 Montana, headwater, rain-fed, and seasonal [streams](#) contribute to the drinking water supplies of **230,000 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 Montana with approximately **\$2.2 million** through these grants.

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- The Trump budget fails to increase funds for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund despite increasing need.
  - In fiscal year 2017, the EPA provided Montana with **\$6.5 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 Montana:

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 Montana 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 71,493 adults and 14,329 children in Montana [diagnosed](#) with asthma. Asthma attacks caused **38,720 missed days of school or work** and **more than \$121 million in associated total costs** in Montana 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.
  - EPA standards to reduce dangerous air pollution and toxic mercury from power plants in Montana will create **\$62 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 Montana's communities.

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

The EPA regulates hazardous waste treatment, handling, and disposal facilities across Montana 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 17 hazardous waste sites in Montana 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.
  - The [Silver Bow Creek/Butte Area](#), which encompasses the Berkeley Pit and surrounding areas, was first listed on the National Priority List in 1983. The area stretches over 26 miles. There are also 120 miles of contamination along the Clark Fork River, making the complex the largest Superfund site in the nation. The area was the site of historical mining activities that led to soil and water contamination, to the detriment of the area's vegetation and wildlife. The site has been under remediation for decades, with projects still on-going. **To date, hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent on the remediation of Silver Bow Creek and the Clark Fork**, but additional hundreds of millions will still be needed to complete reclamation efforts.
  - In Lincoln County, the EPA is working with the state of Montana to clean up the [Libby Asbestos](#) site, which became contaminated with toxic asbestos following vermiculite mining operations. In Libby, [hundreds of people have exhibited symptoms of exposure to asbestos](#). While cleanup has progressed, there still remain areas of the site classified as a human health hazard. Without continued EPA funding, the residents of Libby will remain exposed to these toxic contaminants.
- In Montana, there are 380 [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. **2015 and 2016 were two of the three hottest years on record in Montana.** 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 Montana and the country.

## ENERGY STAR Drives Energy Efficiency in Montana:

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 Montana, 95 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 Montana, 11 schools have earned an ENERGY STAR rating of 75 or higher, with an estimated annual cost saving of \$522,350.
  - 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 Montana [saves \\$383 per year](#) thanks to appliance standards.
  - The DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy handles the agency's statutory requirement to develop energy efficiency standards for appliances and equipment.
  - Trump's budget proposal would cut the office developing these standards by nearly 70 percent.
- Montana [sees \\$6.9 million in annual energy cost savings](#) from the State Energy Projects and leveraged funds.
  - 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.
  - Montana [has received](#) more than **\$10 million in funding for weatherization**. In 2015 alone, the state saw **\$49 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.

- Between 2009 and 2015, the DOE provided Montana with **nearly \$700,000 in funding for 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.

## **THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, STEWARD OF AMERICA'S NATURAL HERITAGE**

The [Department of the Interior](#) (DOI) manages more than 500 million acres of public land including national parks, wildlife refuges, monuments, and recreation areas. The agency is responsible for ensuring that generations of Americans can enjoy their lands, oceans, and natural resources. The DOI is also responsible for the management of roughly one quarter of America's energy production. The work Interior does helps drive economic growth: [in FY 2016](#), production and activities on DOI lands were associated with about \$145 billion in value added and about \$254 billion in economic output, and supported an estimated 1.7 million jobs. Trump's proposed budget would [cut the Department of the Interior's funding](#) level by 16 percent and increase reliance on fossil fuel extraction as an economic driver. This approach ignores the significant economic and cultural benefits of federal public lands conservation and recreation.

- Montana's [outdoor recreation economy](#) generates **71,000 direct jobs**, \$7.1 billion in consumer spending, \$2.2 billion in wages and salaries, and \$286 million in state and local tax revenue annually.
  - In Montana, the Department of the Interior [manages](#) 11 percent of the state's land area.
  - The Department of the Interior's stewardship of our public lands is crucial to the strength of the outdoor recreation economy.
- In 2016, [tourism to Montana's 8 National Park units](#) attracted **more than 5.5 million visitors** and generated **more than a billion dollars** in economic activity. We need to upgrade our National Parks to accommodate their increasing popularity. However, the Trump Administration has proposed reducing funding for the National Park Service in 2019, raising entrance fees, and reducing the size of several existing National Monuments.