

I'm not a bot





























Adaptation helps us prepare for some of the likely effects of climate change by reducing their impacts on ecosystems and people's well-being. Examples of adaptation include strengthening water conservation programs, upgrading stormwater systems, developing early warning systems for extreme heat events, and preparing for stronger storms through better emergency preparation and response strategies. References 1 Marvel, K. et al. (2023). Ch. 2: Climate Trends. Fifth National Climate Assessment. U.S. Global Change Research Program, Washington, DC, p. 2-11. 2 Hayden M.H. et al. (2023). Ch. 15: Human Health. Fifth National Climate Assessment. U.S. Global Change Research Program, Washington, DC, p. 15-6. 3Ebi, K.L., J.M. Balbus, G. Luber, A. Bole, A. Crimmins, G. Glass, S. Saha, M.M. Shimamoto, J. Trtanj & J.L. White-Newsome. (2018). Human health. In: Impacts, risks, and adaptation in the United States: Fourth national climate assessment, volume II [Reidmiller, D.R., C.W. Avery, D.R. 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Maycock & B.C. Stewart (eds.)]. U.S. Global Change Research Program, Washington, DC, p. 339. doi: 10.7930/NCA4.2018.CH8 Skip to main content Projections indicate that climate change will result in more frequent and intense extreme weather events in the coming decades. Among these, an increase... Air pollution and climate change together worsen the health impacts of allergens like pollen and airborne biological particles, leading to increased inflammatory... A variety of global, regional, and transboundary initiatives have been established to support cooperation on air quality management, offering a strong... Agricultural air pollution is a significant but often under-recognized source of health and economic burdens worldwide. Beyond its impact on human health,... This initiative will guide EPA's work to protect public health and the environment while restoring the greatness of the American economy for the first 100 days and beyond. Read the news release Administrator Zeldin will work closely with the dedicated career officials at the agency to fulfill the agency's mission to protect human health and the environment. Learn more about Administrator Zeldin From remediating contaminated sites to ensuring clean drinking water, what happens here improves human health and the environment for all Americans. Discover EPA-hosted webinars to learn how to apply for, or manage an EPA grant. Learn how water gets to your drinking water tap every day, the different types of public water systems, and other basic information about drinking water safety. Read the latest news from EPA. Search all news releases Administrator Zeldin Announces 31 Historic Actions to Power the Great American Comeback March 12, 2025 WASHINGTON – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin announced the agency will undertake 31 historic actions in the greatest and most consequential day of deregulation in U.S. history, to advance President Trump's Day One executive orders and Power the Great American Comeback. Combined, these announcements represent the most momentous day in the history of the EPA. While accomplishing EPA's core mission of protecting the environment, the agency is committed to fulfilling President Trump's promise to unleash American energy, lower cost of living for Americans, revitalize the American auto industry, restore the rule of law, and give power back to states to make their own decisions. "Today is the greatest day of deregulation our nation has seen. We are driving a dagger straight into the heart of the climate change religion to drive down cost of living for American families, unleash American energy, bring auto jobs back to the U.S. and more," said EPA Administrator Zeldin. "Alongside President Trump, we are living up to our promises to unleash American energy, lower costs for Americans, revitalize the American auto industry, and work hand-in-hand with our state partners to advance our shared mission," added EPA Administrator Zeldin. These historic actions will roll back trillions in regulatory costs and hidden "taxes" on U.S. families. As a result of these announcements, the cost of living for American families will decrease. It will be more affordable to purchase a car, heat homes, and operate a business. It will be more affordable to bring manufacturing into local communities while individuals widely benefit from the tangible economic impacts. These actions will create American jobs, including incredible progress to bring back American auto jobs. The Biden and Obama era regulations being reconsidered have suffocated nearly every single sector of the American economy. Today, EPA Administrator Zeldin announced the following actions: UNLEASHING AMERICAN ENERGY Reconsideration of regulations on power plants (Clean Power Plan 2.0) Reconsideration of regulations throttling the oil and gas industry (OOOQ b/c) Reconsideration of Mercury and Air Toxics Standards that improperly targeted coal-fired power plants (MATS) Reconsideration of mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program that imposed significant costs on the American energy supply (GHG Reporting Program) Reconsideration of limitations, guidelines and standards (ELG) for the Steam Electric Power Generating Industry to ensure low-cost electricity while protecting water resources (Steam Electric ELG) Reconsideration of wastewater regulations for oil and gas development