

CLIMATE POWER

FACT SHEET: EPA'S CUTS AND ROLLEBACKS IMPACT PENNSYLVANIANS

Trump's EPA is rolling back protections and canceling crucial funding for communities across Pennsylvania. These actions threaten Pennsylvanians' access to clean air and water and make communities across the Commonwealth less resilient to the impacts of climate change.

TRUMP'S EPA TARGETED AND DELAYED CLEAN ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS IN PENNSYLVANIA

Trump created uncertainty over the EPA's Clean School Bus Program by [freezing](#) and then [releasing](#) funds, which led to the cancellation of EV buses for two school districts in Pennsylvania. A [\\$5 million](#) project to purchase 25 EV buses for the Plum School District was cancelled, as was a [\\$2 million](#) project to [purchase](#) 10 EV buses for the Bethal Park SD. Trump's OBBBA went on to [end tax credits](#) for clean school buses.

Trump's EPA [terminated](#) the Solar for All program, which expanded low-income communities' access to residential solar. Pennsylvania was [awarded](#) more than \$156 million.

TRUMP'S EPA TARGETED GRANT PROGRAMS FOR COMMUNITIES ACROSS PENNSYLVANIA

In spring 2025, Trump's EPA [canceled](#) over \$22 billion in environmental justice grants and planned to cancel [nearly 800](#) in total.

- Trump's EPA [canceled a grant](#) for Philadelphia to help [mitigate flooding](#) in the Eastwick neighborhood.
 - In 2025, [Philadelphia County](#) received failing air pollution grades on ozone, short-term, and year-round pollution. Philadelphia's low-income residents and communities of color are [most likely](#) to live near highly polluting industrial facilities, where the poor air quality [falls heavily](#) on low-income families and children of color.
- Trump's EPA cancelled [\\$15 million](#) in funding for environmental justice efforts in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, as well as a \$20 million grant for a community [resilience](#) hub in South Philadelphia.
- Trump's EPA canceled a grant for [Southwest Philadelphia](#) to end illegal dumping, mitigate urban heat, and promote neighborhood cleanups.
- Trump's EPA canceled a grant for climate resiliency in Philadelphia's [Hunting Park](#) neighborhood for heat mitigation, weatherization training, and community solar.

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- Trump's EPA canceled a [workforce training grant](#) to qualify communities in North Philadelphia for energy conservation and home repair programs.
- Trump's EPA [canceled](#) a grant for a non-profit to hire a coordinator for environmental projects for the [Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance](#).
- Trump's EPA canceled a grant for [McKeesport](#) to implement programs addressing health issues from air pollution, stormwater management, urban heat, and a lack of green space.
- Trump's EPA canceled [Allegheny County's](#) grant for climate resiliency programs in environmental justice communities.
- Trump's EPA [canceled](#) a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection grant to engage EJ communities with community education, outreach, and capacity building.

TRUMP'S EPA WORKED TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR COAL-FIRED POWER AND INDUSTRIAL PLANTS TO POLLUTE PENNSYLVANIA'S AIR AND WATER

Trump's EPA gave [nearly 70 power plants](#) two-year exemptions from requirements to reduce the release of toxic chemicals like mercury, arsenic, and benzene. 14 Pennsylvania [power plants](#) and other polluting [facilities](#) were granted exemptions, including:

- Keystone-Conemaugh Projects' Keystone Station and Conemaugh Station both received [exemptions](#). In 2021, the two stations [emitted](#) a combined 14 million metric tons of greenhouse gases. In 2021, the two stations were the [top two](#) polluters in Pennsylvania.
 - The Keystone Station in Shelocta is [responsible](#) for 160 excess deaths, 63 heart attacks, and over 8,000 lost work days each year, while the Conemaugh Station in New Florence is [responsible](#) for 46 excess deaths, 18 heart attacks, and over 2,300 lost work days each year.
- Seward Generating received an [exemption](#). Seward was listed [among](#) Pennsylvania's top 12 emitters in 2021.
- Colver Green Energy Generation's facility received an [exemption](#). 44% of residents in the power plant's area are [considered](#) low-income, and in 2022, eight of the EPA's 12 environmental justice indices [exceeded](#) the 50th percentile for the Commonwealth.

In Pennsylvania, the following facilities [have received](#), or are in the process of seeking, exemptions from environmental protections from Trump's EPA.

