FY 2024 Annual Performance Report

Introduction

EPA's FY 2024 Annual Performance Report (APR) describes the third year of progress toward the FY 2022-2026 EPA Strategic Plan. This APR presents results, the reliability and completeness of which are attested to by the EPA Administrator, against the annual performance goals and targets in the Agency's FY 2024 Annual Performance Plan (APP) and Congressional Justification (CJ) as updated in the FY 2025 APP and CJ. This report also presents appendices on the results of work funded by supplemental resources: the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 and, for the first time, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Please also refer to EPA's FY 2024 Agency Financial Report (AFR) for information on financial performance results.

Organization of the FY 2024 APR

EPA's FY 2024 performance results and trend data are organized by strategic goal and objective and cross-agency strategy. Results are presented in detailed multiyear tables with targets, actuals, graphs, and key takeaways for the Agency's annual performance goals. This report adopts the terminology and color coding used to measure progress under the EPA Continuous Improvement System, a set of practices and tools that supports Agency employees in identifying and solving problems for optimal performance results.

FY 2024 Highlights

EPA continued its work with state, tribal and local partners throughout FY 2024 to further the Agency's mission to protect human health and the environment. Examples include:

- Finalized rules to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from <u>light duty, medium-</u> <u>duty, and heavy-duty vehicles; electric utility generating units;</u> and <u>the oil and gas</u> <u>industry</u>; and to reduce production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).
- Took 292 priority actions to build adaptive capacity and resilience in EPA's core work and worked with partners to build resilience in over 900 communities, to help them adapt to the impacts of a changing climate.
- Announced up to <u>\$2 Billion to Fund Environmental and Climate Justice Community</u> <u>Change Grants</u>—the largest single investment in environmental justice to date. These funds will support projects that deploy clean energy, strengthen climate resilience, and build capacity for communities to tackle environmental and climate justice challenges.
- Developed an <u>interim framework for advancing consideration of cumulative impacts in</u> <u>EPA's work</u> (in draft form). Additionally, published <u>Technical Guidance for Assessing</u> <u>Environmental Justice in Regulatory Analysis</u> to assist EPA analysts in evaluating potential environmental justice concerns associated with EPA actions.
- Concluded 1,851 civil judicial and administrative enforcement cases, the highest number since FY 2017, with over 50 percent addressing facilities in areas with potential

environmental justice concerns. Secured \$5.03 billion in injunctive relief, \$1.72 billion in penalties, and 931 million pounds of pollutants and waste reduced, protecting public health and the environment in communities across America, and ensure that companies who meet their legal obligations are not at a competitive disadvantage with those who break the law.

- Finalized decision to revise the primary annual fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) National <u>Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)</u> to 9.0 μg/m³, which will result in enhanced health protections for all communities.
- Funded over 1,986 wastewater projects and 1,600 drinking water projects in communities through the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs).
- Published <u>national drinking water standard to protect 100 million people from exposure</u> to harmful per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), also known as "forever chemicals"; and announced nearly \$1 billion through the Emerging Contaminants in Small and Disadvantaged Communities grant program to implement PFAS testing and treatment at public and private water systems.
- Developed final <u>Lead and Copper Rule Improvements</u> requiring drinking water systems to identify and replace lead pipes within 10 years.
- Completed 63 Superfund cleanup projects that address lead as a contaminant, made 840 brownfields sites ready for anticipated use, and cleaned up 6,066 leaking underground storage tanks.
- Completed 494 risk assessments and 467 risk management actions to manage potential risk to human health and the environment from chemicals; and finalized two rules for High-Priority Substances (<u>Asbestos Part 1</u>, <u>Methylene Chloride</u>) to address unreasonable risks.
- Finalized rule to strengthen the <u>dust-lead reportable levels and dust-lead action levels</u> for removal of lead-based paint hazards in pre-1978 buildings and childcare facilities, which will reduce lead exposures of up to nearly 1.2 million people every year, of which 178,000 to 326,000 are children under the age of six.
- Trained 15,380 farmworkers in pesticide safety and implemented processes to ensure that 98 percent of risk assessments for new pesticides consider impacts on federally threatened and endangered species.
- Drafted an updated <u>EPA Scientific Integrity Policy</u> to ensure adherence to professional practices, ethical behavior, and the principles of honesty and objectivity when conducting, managing, using the results of, and communicating about science and scientific activities; and implemented 66 additional actions to strengthen scientific integrity.
- Completed 306 actions that consider children's environmental health information and data, including rules, risk assessments, guidance, reports, and workshops where children's health data and information were considered in the decision making.
- Improved 243 operational processes to increase the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the Agency's operations through <u>continuous improvement</u>; and automated one priority administrative process and five permitting processes.
- Processed 6,355 grant actions totaling \$40 billion and 12,957 contractual actions obligating \$1.9 billion (with 98 percent of incremental funding requests completed on time).

