



## Montana Benefits from Energy and Environmental Programs

### 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 third – 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. It 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.

- EPA provides [grants](#) to states to implement control programs for "non-point" sources of water pollution, like agricultural runoff, which are often poorly controlled but which also can be significant contributors to water bodies' degradation. In fiscal year 2016, EPA provided Montana with approximately **\$2.1 million**. Trump's budget proposes cutting categorical grants by roughly 45%.
- In Fiscal Year 2016, EPA provided Montana with **\$6.5 million in water infrastructure grants** under the Clean Water Act's State Revolving Fund program. Nationally, 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. By slashing clean drinking water funding coming through the Department of Agriculture for small rural communities, Trump's budget proposal would reduce the overall national investment in water infrastructure and place additional pressure on the revolving funds. EPA's [Clean Water Rule](#) protects small streams and other critical water bodies. In Montana, headwater, rain-fed, and seasonal [streams](#) contribute to the **drinking water supplies of 230,000 people**. The budget for EPA programs to prevent water pollution should not be reduced.
- 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. In 2015, [1,248 violations](#) of the Safe Drinking Water Act were recorded in Montana.
- In Montana in 2015, [84,185 residents or about 8% of the population](#) was served by a water system in violation of a health-based standard of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Drinking

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water in violation of the [Safe Drinking Water Act](#) can lead to increased risk of health impacts like cancer, birth defects, and cognitive impairments.

### **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, helping prevent asthma attacks, birth defects, respiratory and cardiovascular disease and cancer. In addition, EPA ensures Montana is protected from other states' unsafe air pollution, because dirty air doesn't stop at state lines.

- In Montana, EPA programs to reduce dangerous [air pollution](#) and toxic [mercury](#) **save up to 8 lives** per year. Cutting EPA's budget won't protect our air or health.
- 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.
- 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 were the cause of 2,054 [pediatric emergency room visits](#) and \$185 million in associated [medical costs](#) in Montana in 2008.
- Trump's proposed budget would cut enforcement by 24% - this would eliminate funding to pursue cases when power plants violate laws that reduce dangerous emissions in Montana's communities.

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

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, 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 \(NPL\)](#) for the Superfund program, which helps communities clean up toxic pollution. Trump's proposed budget would cut the Superfund program by more than 30%, slowing down their ability to help clean up these sites.
  - The [Silver Bow Creek/Butte Area](#), encompassing the Berkeley Pit and surrounding areas, was first listed on the National Priority List in 1983. The area stretches over 26 miles; in addition, 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 **377 [brownfields cleanups](#)** listed by the EPA, land contaminated and needing cleanup to be used or redeveloped. Without funding, the EPA won't be able to assist local communities and states in cleaning up dangerous contamination.
- Montana is home to over a **1,850** significant abandoned mines. With ongoing assistance from the EPA, the state has identified for cleanup over 300 [priority mines sites](#) that pose the greatest threat to human health and the environment.

#### **Fighting Climate Change:**

Climate change poses threats to our health and our economy. Last year was the 3<sup>rd</sup> hottest year on [record](#) in Montana- 2015 was the hottest recorded. 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 cost money across Montana and the country.

#### **Promoting Cost-Saving 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, which allows homeowners to purchase third-party verified, highly-efficient homes, has **saved American homeowners more than \$4.7 billion on utility bills** over the last 20 years. In total, the program has saved homeowners enough energy to power 2 million homes for a year – while improving comfort and indoor air quality. 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.
- Over **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, **95 buildings are ENERGY STAR-rated.**



- In the United States, almost 10,000 [school buildings](#) have achieved an ENERGY STAR rating of 75 or higher that results in cost savings and improved indoor air quality. In Montana, 39 schools have earned this ENERGY STAR rating with an **estimated annual cost saving of \$522,350**.
- Trump's budget proposal would eliminate this program entirely, preventing future efficiencies and savings.

### **The Department of Energy, Saves Consumers Money in Montana**

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.

- DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy handles DOE's statutory requirement to develop energy efficiency standards for appliances and certain commercial equipment. The average utility bill in Montana [saves](#) \$383 per year thanks to appliance standards. Trump's budget proposal would cut the office developing these standards by nearly 70%.
- States rely on the DOE for funding and technical expertise to meet their individual energy-related goals and reduce energy costs for their citizens. Montana [sees](#) \$6.9M in annual energy cost savings from the State Energy Projects and leveraged funds, but the Trump budget would eliminate this program entirely.
- The Weatherization Assistance Program (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](#) over \$10 million in funding for weatherization, and in 2015 saw \$49 million in economic benefits from these investments. The average family [saves](#) \$283 every year thanks to these improvements. The Trump budget would eliminate this program entirely.

### **The Department of Interior, Steward of America's Natural Heritage**

The [Department of the Interior](#) (DOI) manages over 500 million acres of public land including national parks, wildlife refuges, monuments, and recreation areas. It's responsible for ensuring that generations of Americans can enjoy their lands, oceans, and natural resources. 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 2015, Interior lands and waters [generated \\$46 billion in economic output](#), supporting nearly 400,000 jobs.

- The Department of the Interior's stewardship of our public lands is crucial to the strength of the outdoor recreation economy. In Montana, the Department of the Interior [manages](#) 11% of the state's land area. 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.

- The Department of the Interior is responsible for leasing, collecting production royalties, and overseeing the safety of drilling and mining operations. As of 2016, the Bureau of Land Management is responsible for [managing 48 coal leases](#), comprising nearly 50,000 acres of leased land in Montana. It's also responsible for [managing 2,675 oil and gas leases](#), comprising over 2.1 million acres.