



FACT SHEET

# NORTH DAKOTA 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 agencies provide numerous benefits to North Dakota, yet President Trump's budget would cut 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 North Dakota.

### Protecting North Dakota'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, **402 violations** of the Safe Drinking Water Act were recorded in North Dakota, affecting **56,726 residents**, or about 7.5 percent of North Dakota's total population.
  - 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.
  - 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 North Dakota, headwater, rain-fed, and seasonal [streams](#) contribute to the drinking water supplies of **nearly 300,000 people**, almost 40 percent of the state population. 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 North Dakota with approximately **\$3.8 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 North Dakota 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 North Dakota:

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 North Dakota 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 52,371 adults and 11,291 children in North Dakota [diagnosed](#) with asthma. Asthma attacks caused **33,070 missed days of school or work** and **more than \$83 million in associated total costs** in North Dakota 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 North Dakota, EPA programs to reduce dangerous [air pollution](#) and toxic [mercury](#) power plants in North Dakota **save numerous lives per year** and create **\$150 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 North Dakota’s communities.

### Protecting North Dakota’s Communities from Toxic Hazards:

The EPA regulates hazardous waste treatment, handling, and disposal facilities across North Dakota 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 currently 1,341 hazardous waste sites 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 North Dakota, there are 189 [brownfields cleanups](#) listed by the EPA, land contaminated and needing 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. 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 North Dakota and the country.

## ENERGY STAR Drives Energy Efficiency in North Dakota:

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 North Dakota, 30 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 North Dakota, three schools have earned an ENERGY STAR rating of over 75 or higher, with an estimated annual cost saving of \$21,397.
  - In the United States, almost 10,000 [school buildings](#) have achieved this rating, which 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.

- A typical household in North Dakota [saves about \\$371 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.
- 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.
  - North Dakota [has received \\$11.4 million in funding for weatherization](#), which [resulted](#) in 1,400 homes weatherized, 160 jobs, 176,000 square feet of building space retrofitted, and more than 200,000 people trained through 250 workshops and webinars.
  - The Trump budget would eliminate the WAP program entirely.
- The Trump budget would eliminate Health and Human Services' (HHS) Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).
  - LIHEAP provides annual assistance to utilities to help households pay for heating and cooling, as well as crisis funding directly to families in emergencies.
  - In 2014, LIHEAP [served](#) over 13,000 low-income households in North Dakota.
  - LIHEAP will face greater demand and more pressure with cuts to DOE programs like energy efficiency development and WAP. Eliminating this program will only further hurt families in North Dakota.
- The DOE provides funding for solar and wind energy research and development, which [supports nearly 4,000 jobs](#) in North Dakota.
  - These initiatives fund grants to universities, private companies, and national labs with the aim to make technological developments that improve the reliability and affordability of wind and solar energy and targeting barriers to their adoption.

## THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR STEWARDS 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 Interior 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.

- The DOI's stewardship of our public lands is crucial to the strength of the outdoor recreation economy. North Dakota's [outdoor recreation economy](#) generates **30,000 direct jobs**, \$3.1 billion in consumer spending, \$848 million in wages and salaries, and \$179 million in state and local tax revenue annually.
- In 2016, [tourism to North Dakota's 3 National Park units](#) attracted **more than 780,000 visitors** and generated **more than \$50 million dollars** in economic activity in the state. 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.