FY 2024 Annual Performance Goal Results

For FY 2024, EPA focused on a set of 100 annual performance goals, including annualized longterm performance goals to achieve ambitious targets set in the *FY 2022-2026 EPA Strategic Plan* and measures representing key work areas that support those long-term performance goals. EPA met or exceeded 61 percent of the targets in their entirety for annual performance goals with FY 2024 targets and data available (53 of 86). For 16 of its annual performance goals with FY 2024 targets and data available (19 percent), the Agency achieved between 75-99 percent of the target (including 13 where the Agency achieved between 90-99 percent of the target). For 17 of its annual performance goals with FY 2024 targets and data available (20 percent), EPA achieved less than 75 percent of the target. Reasons for missed targets include the complexity of environmental challenges, workload issues, resource/staffing challenges, and delays in program implementation. EPA will continue to make progress toward its performance targets by applying continuous improvement principles to improve the efficiency and cost effectiveness of its operations. More detail is available throughout this report.



FY 2024 results were not available for 10 of the Agency's annual performance goals at the time of publication of this report. Reasons for missing data include reporting lags due to grant reporting cycles, additional time needed to collect and provide quality assurance of data from external sources, and challenges developing data collection protocols. As additional data are received for FY 2024 annual performance goals, the Agency will include the results in future APRs. Finally, FY 2024 results are reported for four of the Agency's annual performance goals for which no targets were established.

Fiscal Year 2023 Data Now Available

EPA received final results for eight of the 19 annual performance goals that had insufficient data for results reporting at the end of FY 2023. EPA met or exceeded targets for five of the eight.¹ For two of the eight, the Agency achieved between 75-99 percent of the target.² For one of the eight, EPA achieved less than 75 percent of the target.³

Verification/Validation of Performance Data

The Agency maintains <u>Data Quality Records (DQRs)</u> for the long-term performance goals in the *FY 2022-2026 EPA Strategic Plan*. EPA maintains the DQRs to ensure consistency and quality of data used for assessing and reporting progress towards annual performance goals that support the long-term performance goals. The DQRs describe the results being measured; data sources and limitations; methods for calculating results; and controls to ensure good data quality.

FY 2024-2025 Agency Priority Goals

EPA is on track for two of the three FY 2024-2025 Agency Priority Goals (APGs) (Reducing Hydrofluorocarbons, Lead Service Line Replacements) and delayed for one of the three APGs (Environmental Justice/Civil Rights). APGs are near-term achievements that reflect the top priorities of Agency leadership and the Administration.

• Phase down the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). By September 30, 2025, annual U.S. consumption of HFCs will be 40% below the baseline⁴ of 302.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO₂e)⁵ consistent with the HFC phasedown schedule in the American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act and codified in the implementing regulations.

¹ (PM HFC) Remaining U.S. consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), (PM AD09) Cumulative number of federally recognized tribes assisted by EPA to take action to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, or recover from the impacts of climate change, (PM NAAQS) Percentage of air quality improvement in counties not meeting current NAAQS, (PM HCFC) Remaining U.S. consumption of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), chemicals that deplete the Earth's protective ozone layer, in ozone depletion potential (ODP)-weighted metric tons, and (PM INFRA-06) Number of tribal, small, rural, or underserved communities provided with technical, managerial, or financial assistance to improve system operations.

² (PM AD10) Cumulative number of states, territories, local governments, and communities (*i.e.*, EPA partners) assisted by EPA to take action to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, or recover from the impacts of climate change and (PM NAAQS2) Percentage of people with low SES living in areas where the air quality meets the $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS.

³ (PM P2mtc) Reduction in million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO₂e) released per year attributed to EPA pollution prevention grants.

⁴ In two final rules signed in June 2023 ("Phasedown of Hydrofluorocarbons: Adjustment to the Hydrofluorocarbon Production Baseline" and "Phasedown of Hydrofluorocarbons: Allowance Allocation Methodology for 2024 and Later Years"), EPA amended the consumption baseline based on corrected data. The consumption baseline is 302.5 MMTEVe. Beginning in 2024, the phasedown steps will be measured from this HFC consumption baseline.

⁵ EPA has determined that the exchange values included in subsection (c) of the AIM Act are identical to the GWPs included in IPCC (2007). Therefore, one million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO₂e) is numerically equivalent to one MMTEVe. EPA is using the measurement MMTCO₂e in this document since the public is more familiar with this term than MMTEVe.

<u>Overall, EPA is on track to achieve this APG with 11 of 11 milestones completed for FY</u> <u>2024.</u> In addition, EPA made significant progress towards decreasing the U.S. HFC consumption limit to less than 273.5 MMTCO₂e. FY 2023 data, the most recent available, also reflects this progress, as the U.S. calculated consumption value for HFCs is 253 MMTCO₂e, which is below the consumption target for FY 2023.

EPA continued the implementation of the HFC allowance allocation program under the AIM Act to phase down U.S. production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) 85% by 2036, which is estimated to cumulatively reduce GHG emissions by 4,600 MMTCO₂e between 2022 and 2050. EPA finalized two rules under the AIM Act: (1) "Phasedown of Hvdrofluorocarbons: Restrictions on the Use of Certain Hydrofluorocarbons Under the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2020," to establish requirements to transition to next-generation technologies, and (2) "Phasedown of Hydrofluorocarbons: Management of Certain Hydrofluorocarbons and Substitutes under the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2020," to establish an Emissions Reduction and Reclamation Program for the management of certain HFCs and their substitutes.