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Facility	Type	City	Status	Protection
Seward Generating	Coal Power Plant	New Florence	Received	MATS
John B Rich Memorial Power Station	Coal Power Plant	Gilberton	Received	MATS
Foster Wheeler Mt Carmel Cogen	Coal Power Plant	Marion Heights	Received	MATS
Ebensburg Power	Coal Power Plant	Ebensburg	Received	MATS
Westwood Generation	Coal Power Plant	Pine Grove	Received	MATS
Panther Creek Energy Facility	Coal Power Plant	Nesquehoning	Received	MATS
Northampton Generating Company	Coal Power Plant	Northampton	Received	MATS
Scrubgrass Generating Plant	Coal Power Plant	Kennerdell	Received	MATS
St Nicholas Cogen Project	Coal Power Plant	Shenandoah	Received	MATS
Keystone Station	Coal Power Plant	Shelocta	Received	MATS
Conemaugh Station	Coal Power Plant	New Florence	Received	MATS
Colver Power Project	Coal Power Plant	Colver	Received	MATS
Clairton Coke Works	Coke Ovens	Clairton	Seeking	Coke Ovens Rule
Cleveland Cliffs Monessen Coke	Coke Ovens	Monessen	Received	Coke Ovens Rule
Mon Valley Works	Steel Production from Iron Ore	Braddock	Seeking	Iron and Steel Rule

- Trump's EPA said it would [reconsider](#) protections on coal-fired power plants that reduced carbon pollution, avoiding thousands of deaths and asthma cases while netting up to [\\$370 billion](#) in climate and public health benefits. A 2023 study [found that](#) coal-fired power plants caused [47,000 excess deaths](#) in Pennsylvania from 1999-2020.

Trump's EPA said that it would update water pollution rules for coal-fired power plants and the coal ash they produce.

- The EPA [announced](#) it would propose a rule to extend seven compliance deadlines for the 2024 effluent limitations guidelines (ELGs) for coal-fired power plants.

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- Trump's EPA [announced](#) it would update protections for power plants' [safe disposal](#) of coal ash and [pushed back](#) the deadlines for utilities to report contamination from toxic coal ash landfills, install groundwater monitoring systems, and draft plans for pollution cleanup by another year.
 - Coal ash, which is stored in sites at risk of spilling into rivers and lakes, [contains](#) chemicals such as arsenic, selenium, lead, mercury, and boron, and other contaminants known to cause cancer, neurological damage, and heart problems.
 - As of September 2025, coal ash was [stored](#) at 26 current and former power plant sites in Pennsylvania. Of the plants with available data, all but one were contaminating groundwater above federal safe drinking water standards.
 - A 2019 study found that coal ash was leaking into [groundwater](#) at the Newcastle Generating Station, which measured 372 times the EPA standard for arsenic.
 - Eight Pennsylvania plants, Elrama, Mitchell, Frank R. Phillips, Hunlock, Portland, Martins Creek, Shawville, and Titus, [failed](#) to report their coal ash dumps to the EPA.

In November 2025, Trump's EPA [filed](#) a motion to get rid of stricter air pollution [protections](#) for soot, which is [linked](#) to heart attacks, cancer, and premature deaths. The standards were expected to provide up to [\\$46 billion](#) in public health benefits and avoid [4,500 premature deaths](#).

- In 2025, six counties in Pennsylvania [remained](#) above the EPA's soot standards, with Allegheny County measuring the [highest](#) across the commonwealth.

Trump's EPA announced it would [reconsider](#) Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) that were expected to reduce toxic metal [emissions](#) by 67% and generate \$430 million in health and climate [benefits](#). In January 2026, the EPA [sent](#) its repeal of air toxics protections for coal and oil-fired power plants to the White House for review.

- Five Pennsylvania coal power plant facilities [reported](#) mercury emissions in 2023. Mercury [exposure](#) is linked to issues with the digestive and immune systems, lungs, skin, and eyes, and is particularly threatening to developing fetuses.

Trump's EPA [granted](#) Clean Air Act compliance passes for Pittsburgh's U.S. Steel and Cleveland-Cliffs, giving their plants until 2027 to meet air pollution protections that were supposed to go into effect in April 2025.

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- U.S. Steel [operated](#) four steel plants across Pennsylvania in Clairton, Braddock, Fairless Hills, and West Mifflin.
- Cleveland-Cliffs [operated](#) four steel plants across Pennsylvania in Butler, Monessen, Coatesville, and Conshohocken.

In January 2026, Trump's EPA [proposed](#) a rule to limit states' ability to block, under the Clean Water Act, the construction of pipelines and polluting energy projects.

- Texas Eastern Transmission's Appalachia to Market III Project was expected to [expand two miles](#) of pipeline. The project was expected to [cross](#) 11 streams and appeared to have a Clean Water Act permit [pending](#) with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.
- Eastern Gas Transmission and Storage's [Appalachian Reliability Project](#) sought to add [four miles of pipeline](#) in Westmoreland County. The project was [expected to cross](#) Haymakers Run and Steels Run, two perennial streams. The project's [water permit](#) was pending with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

TRUMP'S EPA WEAKENED PROTECTIONS ON TOXIC PFAS CHEMICALS FOUND IN PENNSYLVANIA'S WATER

Trump's EPA pushed to [roll back](#) protections on four types of PFAS that contaminate our water supplies, [withdrew](#) a rule requiring PFAS manufacturers to monitor and reduce their pollution, and [proposed](#) scaling back requirements for chemical manufacturers to report their PFAS use.

