

ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT AND OUR FUTURE...

UNDER BIDEN



*Reclaiming the past,
protecting the future...*

- Under President Biden’s “Investing in America” (*The Infrastructure Act*), over \$1 billion has been targeted for toxic waste cleanup at more than 100 EPA-designated heavily contaminated “Superfund” sites. Fixing these sites will soil, air, and water resources – including safe drinking water for millions of people living in thousands of communities.
- An additional \$235 million has been targeted to cleanup “Brownfields” – usually urban, less toxic sites such as abandoned industrial sites and gas stations. These grants will help underserved urban and rural communities transform what were once polluted, abandoned properties into usable community assets resulting in economic revitalization. An additional \$235 million is targeted to cleanup “brownfields” – abandoned industrial sites across the country. These grants, to be awarded under the Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment and Cleanup (MAC) program, will help under-served urban and rural communities spur economic revitalization by transforming what were once polluted, vacant, and abandoned properties into community assets.
- Protected land, water, and air resources from radioactive dust contamination.
- Biden’s EPA just released updated guidelines for soot – a carcinogenic, fine particulate pollutant responsible for over 100,000 premature deaths each year in America. When fully implemented, these new guidelines will prevent premature deaths and save BILLIONS of dollars in health-related costs.
- Rejoined the *Paris Climate Agreement* to fight climate change (Trump had removed the U.S. from the Agreement).
- In June 2023, President Biden enacted a law to provide \$11.3 billion over 15 years to clean up dangerous environmental conditions at abandoned mine sites. Last year, nearly \$725 million was awarded to 22 states and the Navajo Nation to create good-paying jobs and help communities catalyze economic opportunity by reclaiming abandoned coal mine lands.
- In October 2021, President Biden restored the original boundaries of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments in southern Utah, and added new protections for the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monuments. These actions were in response to Trump’s 2017 Executive Order that slashed the Bears Ears Monument by 85%, and cut the Grand Staircase-Escalante in half – the largest reductions in federal land protection in U.S. history.
- In August 2023, President Biden protected more than 1.5 million acres of wildlands and historical sites as National Monuments -- including Texas’s new 6,672-acre Castner Range National Monument near El Paso. These actions provide another step toward accomplishing Biden’s “America the Beautiful Initiative” – a campaign to conserve, connect, and restore 30% of U.S. land by 2030.
- Biden canceled the seven remaining oil and gas leases in Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, reversing rushed sales pushed through in the waning days of the Trump Administration. Biden also proposed stronger development protections on 13 million acres of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced final national pollution standards for passenger cars, light-duty trucks, and medium-duty vehicles for model years 2027 through 2032 and beyond.

UNDER TRUMP AND HIS ADMINISTRATION, 2017-2021

The Trump Administration, over just four years, eliminated or otherwise dismantled more than 100 environmental rules that regulated toxic chemicals and/or protected clean air, water, and wildlife.

When the well is dry, we will know the worth of water. -Benjamin Franklin, 1746

- In September 2019, the Trump Administration repealed a key rule defining the range of waters protected under the 1972 Clean Water Act – the pioneering law that limits pollution in our Nation’s rivers, lakes, streams, and wetlands. A swift backlash caused the U.S. Supreme Court to weigh in. The Court largely supported Trump’s efforts to weaken the range of protected waters. An immediate effect of the ruling is that polluters will no longer need a permit to discharge potentially harmful substances into millions of acres of streams and wetlands.
- In January 2021, the Trump administration auctioned off oil and gas leases in Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, capping Republicans’ decades-long quest to drill in one of the nation’s most vast unspoiled places.
- The Trump administration's efforts to undermine science and restrict scientific research are documented in the *Silencing Science Tracker*, an online database by Climate Science Legal Defense Fund¹ and Columbia Law School's Sabin Center for Climate Change Law. The database records anti-science actions taken by the federal, state, and local governments. Drawing on more than four years of tracker data—from Trump's election to Biden's inauguration—the results show that the Trump presidency fundamentally changed how federal government agencies perform, use, and communicate scientific research.

IF TRUMP IS REELECTED

The Republican Party has failed to release a platform or formally outline their policies on the environment since 2016. In the absence of any such document, we look to Project 2025 (P25) for guidance on Republican plans. P25 calls for shredding regulations to curb greenhouse gas pollution from cars, oil and gas wells and power plants, dismantling almost every clean energy program in the federal government and boosting the production of fossil fuels.

Project 2025 aims to purge the “climate fanaticism” that Trump charges pervades the federal government under Biden. In addition to repealing the IRA, the Project urges closing the Department of Energy’s Loan Program Office, which the IRA authorized to spend \$400 billion to supercharge the country’s transition away from fossil fuels.



The Project also calls on the State Department to “rescind all climate policies from its foreign aid programs” and “cease its war on fossil fuels in the developing world” and endorses withdrawing from the *Paris Agreement* (which Biden rejoined when he became president).

In keeping with Trump’s “drill, baby, drill,” P25 asserts that “America’s vast reserves of oil and natural gas are not an environmental problem; they are the lifeblood of economic growth.”

Trump has vowed to revive “Schedule F,” which reclassifies many government researchers and scientists as at-will employees, making them easier to “clean out” if they “frustrate his policies.”

These Project 2025 goals are already in the planning stages and are ready to be implemented in the first 180 days of a Trump presidency.