EPA continued co-chairing the Interagency Task Force on Illegal HFC Trade with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to lead efforts to detect, deter, and stop illegal imports and trade. On May 22, 2024, EPA and the DHS co-hosted a Task Force meeting.

EPA launched new database functionality to allow for enhanced real time checks of HFC imports, in collaboration with Customs and Border Protection (CBP), enabling EPA to more effectively identify imports of HFCs without allowances. For CY 2023, the cumulative calculated HFC production value is 163.8 MMTCO₂e. All reported data are certified by the reporting entity to be true, accurate, and complete. This was below the production target for CY 2023. EPA continues to review and verify these data and may revise and update these data, as appropriate.

• Implement guidance, tools, and metrics for EPA and its Tribal, state, local, and community partners to advance environmental justice and external civil rights compliance. By September 30, 2025, advance cumulative impacts practice across agency programs, finalize, and deploy external civil rights guidance, and apply at least 10 indicators to drive disparity reductions in environmental and public health conditions.

Overall, EPA considers this APG delayed with four out of 11 FY 2024 milestones completed. EPA has made significant progress in building a foundation for advancing consideration of cumulative impacts, including a framework, a performance metric, and EPA program commitments. These consist of activities in all areas identified in the Agency's logic model for operationalizing consideration of cumulative impacts, *i.e.*, organizational change, learning and research translation, tools development, engagement, and decisions informed by consideration of cumulative impacts.

For the strategy to finalize and deploy external civil rights guidance, EPA released the <u>Civil</u> <u>Rights Guidance on Procedural Safeguards</u> on August 22, 2024, and has started delivering training and technical assistance throughout EPA and with external stakeholders. Lastly, for the indicators of disparity strategy, Agency leadership approved an initial set of six indicators. Consequently, the cross-agency workgroup worked with a contractor to collect and analyze indicator data, develop web page materials, and conduct internal EPA engagement and peer review in preparation for publication on EPA's website.

• Reduce harmful lead exposure in drinking water through the replacement of lead service lines in communities. By September 30, 2025, increase the number of lead service line replacements funded to 500,000.⁶

<u>Overall, EPA is on track to achieve this APG with seven out of eight milestones completed</u> in FY 2024. In FY 2024, EPA awarded over \$630 million for service line inventory and lead service line replacement (LSLR) projects, funding nearly 89,000 LSL replacements. While the result is lower than the expected target, the majority of efforts in FY 2024 were focused on developing service line inventories ahead of the October 16, 2024, Lead and Copper Rule inventory deadline. Since identifying LSLs is a critical first step toward replacement, EPA is still on track to achieve the FY 2025 goal of 500,000 LSL replacements funded.

Over the past year, EPA has announced a new LSLR-focused technical assistance initiative—Get the Lead Out (GLO) Initiative. GLO has initiated comprehensive outreach to 119 communities across the nation and successfully onboarded 52 communities into this direct technical assistance initiative. EPA's Drinking Water and Clean Water SRF team has hosted five trainings for 180 SRF managers and staff from 11 states and all 10 EPA Regional offices. Additionally, on October 8, 2024, the Biden-Harris Administration issued a final rule requiring drinking water systems across the country to identify and replace lead pipes within 10 years. The Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) also requires more rigorous testing of drinking water and a lower threshold requiring communities to take action to protect people from lead exposure in water. These strategies together give EPA assurance that the number of LSL replacements funded will increase in FY 2025, supporting achievement of the overall APG target.

Evidence and Evaluation

<u>Summaries of FY 2024 program evaluations and contributions to EPA's portfolio of evidence</u> are available on EPA's website. EPA uses program evaluations and other evidence-building activities to assess the effectiveness, efficiency, and/or equity of programs' work in meeting Agency goals; identify ways to improve mission delivery; and build an evidence base to improve decision making. This is particularly important for fostering transparency and accountability. For example, the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) conducted a program evaluation in FY 2024 to develop recommendations on the next steps for meeting the goals and outcomes of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement (2014 Agreement). As another example, every five years, each location within the National Estuary Program (NEP) is evaluated for progress in achieving programmatic

⁶ Based on available data, EPA estimates that on average 73,000 lead service lines have been funded annually. The number of lead service line replacements funded will be tracked quarterly, but the two-year goal is to increase that number to 300%.

and environmental results through the implementation of Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans, producing recommendations for improvement on areas including administration and governance, documenting the value of environmental management, and communicating stakeholder engagement.

Supplemental Resources

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) collectively provide EPA with more than \$100 billion in supplemental funding over multiple years for a wide range of programs. EPA is supporting the Administration's <u>Justice40</u> goal by prioritizing benefits to disadvantaged communities in developing requests for grant applications and in making grant award decisions, to the extent permitted by law. Supplemental investment information including current funding opportunities can be found on <u>EPA's Investing in America page</u>.