to help unleash American energy (Oil and Gas ELG) Reconsideration of Biden-Harris Administration Risk Management Program rule that made America's oil and natural gas refineries and chemical facilities less safe (Risk Management Program Rule) LOWERING THE COST OF LIVING FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES Reconsideration of light-duty, medium-duty, and heavy-duty vehicle regulations that provided the foundation for the Biden-Harris electric vehicle mandate (Car GHG Rules) Reconsideration of the 2009 Endangerment Finding and regulations and actions that rely on that Finding (Endangerment Finding) Reconsideration of technology transition rule that forces companies to use certain technologies that increased costs on food at grocery stores and semiconductor manufacturing (Technology Transition Rule) Reconsideration of Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards that shut down opportunities for American manufacturing and small businesses (PM 2.5 NAAQS) Reconsideration of multiple National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for American energy and manufacturing sectors (NESHAPs) Restructuring the Regional Haze Program that threatened the supply of affordable energy for American families (Regional Haze) Overhauling Biden-Harris Administration's "Social Cost of Carbon" Redirecting enforcement resources to EPA's core mission to relieve the economy of unnecessary bureaucratic burdens that drive up costs for American consumers (Enforcement Discretion) Terminating Biden's Environmental Justice and DEI arms of the agency (EJ/DEI) ADVANCING COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM Ending so-called "Good Neighbor Plan" which the Biden-Harris Administration used to expand federal rules to more states and sectors beyond the program's traditional focus and led to the rejection of nearly all State Implementation Plans Working with states and tribes to resolve massive backlog with State Implementation Plans and Tribal Implementation Plans that the Biden-Harris Administration refused to resolve (SIPs/TIPs) Reconsideration of exceptional events to work with states to prioritize the allowance of prescribed fires within State and Tribal Implementation Plans (Exceptional Events) Reconstituting Science Advisory Board and Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (SAB/CASAC) Prioritizing coal ash program to expedite state permit reviews and update coal ash regulations (CCR Rule) Utilizing enforcement discretion to further North Carolina's recovery from Hurricane Helene EPA's environmental topics guides you to the most popular pages in your topic of interest. Find EPA Articles and News Releases related to popular topics. Search the A-Z Topic Index for specific terms. Recent EPA Perspectives Articles: Through the Community Connectors grant program, we partner with community-based organizations and local governments to envision future development in corridors adjacent to highway infrastructure. There is no safe level of lead. Lead can be present in drinking water without any noticeable changes in color or odor. It is the responsibility of private well owners to test their water for lead and to take appropriate measures to mitigate exposure. Early in my career I realized that shifting the mindset of students in my classroom, especially on a social norm that valued consumerism over environmentalism, was a challenge with context and nuance far beyond my classroom walls. Read EPA Perspectives Recent EPA News Releases: EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Secretary of the Environment and National Resources of Mexico Alicia Bárcena Ibarra to address and solve the decades-long Tijuana River sewage crisis. EPA to hold a public meeting on revised proposed plan for the Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation Superfund Site The U.S. Senate has confirmed Aaron Szabo to serve as the Assistant Administrator of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Air and Radiation. EPA Region 7 Land, Chemical, and Redevelopment Division Director DeAndre Singletary presented a \$500,000 award to the City of Springfield for their selection to receive funding for their Brownfields Assessment Grant. Search all News Releases February 4, 2025 WASHINGTON – On February 4, 2025, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin announced the agency's Powering the Great American Comeback Initiative, to achieve the agency's mission while energizing the greatness of the American economy. This plan outlines the agency's priorities under the leadership of President Trump and Administrator Zeldin. The newly announced Powering the Great American Comeback initiative consists of five pillars that will guide the EPA's work over the first 100 days and beyond: Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American "Every American should have access to clean air, land, and water. I will ensure the EPA is fulfilling its mission to protect human health and the environment. In his first term, President Trump advanced conservation, reduced toxic emissions in the air, and cleaned up hazardous sites, while fostering economic growth for families across the country. We remain committed to these priorities in this administration, as well as ensuring emergency response efforts are helping Americans get back on their feet in the quickest and safest way possible. We will do so while remaining good stewards of tax dollars and ensuring that every penny spent is going towards advancing this mission," said Administrator Zeldin. Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance "Pursuing energy independence and energy dominance will cut energy costs for everyday Americans who are simply trying to heat their homes and put gas in their cars. This will also allow our nation to stop relying on energy sources from adversaries, while lowering costs for hardworking middle-income families, farmers, and small business owners. I look forward to working with the greatest minds driving American innovation, to ensure we are producing and developing the cleanest energy on the planet," said Administrator Zeldin. Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership "Any business that wants to invest in America should be able to do so without having to face years-long, uncertain, and costly permitting processes that deter them from doing business in our country in the first place. It will be important for the EPA to work with our partners at the state and federal levels to ensure projects are being approved and companies can invest billions of dollars into our nation. Streamlining these processes, while partnering with businesses to follow the necessary steps to safeguard our environment, will incentivize investment into our economy and create American jobs," said Administrator Zeldin. Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World "As we rapidly advance into this new age of AI, it is important that the United States lead the world in this field. Those looking to invest in and develop AI should be able to do so in the U.S., while we work to ensure data centers and related facilities can be powered and operated in a clean manner with American-made energy. Under President Trump's leadership, I have no doubt that we will become the AI capital of the world," said Administrator Zeldin. Pillar 5: Protecting and Bringing Back American Auto Jobs "Our American auto industry is hurting because of the burdensome policies of the past. Under President Trump, we will bring back American auto jobs and invest in domestic manufacturing to revitalize a quintessential American industry. We will partner with leaders to streamline and develop smart regulations that will allow for American workers to lead the great comeback of the auto industry," said Administrator Zeldin. Recycling is the process of collecting and processing materials that would otherwise be thrown away as trash and turning them into new products. Recycling can benefit your community, the economy, and the environment. Products should only be recycled if they cannot be reduced or reused. EPA promotes the waste management hierarchy, which ranks various waste management strategies from most to least environmentally preferred. The hierarchy prioritizes source reduction and the reuse of waste materials over recycling. On this page: Learn what happens to materials thrown away in the United States in our Together, We Can Make a Difference infographic. Benefits of Recycling Environment Recycling provides many benefits to our environment. By recycling our materials, we create a healthier planet for ourselves and future generations. Conserve natural resources: Recycling reduces the need to extract resources such as timber, water, and minerals for new products. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions: According to the most recent EPA data, the recycling and composting of municipal solid waste (MSW or trash) saved over 193 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2018. Energy savings: Recycling conserves energy. For example, recycling just 10 plastic bottles saves enough energy to power a laptop for more than 25 hours. To estimate how much energy you can save by recycling certain products, EPA developed the individual Waste Reduction Model (iWARM). Waste and pollution reduction: Recycling diverts waste away from landfills and incinerators, which reduces the harmful effects of pollution and emissions. Economy EPA released significant findings on the economic benefits of the recycling industry with an update to the national Recycling Economic Information (REI) Study in 2020. This study analyzes the numbers of jobs, wages and tax revenues attributed to recycling. The study found that in a single year, recycling and reuse activities in the United States accounted for: 681,000 jobs, \$37.8 billion in wages, and \$5.5 billion in tax revenues. This equates to 1.17 jobs per 1,000 tons of materials recycled and \$65.23 in wages and \$9.42 in tax revenue for every ton of materials recycled. For more information, check out the full report. Community Local Impacts: Across the country, areas where waste management facilities are concentrated can result in negative impacts on human health, property values, aesthetic and recreation values, and land productivity. Recycling provides these areas with a healthier and more sustainable alternative. International: Waste generated in the United States also affects communities in other countries. Recycled materials are exported to some countries that are not able to manage those materials in an environmentally sound manner. U.S. Recycling System Overview The recycling process is made up of three steps that are repeated over and over again. This creates a continuous loop which is represented by the familiar chasing arrows recycling symbol. The three steps of the recycling process are described below. Step 1: Collection and Processing Businesses and consumers generate