2024 YEAR IN REVIEW EPA REGION 2

A look back at a year of bold initiatives, groundbreaking milestones and local partnerships.







- **Delivering Clean Water & Protecting Water Resources**
- Improving Air Quality and Combating Climate Change

NOTE FROM OUR REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

We have had an incredible year investing in our communities carrying out the ambitious goal to make people's lives better at the community level.

Just three years since the passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and two years since the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, we have seen incredible transformation. I am proud to say that EPA has made a real difference to the people in our region—which includes New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and eight federally recognized Indian Nations. We are sending kids to school on clean electric school buses, completing water infrastructure upgrades, cleaning up polluted Brownfield and Superfund sites, combating climate change and advancing environmental justice from the ground up.

I am honored to work with a group of public servants whose unwavering commitment to the mission of protecting human health and the environment inspires me every day. It is through their work over the past several years that we provided an unprecedented amount of funding to communities and accomplished amazing goals.

Change starts with the community, and I want to thank the amazing community leaders who work long hours to hold EPA and our partners accountable and give us the feedback and information we need to do our work. Change also takes a whole-of-government and an all-levels-of-government approach. EPA would not be able to function without our state, territory, Indian Nation and local government partners.

Sincerely,

Lisa F. Garcia **Regional Administrator**





NUMBERS

We have provided over \$2.5 billion through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act for infrastructure, climate and environmental justice projects across the region.





New Jersey Over \$800 million

New York Over \$1.4 billion

Puerto Rico Over \$200 million

U.S. Virgin Islands Over \$95 million

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Advancing Environmental Justice

We awarded \$38.5 million in grants for community-level projects, which included \$16.5 million under the Inflation Reduction Act.

The Bronx River Alliance received \$1.5 million for their Urban Waterways Partnership in the Bronx and Lower Westchester Counties, N.Y. and their Uplifting Bronx Voices for Climate Change Resilience project.



Bronx River Alliance members educate people about the importance of water quality.



EPA Regional Administrator Garcia delivers remarks and hears from community members at the Greater Rochester Area Environmental Justice Listening Session and Resource Fair.

We heard directly from communities, co-hosting a series of joint environmental justice listening sessions across New Jersey and New York.

Advancing Environmental Justice

We awarded \$38.5 million in grants for community-level projects, which included \$16.5 million under the Inflation Reduction Act.

We support community science through our Participatory Science Equipment Loan Program. We gave water quality monitors to Arrecifes Pro Ciudad in Isla Verde, P.R. to help protect and restore urban reefs in the Isla Verde Coral Reef Marine Reserve.







EPA staff at our Edison Campus in N.J.

We expanded STEM opportunities for underserved communities by hosting over 80 students at our laboratory in Edison, N.J. in collaboration with the New Jersey Department of **Environmental Protection.**

Cleaning Up Superfund Sites

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding supported the start and completion of multiple Superfund cleanups in 2024. Region 2 has received over \$800 million to support new and ongoing work through this legislation.

Diamond Head Oil Refinery Division site in Kearny, N.J.



Excavating soil at the Diamond Head Oil Superfund site in Kearny, N.J. to address historic contamination along key roadways.

Eighteen Mile Creek site in Lockport, N.Y.



Excavating lead-contaminated soils from 33 residential properties, a nearby park and three former industrial properties at the Eighteen Mile Creek Superfund site in Niagara County, N.Y.

Former Kil-Tone Company site in Vineland, N.J.



Removing lead- and arsenic-contaminated soil from residential properties near the former Kil-Tone company facility in Vineland, N.J

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Fried Industries site in East Brunswick Township, N.J.

Wolff-Alport Chemical Company site in Queens, N.Y.







Demolishing contaminated buildings at the Wolff Alport Chemical Company Superfund site in Queens, N.Y.





Unimatic Manufacturing Corporation site in Fairfield, N.J.

Excavating PCB-contaminated soil at the Unimatic Superfund site in Fairfield, N.J.

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Delivering Clean Water & Protecting Water Resources

Under the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we have delivered nearly \$2.4 billion in financial and technical support for clean water and treasured natural resources.

The City of Newburgh, N.Y. completed upgrades to its wastewater management system. This large project reduces combined sewer overflows to the Hudson River. The project received a \$3.6 million grant and a \$5.5 million grant through EPA's Clean Water State Revolving Fund.



A special tunnel is dug to make way for a sewer pipe in Newburgh, N.Y.



Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority workers replacing a 100-year-old brick sewer with a new pipe and removing cast iron water mains and lead services. Credit: Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority.

As required by a consent decree, Jersey City replaced hundreds of lead pipes with new copper pipes through the Lead Free Jersey City Program. This project is one of two in New Jersey to receive Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds through EPA's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for Lead Service Line Replacements.