The ARP provided EPA with \$100 million dollars to address health outcome disparities from pollution and the COVID-19 pandemic, with which EPA is funding environmental justice initiatives and enhanced air quality monitoring. The FY 2024 APR includes an appendix of ARP performance results. For additional information, visit <u>EPA's American Rescue Plan page</u>.

The BIL provides EPA with over \$60 billion and represents the largest increment of funding the Agency has ever received. This law more than doubles the Agency's annual budget each year over five years to fund water infrastructure, environmental cleanups, and electric school buses. It also provides funding to improve recycling programs and prevent pollution. Most of the funding in this law is being implemented through existing programs such as the SRFs in the Office of Water and the Superfund Program in the Office of Land and Emergency Management. The FY 2024 APR includes an appendix of FY 2024 BIL results. For additional information, refer to EPA's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law page.

The IRA provides roughly \$41 billion in resources to the Agency. These resources fund efforts such as a national-scale clean energy financing network, a climate pollution reduction grant program, and investments to reduce air pollution at ports. Most of this funding is being implemented through new programs in the Administrator's Office, the Office of Air and Radiation, and the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention. For additional information, visit EPA's Inflation Reduction Act page.



OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

January 15, 2025

Reliability of EPA's Performance Data

I attest to the reliability and completeness of the performance data presented in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Performance Report. Because improvements in human health and the environment may not become immediately apparent, there might be delays between the actions we have taken and results we can measure. Additionally, we cannot provide results data for 10 (out of 100) of our performance measures for this reporting year. Reasons for missing data include reporting lags due to grant reporting cycles, additional time needed to collect and provide quality assurance of data from external sources, and challenges developing data collection protocols. When possible, however, we have portrayed trend data to illustrate progress over time. We also report FY 2023 final performance results for eight measures that became available in FY 2024.

Justice)

Jane Nishida Acting Administrator



* This character indicates a measure is also used to track progress in implementing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Goal 1 at a Glance

Tackle the Climate Crisis: Cut pollution that causes climate change and increase the adaptive capacity of Tribes, states, territories, and communities.



FY 2024 Enacted Budget (in thousands) by goal and objective

FY 2024 Performance toward target by objective



Objective 1.1: Reduce Emissions that Cause Climate Change—Aggressively reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases from all sectors while increasing energy and resource efficiency and the use of renewable energy.

Performance toward target over time

Number of measures by percent of target achieved





Counts are of measures that exist in FY 2024. Chart does not include measures that previously existed but were eliminated prior to FY 2024.

Summary of progress toward strategic objective:

- Finalized rules to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from light duty, medium-duty, and heavy-duty vehicles; electric utility generating units; and the oil and gas industry.
- Completed multiple actions under the <u>American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act</u> of 2020 to reduce hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs): finalized a rule to establish requirements to transition to next-generation technologies; managed the HFC allowance allocation program for 2023 and 2024; developed company-specific allowance allocations for 2025; prevented over 1.2 MMTCO₂e of illegal HFC shipments through actions taken by the Interagency Task Force on Illegal HFC Trade; and retired or revoked more than 12.8 MMTCO₂e allowances cumulatively to date from companies that misreport or import or produce HFCs without expending the proper number of allowances.
- Finalized a rule that expands the list of alternatives for various commercial and industrial end-uses in commercial and industrial refrigeration through the <u>Significant New</u> Alternatives Policy (SNAP) program.
- Expanded EPA's <u>ENERGY STAR program</u> into new product and building categories (electric cooking products, medical imaging equipment, downlights, vehicle dealerships, distilleries) and new certifications (ENERGY STAR NextGen certification for new homes and apartments, and for existing commercial and multifamily buildings) guiding consumers toward efficient products that reduce energy usage and GHG emissions, resulting in substantial savings for both the individual and the nation.
- Implemented the <u>City-based Optimization Model for Energy Technologies (COMET)</u> and <u>Global Change Analysis Model (GCAM) Long-term Interactive Multi-Pollutant Scenario</u> <u>Evaluator (GLIMPSE)</u> tools at the state and local levels to support decision making for GHG reductions.
- Released the <u>EPA Dynamically Downscaled Ensemble (EDDE)</u> repository for regional climate projections.

Challenges:

• The AIM Act dictates a rigorous schedule for actions to be taken, including promulgating rules to facilitate the transition to next-generation technologies and the management of HFCs, while simultaneously implementing and revising existing rules to phase down HFC production and consumption.

GOAL 1: Tackle the Climate Crisis

Annual performance goal:

(PM HFC) Remaining U.S. consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	N
Target				273.5	273.5	181.5			
Actual				253.4	253.0	Data Avail 11/2025	MMTCO ₂ e	Below Target	

Key Takeaways:

- The FY 2023 result reflects data reported through September 2024. All reported data are certified by the reporter to be true, accurate and complete. EPA continues to review and verify these data and may revise and update these data, as appropriate.
- Continued implementing the final rule under the AIM Act to phase down U.S. production and consumption by 85 percent over the next 15 years. Prepared for the HFC phasedown in 2025 and beyond by finalizing two rules under the AIM Act to establish requirements to transition to next-generation technologies and establish an Emissions Reduction and Reclamation Program for the management of certain HFCs and their substitutes.

