



# Toolkit: Showcasing the Impact of Funding Cuts with EDF Action Analyses

## Introduction

**New reports outline dangerous impacts of EPA Cuts in 5 States** - AK, AZ, GA, NV, PA: On September 10, EDF Action released a new analysis of how proposed EPA funding cuts would impact clean air and water in five states: Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, and Pennsylvania. EPN is partnering closely with EDF Action on strategy to defend EPA's budget in FY26 appropriations—and helped develop the concept of these state-level reports. We also conducted a review to ensure these are strong and ready for volunteers to share with confidence. EPN volunteers are helping amplify the findings in the media in both national and local media.

- [EDF's National Press Release](#) (Betsy Southerland quoted)
- [Arizona analysis](#)
- [Georgia analysis](#)
- [Nevada analysis](#)
- [Nevada Current story](#)
- [Pennsylvania analysis](#)
- [Alaska analysis](#)

**What's on the chopping block:** Congress has to pass a budget or a Continuing Resolution by 9/30. The House's budget would slash enforcement, eliminate environmental justice funding, defund critical science, and sideline hundreds of EPA experts (with a total 24% cut). The Senate's budget preserves the core functions that ensure clean air, safe water, and community resilience (cutting EPA 5%). The

Trump Administration's proposed budget—on which EDF Action's reports are based—would cut EPA by 55%. See EPN's [press statement on the President's proposed budget](#).

This toolkit equips you with the facts, messages, and calls to action to leverage the reports to fight back.

## Talking Points

### Topline Messaging

- 1. By September 30, Congress must choose: an EPA budget that keeps protections for Americans' health in place, or deep cuts that leave families at risk.**
  - Right now, Congress has until September 30 to pass a budget.
  - The House plan would gut EPA by nearly a quarter, while the Senate plan makes only modest cuts.
  - Meanwhile, Trump's proposal would slash EPA funding by more than half—leaving polluters unchecked and families paying the price with dirtier air, unsafe water, and higher medical bills.
- 2. Trump's FY26 EPA budget proposal would put all our families in harm's way.** A new analysis shows how the Administration's proposed cuts to EPA would directly harm people's health and safety:
  - **More asthma attacks and ER visits:** weaker air protections would mean thousands more asthma attacks every day, especially for children.
  - **Unsafe drinking water:** deep cuts to clean water funding would leave pipes and treatment plants to crumble, raising risks of lead, PFAS, and pathogens in tap water.
  - **Communities left defenseless:** abandoning rural, low-income, and frontline communities already overburdened by pollution.
  - **Letting polluters off the hook:** eliminating staff and resources to enforce laws that ensure polluting companies pay

- **Higher medical bills and missed workdays:** shifting pollution costs from polluters to families would mean more out-of-pocket expenses and economic strain.
- **Science silenced:** cutting core research and staff would cripple our ability to track pollution and protect people from new and emerging health threats.

### **3. Nearly 9 in 10 Americans want EPA to safeguard their health and communities and want funding protected. Congress should listen.**

#### Clean Water at Risk

- The proposal slashes clean water funds by over 85%—a \$2.4 billion loss that would keep towns from fixing aging pipes or upgrading other degrading infrastructure.
  - Over 86% reduction in Drinking Water State Revolving Funds
  - 90% reduction in Clean Water State Revolving Funds
- Cutting water programs now means more lead, PFAS “forever chemicals,” and sewage overflows tomorrow. Communities will pay the cost in both health and dollars.

#### Air Pollution on the Rise

- President Trump’s plan to slash clean air investments, including the elimination of State & Local Air Quality Management Grants, would mean more pollution—and more cancer, lung disease, and children with asthma.
- Cutting state and local air quality programs would force layoffs, monitoring cutbacks, and even shutdowns.
- Hundreds of thousands of children would be at greater risk from toxic diesel fumes, asthma attacks, and smog days when it’s unsafe to play outside.

#### Enforcement Gutted

- Deep cuts to EPA enforcement would leave thousands of pesticide sites, manufacturing plants, and other major polluters unchecked, putting families across the country at greater risk of toxic air, unsafe water, and contaminated communities.

- Gutting the ability of EPA to uphold the nation's environmental laws would abandon EPA's responsibility and leave state agencies without the resources to ensure clean air and safe water.
- Corporate polluters would be free to poison our air and water without accountability, while families and taxpayers foot the bill for cleaning up toxic neighborhoods.

## The Public Rejects These Dangerous Cuts

- Over two-thirds of the public, cutting across political lines, support robust EPA funding to safeguard clean air and water.
  - A 2024 post-election poll showed that 88% of all voters, and 81% of Trump voters, want Congress to increase EPA funding or at least keep funding steady.
- Congress must pass a bipartisan budget that protects people, science, and the environment.

## Social Media

To maximize our collective impact and social media algorithms, [please share the social media post by EPN's Director, Michelle Roos on LinkedIn](#).

- Please repost or share widely to your networks, using the draft copy below.
- Remember, your voice and expertise make the message even stronger:
  - Add a quick thought, personal observation, or expansion of one of the key points based on your personal expertise.
  - If relevant, relate your post content to your state or community.

### Share/Repost Copy Suggestions

"I fully agree with Michelle and EDF Action's analysis. In **[STATE]** we already face **[local issue: asthma rates, contaminated water, etc.]**. The Trump Administration's proposed EPA cuts would make things worse by gutting the protections that keep our air clean and our water safe. Congress must reject these cuts and put people's health ahead of polluters."

"When I was at EPA, I saw firsthand how [**YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE**]. Gutting the budget would [**RELATION TO THE BUDGET**]. Congress must not make these reckless cuts. #SaveEPA #CleanAirCleanWater"

"Based on my [**EXPLAIN YOUR RELEVANT EXPERIENCE: "20 years working on XYZ.."**], I can tell you these proposed EPA cuts aren't just numbers on a page. They would mean [**REAL LIFE EXAMPLE OF HARM**]. Congress must protect EPA funding and put people's health over polluters. #SaveEPA"

"When I worked at EPA, I saw firsthand how strong science and enforcement protect families from toxic pollution. Trump's budget would strip away those safeguards and leave communities exposed. Congress must reject these reckless cuts. #SaveEPA"