

## **EPA'S INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM**

### **Global Partnerships to Protect U.S. Health and the Environment**

#### **Why EPA's International Program Is Important**

Global environmental problems such as air and water pollution, toxic substances, marine waste and climate change are pervasive and do not respect international borders. According to the World Health Organization, an estimated 12.6 million deaths -- nearly one in four -- are the result of unhealthy environments. Across the globe, polluted air, water and soil; exposure to chemicals and ultraviolet radiation; and climate change contribute to more than 100 diseases and injuries. They increasingly affect the environment of the United States and the health of its residents. Strong collaboration with other countries and with international partners is essential to understanding these problems and developing common and coordinated solutions.

#### **How the International Program Works**

EPA maintains important collaborations with key international partners, including Canada, Mexico, Europe, China and Japan, and international organizations such as the Commission for Environmental Cooperation, UN Environment (formerly UNEP), the World Health Organization, the International Maritime Organization, the World Bank and the Arctic Council. The program:

- Facilitates data and technology sharing and best practices to address bilateral and multilateral environmental challenges such as environmental issues along the Mexican and Canadian borders, air pollution in China, electronic waste in Africa, vehicle emissions in Europe, and air pollution and climate change in the Arctic.
- Supports the dissemination and use of environmentally friendly technologies and environmentally supportive investment and financial instruments.
- Works to reduce air and water pollution from global shipping and land-based sources of marine pollution through international conventions under the International Maritime Organization, and the promotion of targeted technical approaches such as the Trash-Free Waters program.
- Addresses the global impacts of air pollution and climate change by providing technical assistance and leadership for global partnerships and conventions, and sharing effective U.S. approaches such as the energy efficiency labeling program ENERGY STAR® and AirNow, which provides air quality monitoring data to the public in real time.
- Works to strengthen global enforcement of environmental laws through the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement, the International Law Enforcement Academy and in cooperation with INTERPOL.
- Strengthens environmental provisions of trade agreements, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), by providing essential technical expertise during their development.
- Leverages the efforts of other U.S. government agencies, including the Department of State, the Agency for International Development, the Office of U.S. Trade Representative and the Department of the Treasury.

#### **Consequences if the Program Is Eliminated or Inadequately Funded**

- EPA would lose its ability to work collaboratively on global threats to public health that can cause serious long-term health problems in children and adults. Among the most serious are mercury and lead:
  - Global sources of mercury, a potent neurotoxin, contribute about 70% of mercury emissions deposited in the United States. Exposure to mercury can damage the nervous, digestive and immune systems; affect the fetus; and impair childhood development.
  - Lead, another potent neurotoxin found in gasoline, lead-based paint and lead-containing drinking water pipes, is particularly harmful to the developing fetus and young children. Exposure affects

brain development and can decrease IQs, impact children's ability to learn and create behavioral problems.

- EPA would be unable to identify and address emerging environmental threats before they become critical.
- EPA would be hampered in its efforts to address environmental problems along the U.S. borders with Mexico and Canada, which often adversely affect the United States. These problems would not be funded or managed in a coordinated and efficient manner, leaving states along the U.S. border to struggle with these issues on their own.
- EPA will become further isolated from the latest innovative science, policy and technological advances around the world and, in turn, the U.S. market for innovative environmental technologies would be adversely affected.
- The United States would reduce and ultimately relinquish its leadership role in global environmental efforts.

### **Demonstrated Successes**

- **Mercury Convention:** EPA led the technical work for the UN Minamata Convention on Mercury, an international treaty to reduce global mercury pollution; it became effective in 2017. EPA also worked with UN Environment to establish the Global Mercury Partnership to reduce the use and emissions of mercury globally.
- **Lead Reduction:** EPA was instrumental in developing and implementing the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles, which successfully eliminated lead from gasoline in most countries around the world. The results were enormous economic and health benefits at home and abroad.
- **Vehicle Emissions:** EPA actively shared the agency's rigorous approach to vehicle emissions testing with its global partners, and helped strengthen vehicle regulatory programs worldwide in response to the Volkswagen diesel emissions scandal.
- **Air Pollution:** EPA assisted in the development of air quality monitoring stations at U.S. embassies in China and other countries, providing real-time air quality data to raise awareness and protect the health of U.S. citizens serving abroad and local populations.

### **Funding for International Programs\***

FY2016 Baseline Budget: \$15,490 million

FY2017 President's Budget Proposal: \$18,099 million

FY2017 Amount Appropriated: \$15,371 million

FY2018 President's Budget Proposal: \$4,051 million

FY2018 Amount Appropriated: \$15,295 million

FY2019 President's Budget Proposal: \$4,188 million

FY2019 Amount Appropriated: \$15,400 million

FY2020 President's Budget Proposal: \$5,339 million

\*Programs include U.S.-Mexico Border, International Sources of Pollution, and Trade and Governance.