Metric Details: This measure tracks U.S. consumption of HFCs in million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO₂e). One MMTCO₂e is numerically equivalent to the metric required under the AIM Act. HFCs are potent greenhouse gases, many of which have global warming potentials hundreds to thousands of times that of carbon dioxide (CO₂). The AIM Act provides EPA the domestic authority to phase down production and consumption of HFCs. HFCs are commonly used in many sectors of the economy, including in refrigeration and air conditioning, aerosols, solvents, fire suppression, and as foam blowing agents. The AIM Act provides the legal framework to phase down HFC production and consumption consistent with the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer that was ratified on October 31, 2022. Phasing down HFCs globally is expected to avoid up to 0.5° Celsius of global warming by 2100. The FY 2022 and 2023 targets are based on the HFC consumption baseline of 303.9 MMTCO₂e as established in a final rule published on October 5, 2021, "Phasedown of Hydrofluorocarbons: Establishing the Allowance Allocation and Trading Program Under the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act." Subsequently, in a final rule published on July 20, 2023, "Phasedown of Hydrofluorocarbons: Allowance Allocation and Trading Program 0.2024, the phasedown consumption steps are measured from this HFC consumption baseline. For more information, see EPA's page on Protecting Our Climate by Reducing Use of HFCs. This measure tracked progress toward a FY 2022-2023 Agency Priority Goal (APG) and tracks progress toward a FY 2024-2025 APG.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, promulgate final rules to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from light duty, medium-duty, and heavy-duty vehicles; electric utility generating units; and the oil and gas industry.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM RUL) Number of final rules issued that will reduce GHG emissions from light duty, medium-duty, and heavy-duty vehicles; electric utility generating units; and the oil and gas industry.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				No Target	No Target	No Target	Dulas	A h T	
Actual				1	1	4	Kules	Above Target	

GOAL 1: Tackle the Climate Crisis

Key Takeaways:

- Finalized emissions standards for light and medium-duty vehicles for model years 2027 and later that will avoid over 7 billion tons of CO₂ emissions through 2055, roughly equal to four times the emissions of the entire transportation sector in 2021.
- Finalized emissions standards for heavy-duty trucks that will reduce cumulative CO₂ emissions by approximately 1 billion metric tons from 2027 to 2055.
- Finalized rules to limit GHG emissions from new and existing power plants, including new source performance standards (NSPS) for new and reconstructed stationary combustion turbine electric generating units (EGUs), primarily natural gas-fired turbines, and emission guidelines to assist states in developing plans to reduce GHG emissions from existing fossil fuel-fired steam generating EGUs. The first rule is projected to reduce CO₂ by 65,000 metric tons by 2028, with the second reducing CO₂ emission by 1.38 billion metric tons through 2047.
- Finalized rule that will sharply reduce emissions of methane and other harmful air pollution from oil and natural gas operations including, for the first time, from existing sources nationwide. The rule will avoid an estimated 58 million tons of methane emissions from 2024 to 2038.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the number of final rules that will reduce GHG emissions published in the *Federal Register*. EPA will reduce emissions that cause climate change through regulations on GHG emissions including CO₂ and methane from light duty, medium-duty, and heavy-duty vehicles; EGUs; and the oil and gas industry.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, EPA's climate partnership programs will reduce expected annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 545 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO₂e). EPA's climate partnership programs reduced 518.6 MMTCO₂e of annual GHG emissions in 2019.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM CPP) Million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent reduced annually by EPA's climate partnership programs.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				486.9	500.7	513.9			
Actual	518.6	529.6	469.9	Data Avail 04/2025	Data Avail 11/2025	Data Avail 11/2026	MMTCO ₂ e	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- EPA offers many partnership opportunities for individuals, companies, organizations, tribes, and government agencies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build resiliency to respond to climate change. In FY 2021 (latest available data), EPA's climate partnership programs reduced 469.9 MMTCO₂e.
- Data for FY 2022 will be available in early 2025 after the ENERGY STAR program completes a planned update to their program evaluation process and calculations for GHG reductions from relevant partnership programs.
- Over 30 years, EPA's climate partnership programs have helped Americans save more than \$500 billion in energy costs and achieve more than 6 billion metric tons of GHG emissions reductions.