- Trump's EPA sought to [weaken](#) PFAS evaluations in order to preempt state-level bans on the toxic chemicals. In 2023, Pennsylvania set [maximum](#) contaminant levels for two types of PFAS in drinking water.
- A 2023 study found that 76% of Pennsylvania rivers and streams and 65% of private wells [contained](#) PFAS. In 2024, testing [showed](#) 30 Pennsylvania schools with on-site wells had PFAS levels above EPA standards, and recent testing [revealed](#) that four schools in Southeastern Pennsylvania had PFAS levels above the commonwealth's drinking water standard.
- Trump's EPA pushed to [give](#) utilities two more years to comply with limits. PFAS has been [detected](#) in the water supply of both Aqua Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania American Water, the commonwealth's largest water providers, which [serve](#) over 2.8 million [residents](#).

TRUMP'S EPA PUSHED TO SLASH A RANGE OF CLEAN AIR PROTECTIONS, HARMING THE AIR PENNSYLVANIANS BREATHE

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Trump's EPA [repealed](#) the endangerment finding, which obligated the federal government to protect Americans from climate pollution.

- As of 2025, nearly [4.7 million](#) Pennsylvanians were particularly vulnerable to air pollution due to age and at-risk [health conditions](#).
- In 2025, the Pittsburgh area [ranked](#) 12th nationally in worst year-round particle pollution and 16th in worst short-term particle pollution. Philadelphia was one of 27 counties nationwide that received a [failing grade](#) in ozone pollution, short-term particle pollution, and year-round particle pollution. There are 12,961,683 people [at risk](#) from air pollution in Pennsylvania, including those with asthma, lung cancer, and the elderly.

Trump's EPA pushed to [weaken](#) and [delay](#) protections for [methane](#) pollution until January 2027. Protections on methane pollution, which is [responsible](#) for over 1 million premature deaths annually, were [expected](#) to yield up to \$98 billion in climate and health benefits from 2024 to 2038.

- In 2023, a gas storage facility in [Jackson Township](#) leaked more than a billion cubic feet of methane and other toxins, making it the biggest gas leak in Pennsylvania history. The leak [caused](#) health issues such as severe headaches, lightheadedness, nausea, and sleep deprivation.
- Pennsylvania oil and gas [facilities](#) emit over 1.1 million tons of methane every year. Methane is [released](#) during oil and gas production alongside toxic chemicals such as hydrogen sulfide and benzene, which can cause cancer, neurological, reproductive, and respiratory problems.

Trump's EPA [proposed](#) rolling back the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program and suspending reporting mandates for oil and gas companies until 2034. The Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program [required](#) large polluters to report the release of toxic air pollutants.

- In 2023, 236 [facilities](#) in Pennsylvania reported releasing more than 25,000 metric tons of harmful air pollution.
- Pennsylvania's largest polluter in 2023 was the Lackawanna Energy Center in [Jessup](#), releasing 3,712,067 metric tons of toxic pollution. In 2018, the power plant [emitted](#) smoke containing nitrogen oxide, which is [linked to](#) respiratory illnesses.

Trump's EPA [announced](#) it would end the "good neighbor plan," which [sought to ensure](#) that 23 states reduced pollution that impacted states downwind. Pollution from 15 states [impairs](#) Pennsylvania's air quality.

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- The good neighbor plan was [expected](#) to save 2,911 lives and prevent 1,382 heart attacks, 731 hospitalizations, and 672 ER visits each year in Pennsylvania alone. It was also expected to provide the commonwealth with \$24 billion in benefits annually.
- In January 2026, Trump's EPA [published](#) a draft rule to approve Kentucky's and Tennessee's [weaker](#) smog plans. Under the "Good Neighbor Plan" pollution reductions in [Kentucky](#) and [Tennessee](#) would improve air quality in Pennsylvania.

TRUMP'S EPA LAID OFF WORKERS FROM REGIONAL OFFICES IN PENNSYLVANIA

Trump's sweeping [layoffs](#) of federal workers impacted EPA [staff](#), including [environmental justice](#) staff.

- 14 EPA workers in Region 3, which covers Pennsylvania, were [placed](#) on administrative leave according to EPA's labor union.
- At least seven EPA staffers in Philadelphia were [placed](#) on leave after they signed a letter expressing concerns about Administrator Lee Zeldin's leadership.