recyclables that are then collected by either a private hauler or government entity. There are several methods for collecting recyclables, including curbside collection, drop-off centers, and deposit or refund programs. Visit How do I recycle... Common Recyclables for information on specific materials. After collection, recyclables are sent to a recovery facility to be sorted, cleaned, and processed into materials that can be used in manufacturing. Recyclables are bought and sold just like raw materials would be, and prices go up and down depending on supply and demand in the United States and around the world. Step 2: Manufacturing After processing, recyclables are made into new products at a recycling plant or similar facility. More and more of today's products are being manufactured with recycled content. Recycled materials are also used in new ways such as recovered glass in asphalt to pave roads or recovered plastic in carpeting and park benches. Step 3: Purchasing New Products Made from Recycled Materials You help close the recycling loop by buying new products made from recycled materials. There are thousands of products that contain recycled content. When you go shopping, look for the following: Products that can be easily recycled Products that contain recycled content Below are some of the terms used: Recycled-content product. - The product was manufactured with recycled materials either collected from a recycling program or from waste recovered during the normal manufacturing process. The label will sometimes include how much of the content came from recycled materials. Post-consumer content - Very similar to recycled content, but the material comes only from recyclables collected from consumers or businesses through a recycling program. Recyclable product - Products that can be collected, processed, and manufactured into new products after they have been used. These products do not necessarily contain recycled materials. Remember not all kinds of recyclables may be collected in your community, so be sure to check with your local recycling program before you buy. Some common products you can find that are made with recycled content include the following: Aluminum cans Car bumpers Carpeting Cereal boxes Comic books Egg cartons Glass containers Laundry detergent bottles Motor oil Nails Newspapers Paper towels Steel products Trash bags Challenges to Recycling System While the benefits of recycling are clear, the current system still faces many challenges. Many people are confused about what items can be recycled, where they can be recycled and how. This often leads to recyclables going in the trash or trash going in the recycling bin. America's recycling infrastructure has not kept pace with today's waste stream. Communication between the manufacturers of new materials and products and the recycling industry needs to be improved to prepare for and optimally manage the recycling of new materials. Domestic markets for recycled materials need to be strengthened in the United States. Historically, some of the recycled materials generated in the U.S. have been exported internationally. However, changing international policies have limited the export of materials. Improving communication among the different sectors of the recycling system is needed to strengthen the development of existing materials markets and to develop new innovative markets. We need to better integrate recycled materials and end-of-life management into product and packaging designs. More consistent measurement methodologies are necessary to improve recycling system performance. These more standardized metrics can then be used to create effective goals and track progress. What is Being Done The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Transforming U.S. Recycling and Waste Management: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is a historic investment in the health, equity, and resilience of American communities. With unprecedented funding to support state and local waste management infrastructure and recycling programs, EPA will improve health and safety and help establish and increase recycling programs nationwide. National Recycling Strategy: EPA developed the "National Recycling Strategy" with a focus on advancing the national municipal solid waste recycling system. It identifies strategic objectives and actions to create a stronger, more resilient, and cost-effective recycling system. National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution: This strategy builds upon EPA's "National Recycling Strategy" and focuses on actions to eliminate the release of plastic pollution into the environment. America Recycles Day: Every year on November 15, EPA reminds everyone of the importance and impact of recycling through education and outreach. Basel Convention: The United States is a signatory to the Basel Convention but has not yet become a Party to the Convention. The Basel Convention establishes standards for the transboundary movement of various types of waste. What You Can Do Learn how to recycle right on our website: How to recycle common recyclables. Frequent questions about recycling. Find a recycling location near you: Disclaimer: These sites are listed for informational purposes only. US EPA does not endorse any of these entities nor their services. Contact Us to suggest any additional links. JavaScript appears to be disabled on this computer. 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