Metric Details: This measure tracks GHG reductions from the Agency's climate partnership programs. The programs included are: ENERGY STAR Products; Residential, Commercial Buildings, and Industrial Programs; Green Power Partnership; AgSTAR Program; Coalbed Methane Outreach Program; Landfill Methane Outreach Program; Methane Challenge Programs; Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF₆) Emission Reduction Partnerships for Electric Power Systems; Responsible Appliance Disposal; GreenChill; and SmartWay. These programs work hand-in-hand with the private sector and others to achieve more GHG reductions than would be possible through federal regulations alone. These programs seek out and overcome market barriers, drive policy at the state and local level, and capture and channel marketplace ingenuity toward climate action. In 2022, with the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), EPA transitioned the Natural Gas Star Partnership, ending the partnership agreements and annual reporting elements of the program,

while retaining a focus on technology transfer and stakeholder engagement. The sunset of the Natural Gas Star Partnership resulted in lower actuals and targets summed across the methane programs. In 2024, EPA updated its reduction <u>calculations</u> (previously based on AR4 Global Warming Potential (GWP) values) to comply with United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) guidelines that now require the use of GWP values from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s Fifth Assessment Report (AR5). These changes will be reflected in actual data from 2022 onward. EPA continues to partner with operators making ambitious voluntary commitments to methane emission mitigation and transparency through the Methane Challenge Partnership. For more information, see <u>EPA's Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gases and Sinks</u>.

Other Core Work

Annual performance goals:

(PM CRT) Number of certificates of conformity issued that demonstrate that the respective engine, vehicle, equipment, component, or system conforms to all applicable emission requirements and may be entered into commerce.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target	5,000	5,000	4,700	4,700	4,900	4,900	Cartificates	Alarra Tanat	
Actual	4,711	4,843	5,351	5,196	4,844	5,185	Certificates	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- The total number of certificates issued by EPA in FY 2024 exceeded the target by 285 certificates.
- The Agency continues to issue vehicle and engine certificates of conformity in a timely manner and is on pace with the number of requests received.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the number of certificates of conformity issued each year. The Clean Air Act requires that engines, vehicles, equipment, components, or systems receive a certificate of conformity which demonstrates compliance with the applicable requirements prior to introduction into U.S. commerce. EPA reviews all submitted requests and issues certificates of conformity when the manufacturer demonstrates compliance with all applicable requirements. This measure illustrates the Agency's annual certification workload. The number of certification requests is determined by the manufacturers' product planning and will fluctuate from year to year. EPA strives to issue vehicle and engine certificates of conformity in a timely manner and on pace with the numbers of requests received.

(PM REP) Percentage of Annual Greenhouse Gas Emission Reports verified by EPA before publication.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				98	98	98	Dancant		
Actual	96	95	99	97	97	96	Above Terret		
Numerator	7,867	7,722	7,935	7,877	7,891	7,823	Demonto	Above Target	
Denominator	8,165	8,126	8,029	8,141	8,130	8,115	Reports		

Key Takeaways:

• The Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP) has consistently maintained a high percentage of verified reports prior to annual publication. While the Agency did not meet the ambitious target in FY 2024, the result is in line with program expectations and will help advance the Agency's understanding of GHG emissions.

Metric Details: The <u>GHGRP</u>, established in 2009, covers 41 sectors that account for more than 8,100 reports summarizing annual GHG emissions and supply. Both facilities and suppliers are required to report their data annually by March 31. After submission of the data, EPA conducts a verification review that lasts approximately 150 days and includes a combination of electronic checks, staff review, and follow-up with facilities to identify potential reporting errors that are corrected before publication. The 150-day period includes

60 days for the Agency to review reports and identify potential data quality issues, 75 days for reporters to resolve these issues, and 15 days for EPA to review responses or resubmitted reports. EPA typically publishes the data by early October each year. These data support federal and state-level policy development and allow EPA to share GHG emissions and supply data with industry stakeholders, state and local governments, academia, the research community, and the public in general. There are no targets in FYs 2019-2021 because this measure was not included in these EPA Annual Performance Plans.

(PM	(RD3)	Percentage of ORD	climate-related	research	products	meeting pa	rtner needs.
•					1		

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				93	94	94	Democrat		
Actual				100	100	88	Percent	Alexan Tanat	
Numerator				1	25	7	Duaduata	Above Target	
Denominator				1	25	8	Products		

Key Takeaways:

- Met partner needs for 88 percent of climate-related research products included in the annual partner satisfaction assessment. Of the eight climate-related products that were surveyed, seven were found to meet the needs of EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) partners. One of the seven products evaluated lost points under quality and usability indicators and narrowly missed the threshold used for determining whether a product met partner needs.
- Completed the <u>Biofuels and the Environment: Third Triennial Report to Congress</u> that scored very high with ORD partners and received 100 percent response rate of those surveyed. The data provided by respondents highlights the positive trend that meaningful engagement during the products development has on the products usability.
- ORD delivered 14 climate-related research products to partners in FY 2024. Though this number has trended downwards, it is expected to increase as additional products are delivered under the FY 2023-2026 Strategic Research Action Plans.

Metric Details: Partner satisfaction is assessed through a robust survey process. The annual survey engages key users of ORD products. Survey respondents assess the scientific rigor of research products (quality), product relevance (usability), and timeliness of product delivery. This measure assesses the subset of ORD's research products specifically related to climate. The FY 2023 numerator and denominator are an extrapolation of the assessment results for a subset of 10 climate products to the total number of products delivered. Beginning in FY 2024, the denominator represents the number of assessed climate products, and the numerator represents the number of assessed climate products that met partner needs.

