

Environmental Protection Network Save EPA Proposal

April 2025

The [Environmental Protection Network](#) (EPN) is a national nonprofit founded in 2017, composed of more than 700 former EPA career staff and political appointees who volunteer their expertise. Supported by staff nationwide, EPN works to protect public health, advance environmental justice, and uphold scientific integrity. Our volunteers defend critical regulations, provide technical assistance to communities, support civil service professionals, and ensure policymakers and the public have access to fact-based environmental information.

EPN is currently confronting an urgent crisis: ongoing efforts to weaken environmental regulations, cut critical funding, and undermine scientific integrity. These attacks threaten EPA's ability to enforce clean air and water protections, block state and local climate initiatives, and put millions at greater risk of disease and premature death—disproportionately harming vulnerable communities.

To meet this moment, EPN must rapidly scale its efforts—but we're facing a serious funding gap. We are currently \$1.2 million short of what's needed to fulfill our 2025 commitments, and between \$3.9 and \$6.2 million short of what it would take to fully meet the need on the ground. Any support we receive will be put to immediate and effective use to sustain and grow our critical work.

At the forefront of our efforts is supporting disadvantaged communities and EPA grantees in navigating complex federal funding systems through our [capacity-building technical assistance and training](#). In partnership with Lawyers for Good Government (L4GG) and others, EPN provides trusted, hands-on technical assistance that empowers frontline groups to defend and manage transformative federal investments.

Highlights of Our Technical Assistance to Safeguard Federal Funds:

- Since inauguration, we've distributed [8 actionable federal funding updates](#) to more than **8,000 stakeholders (each time)**, complete with [templates](#); [sample documents](#); and links to [pro bono technical, legal, and communications assistance](#).
- We've sent at least **10 targeted updates** specifically to EPA grantees and shared them widely via listservs and signal chats.
- We host **bi-monthly large-scale trainings**, attended by nearly **600 grantees** to date. Topics have included [Financial Management Best Practices](#), [Procurement Best Practices](#), and [Investigative Processes](#); and pair these with smaller **office hours** with specific EPA grantee breakout sessions, including the EJ Thriving Community Grantmakers and Technical Assistance Centers, EJ Community Change Grants recipients, EJ Collaborative Problem Solving and Government to Government grantees.
- We've provided **1:1 support on nearly 1,000 specific requests**, through [EPN volunteers and consulting firms](#) and [L4GG staff and volunteer attorneys](#).

Our Broader Strategy is grounded in strategic objectives to “Save EPA.”

- **Defend [regulations, budgets, and policies](#) that address climate and environmental injustices, as well as other pressing public health needs:** Our EPA alumni volunteers leverage decades of experience to protect environmental regulations through detailed comments, letters, and testimony. To date, we have submitted almost 180 [formal comments on national policies](#) and provided testimony at close to 50 public hearings. We also advocate for [strong EPA appropriations](#), provide in-depth [insights and analyses](#), and illustrate just [how damaging budget cuts](#) could be.
- **[Defend the civil service](#) and mentor EPA staff:** We defend EPA staff facing harassment or intimidation. Our [Federal Employee Resources](#) include a [job board](#), helpful [links](#) and [FAQs](#), and ways to connect with EPA alum. We work hard to counter attempts to traumatize the workforce through 1:1 mentoring and education and in the last few weeks we sent a [letter signed by almost 600 EPA alumni](#) to current EPA staff.
- **Educate [Congress](#) and serve as a critical resource for facts, objective analysis, and scientific rigor for [reporters](#), the public, and [NGOs](#):** EPN is a go-to source for scientific and objective information for Congress, journalists, the public, and NGOs. We connect former EPA officials with congressional staff to provide timely, evidence-based insights that shape policy discussions. Journalists and organizations across the country rely on us for clear, fact-based information to counter misinformation and drive informed public discourse. To date, we have connected volunteers with reporters approximately 2,000 times, resulting in over 1,300 quotes or media mentions. Some recent coverage includes:
 - A quote by EPN volunteer Joe Goffman, former Assistant Administrator, EPA Office of Air and Radiation, in [The New York Times](#) about EPA’s new offer to power plant companies to bypass Clean Air Act pollution rules. Companies can now send an email in hopes of the President granting an exemption.
 - A quote by EPN consultant Zealan Hoover, former Director of Implementation and Senior Adviser to the Administrator, in [The Washington Post](#) about the \$27 billion Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund that was built under Biden but has been scrutinized and frozen by the Trump administration, leaving many projects hanging in limbo.
 - A quote by Linda Birnbaum, former Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and former EPA scientist, in [ProPublica](#) about Trump’s cancellation of money to the National Institutes of Health to study the health effects of climate change.

Rebuilding EPA: Rising from the Ashes

Lastly, EPN is uniquely positioned to help rebuild EPA by mobilizing hundreds of former EPA professionals and a broad coalition of partners. Our 2020 [Resetting the Course of EPA](#) report provided a critical roadmap for the Biden-Harris administration, outlining key actions from [reducing toxic risks](#) to [safeguarding drinking water](#), cutting [emissions](#), and embedding [environmental justice](#) across EPA’s work. Today, we continue to drive forward-looking policy grounded in science, equity, and public health—shaping an EPA ready to meet the challenges ahead. For 2029, we can both lead and partner with others to reimagine an EPA that truly meets the needs of today.