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Middlesex County broke ground on a \$8.75 million project to upgrade its wastewater treatment plant facility.

The Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority will upgrade the Bayamon Wastewater Treatment Plant in Bayamon, P.R. with nearly \$23 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.





From left to right: New Jersey Environmental Protection Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette, Ronald Rios and Charles Tomarro of Middlesex County and EPA Regional Administrator Garcia "sandbreak" at the new site in Sayreville, N.J. Credit: Middlesex County Office of Information.

EPA Regional Administrator Garcia learns about the upgrades that will benefit approximately 260,000 families in the municipalities of Bayamón, Cataño, Toa Alta, Toa Baja, and Guaynabo in P.R.



Revitalizing Brownfields Sites

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has delivered the single-largest investment ever to support brownfields projects and job training programs - totaling over \$48 million for the region.

We supported the Seneca Indian Nation's cleanup of the Former Seneca Junction Fuel Station. This is the first time Brownfields funding has been used to clean a site at the Seneca Indian Nation.

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and Shinnecock Indian Nation will soon begin Brownfields cleanups, funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.



Dispenser area excavation to remove contaminated soil.



Members of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe and contractors visit the Frogtown Dump site in New York.

We delivered \$1 million to the City of Woodbine and \$1 million to Camden Lutheran Housing, Inc. to clean up former manufacturing sites. This funding builds on years of work undertaken by the cities to clean up polluted sites, including Camden's Judge Robert B. Johnson Park and the Yaffa Site.



EPA Chief of Staff Olivia Glenn announcing \$2 million for South Jersey communities.

Revitalizing Brownfields Sites

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We selected five organizations in Puerto Rico to receive a total of over \$3.4 million in brownfields grants to assess and cleanup sites while advancing environmental justice.



EPA Deputy Administrator Janet McCabe, together with grantees at a press conference.



EPA Deputy Administrator Janet McCabe, together with Office of Land and Emergency Management Cliff Villa, touring Brownfield sites in San Juan, P.R.



Improving Air Quality and Combating Climate Change

The Inflation Reduction Act is delivering clean air and climate action through hundreds of millions of dollars in clean energy and clean school bus investments in our region.

Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Clean School Bus program, we awarded grants and rebates totalling over \$204 million for the purchase of 702 zero-emission electric school buses serving school districts across New York, New Jersey and Puerto Rico.

We delivered \$62.5 million to the Virgin Islands Energy Office to develop residential and residential-serving community solar and power storage projects for low-income and disadvantaged communities through EPA's Solar for All grant program.





EPA Regional Administrator Garcia and NYC Mayor Adams announcing electric school buses for New York.



EPA Regional Administrator Garcia and VIEO Director Kyle Fleming visit a solar farm in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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We issued two Outer Continental Shelf air permits for the construction of offshore wind projects totalling nearly 5,000 megawatts to Empire Offshore Wind, LLC. The projects will generate electrical power to the State of New York and Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind, LLC, to the State of New Jersey.

We delivered \$156 million to the Puerto Rico Office of Management and Budget to provide residential solar across the island. Program funding will lower energy costs for families, advance environmental justice and tackle climate change.



Three wind turbines.







EPA Deputy Administrator Janet McCabe and a community leader in the Caño Martín Peña, San Juan, P.R.

Ensuring Compliance with the Law

EPA enforces our nation's environmental laws in support of communities, including those receiving or eligible for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act investments.

Thanks to a consent decree between EPA and Allied Waste Landfill in Niagara Falls, N.Y., we will eliminate about 86,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent methane emissions, as well as 32 metric tons of non-methane landfill gas emissions per year. Methane is 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide, and landfills are the third largest sources of methane emissions in the United States. Reducing pollutants protects the climate and safeguards the health of the people living in nearby communities.

We continue to support communities visited during Administrator Regan's Journey to Justice tour in Puerto Rico in 2022. We required AES Puerto Rico to conduct testing and continuous monitoring in Guayama, P.R. and pay a \$3 million penalty for failing to comply with air quality standards. We also required AES to address groundwater monitoring and coal ash landfill reporting issues and pay a nearly \$72,000 penalty for failing to comply with waste management requirements.



Allied Waste Landfill in Niagara Falls, N.Y.



AES Puerto Rico coal ash landfill in Guayama, P.R.

We got the largest Safe Drinking Water Act settlement nationally with the Westchester Joint Water Works. They will build a new filtration plant for the public water system that serves over 120,000 people in Westchester County, N.Y. The water works company will pay a \$1.25 million civil penalty and perform over \$7 million worth of environmentally beneficial projects to improve water quality.

A map of the proposed water filtration plant.

STAY CONNECTED

Follow us on social media to stay connected on what the region is doing in 2025 to protect public health and the environment in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the eight federally recognized Indian Nations.