Objective 1.2: Accelerate Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change Impacts—Deliver targeted assistance to increase the resilience of Tribes, states, territories, and communities to the impacts of climate change.

Performance toward target over time

Number of measures by percent of target achieved

- 100% of target met (G)
- □ 75-99% of target met (Y)



Counts are of measures that exist in FY 2024. Chart does not include measures that previously existed but were eliminated prior to FY 2024.

Most Frequent Climate Impacts and Hazards Addressed by EPA Priority Actions, FY 2022-2024



EPA, in consultation with the Office of Management and Budget, has determined that performance toward this objective is making noteworthy progress.

Summary of progress toward strategic objective:

- Continuing to invest in building adaptive capacity and resilience in the Agency's core work. This is reflected in the 292 priority actions completed in FY 2024, significantly exceeding the target of 105. Significant accomplishments include:
 - Integration of the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee's recommendations into a new Office of Children's Health Protection Climate Adaptation Implementation Plan.
 - Building employees' and partners' ability to address the impacts of climate change by hosting 22 new capacity building events that reached thousands of people in attendance.
 - The National Targeting Center (NTC) in the Agency's Office of Compliance added climate change risk map layers to EPA's <u>Enforcement and Compliance History</u> <u>Online (ECHO) interactive facility map.</u>
 - Expanded site assessments to include newly identified climate vulnerabilities to municipal waste management facilities and waste recycling facilities with a focus on communities located near contaminated or waste management sites.
 - Multiple Agency programs developed language, criteria, and processes to integrate and track climate change adaptation in solicitations and grant programs.
- Provided financial and technical assistance to help tribal, state, community and other partners take action to adapt to climate change.
 - Helped the Navajo Nation develop a climate informed emergency response plan for a Public Water System on Navajo land.
 - Worked with Harris County, TX to develop a management plan for communities in the Houston/Galveston Region that are threatened by climate change-related weather and hydrogeological events that can release toxic waste from older contaminated industrial sites.
 - EPA's Brownfields Program worked with Alameda County, CA to adopt climateconscious building codes, incorporate and encourage multi-modal transit opportunities in redevelopment activities, incorporate green building techniques, incorporate renewable energy development, and install green infrastructure.

Challenges:

• A major FY 2024 challenge was refining measures and approaches to track the outcomes of EPA's climate adaptation projects in communities more effectively.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, implement all priority actions in EPA's Climate Adaptation Action Plan and the 20 National Program and Regional Climate Adaptation Implementation Plans to account for the impacts of the changing climate on human health and the environment.

Annual performance goals that support this long-term performance goal:

(PM AD07) Number of priority actions completed in EPA's Climate Adaptation Action Plan and Program and Regional Implementation Plans.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				100	100	105	Duisuitas Astisus	Altaria Tanat	
Actual				124	174	292	Priority Actions	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- Programs and regions completed 292 priority actions to integrate climate adaptation into EPA operations and mission driven work, including rulemaking, compliance and technical assistance, scientific analysis, and financial assistance programs.
- Internal actions to build programmatic, workforce, and climate resiliency continue to be a priority.
- Since 2022, the focus has shifted from primarily internal process development to advancing more climate resilient programs, grants, and decisions.
- EPA moved to a new tracking system in FY 2024. The improved data quality is reflected in the revised numbers from FY 2022 and FY 2023, which previously were reported as 151 and 177.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the number of priority actions implemented in support of EPA's October 2021 Climate Adaptation Action Plan through the 20 Program and Regional Office Climate Adaptation Implementation Plans. The Action Plan commits EPA to five Priority Actions per year by 10 of EPA's program offices and 10 regional offices. The Implementation Plans identify the Agency's specific Priority Actions to: 1) integrate climate adaptation planning into EPA programs, policies and rulemaking processes; 2) consult and partner with tribes, states, territories, local governments, environmental justice organizations, community groups, businesses and other federal agencies to strengthen adaptive capacity and increase the resilience of the nation, with a particular focus on advancing environmental justice; 3) implement measures to protect the Agency's workforce, facilities, critical infrastructure, supply chains and procurement processes from the risks posed by climate change; and 4) modernize Agency financial assistance programs to encourage climate-resilient investments across the nation.

(PM AD13) Number of capacity building trainings, tools, and events, developed or hosted by EPA, that serve a unique purpose, unique audience, and/or provide new or updated information.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target						27	Actions	A have Target	
Actual					17	39	Actions	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- Tribal, state and local government partners and EPA staff benefit from the scientific knowledge, policy advice, and knowledge transfer provided by EPA hosted climate adaptation capacity building actions.
- There continues to be a significant need for building the knowledge, skills, and abilities of both EPA staff and its partners related to climate change.

GOAL 1: Tackle the Climate Crisis

Metric Details: This measure tracks the cumulative number of climate adaptation capacity building trainings, tools, and events (Climate Capacity Building Actions) developed or hosted by EPA to address how current and future climate impacts should be considered in Agency or delegated program activities. Capacity building can be related to direct program implementation, regulation development, permitting, inspections, enforcement, partnerships, research, grants, loans, or technical assistance. The Climate Capacity Building Actions can be for internal staff or to build joint capacity with EPA's state, local, and tribal co-regulators. The baseline is 17 Climate Capacity Building Actions completed in FY 2022-2023.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, assist at least 400 federally recognized Tribes to take action to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, or recover from the impacts of climate change.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM AD09) Cumulative number of federally recognized tribes assisted by EPA to take action to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, or recover from the impacts of climate change.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				100	150	330	Tribas	A have Target	
Actual				110	260	348	Tribes	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- 348 tribal partners have taken action to increase their adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change with EPA assistance. Tribes not reflected in these results often have lower capacity and are a focus for EPA in FY 2025.
- Partnerships with other agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Department of Energy (DOE), and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) are a critical aspect of improving tribal climate resilience.
- Climate adaptation and climate mitigation efforts are deeply intertwined for tribal nations. Funding for greenhouse gas emissions reduction can be leveraged to build adaptive capacity and resilience.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the cumulative number of federally recognized tribes EPA provides with financial assistance, technical assistance, or training that then take action to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, or recover from the impacts of climate change. Actions may include but are not limited to developing a climate adaptation plan; identifying potential impacts; assessing vulnerability; planning; applying for additional funding; adoption of adaptation measures such as green infrastructure; improved coordination with other key organizations (*e.g.*, a state or federal partner); estimation of financial impacts; or more effective remedy selection in a hazardous waste cleanup program. Beginning in FY 2024, this measure tracks when EPA receives the data rather than being backdated to when the tribal partner took the action. Results are cumulative from a starting value of 0 on September 30, 2021.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, assist at least 550 states, territories, local governments, and communities, especially communities that are underserved and disproportionately at risk from climate change, to take action to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, or recover from the impacts of climate change.⁷

⁷ Changed from "By September 30, 2026, assist at least 450 states, territories, local governments, and communities, especially communities that are underserved and disproportionately at risk from climate change, to take action to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, or recover from the impacts of climate change."

Annual performance goals that support this long-term performance goal:

(PM AD10) Cumulative number of states, territories, local governments, and communities (i.e., EPA partners) assisted by EPA to take action to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, or recover from the impacts of climate change.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				250	300	500	Deutueuu	Alara Tanat	
Actual				242	298	590	Partners	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- Changes to grant programs instituted in FY 2022 and FY 2023 are resulting in an increased number of communities taking action to build adaptive capacity and resilience. EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM) had 26 partner actions taken in FY 2023 and over 250 in FY 2024, mostly driven by the brownfields grant program.
- Partner actions are being taken to address a variety of climate impacts and hazards including an increased risk of floods and drought, economic impacts, sea-level rise, public health consequences, and infrastructure damage or stress. Most partner actions address multiple impacts and hazards rather than being focused on one.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the cumulative number of states, territories, local governments, and communities EPA provides with financial assistance, technical assistance, or training that then take action to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, or recover from the impacts of climate change. Actions may include but are not limited to: developing a climate adaptation plan; identifying potential impacts; assessing vulnerability; planning; applying for additional funding; adoption of adaptation measures such as green infrastructure; improved coordination with other key organizations (*e.g.*, a state or federal partner); estimation of financial impacts; or more effective remedy selection in a hazardous waste cleanup program. Beginning in FY 2024, this measure tracks when EPA receives the data rather than being backdated to when the partner took the action. Results are cumulative from a starting value of 0 on September 30, 2021.

(PM AD11) Number of tribal, state, regional, and/or territorial versions of the Climate Change Adaptation Resource Center (ARC-X) or similar systems universities and other partners, with EPA support, have committed to develop.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				3	6	7	Systems	Alexya Tangat	
Actual				1	7	7	Systems	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

• Due to changes in the way internet searches are conducted, this is no longer a priority.

Metric Details: This measure tracked the cumulative number of <u>ARC-X</u> or similar systems universities, or other parties, have committed to develop to support tribal, state, regional, international, and/or territorial partners. ARC-X is an interactive EPA online resource designed to help local government officials in communities across the United States and internationally anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, and recover from the impacts of climate change. It also is a portal to EPA tools and resources on climate adaptation. ARC-X provides users with an integrated package of information tailored specifically to their needs, based on where they live and the issues of concern to them. The information provided in these resource centers will help communities understand and prepare for the impacts of climate change. In addition, regional or local systems may expand resources to encompass the full breadth of climate adaptation issues, even those beyond EPA's mission. Results are cumulative from a starting value of 0 on September 30, 2021.

(PM AD12) Hours of appropriate subject matter expert time provided by EPA to help communities adapt to climate impacts, build long-term resilience, and support the most underserved and vulnerable communities after federally declared disasters.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				No Target	No Target	No Target	Hauma	NI/A	
Actual				9,763	7,130	5,560	nours	IN/A	

Key Takeaways:

• Ongoing work from Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and the U.S Virgin Islands (2017) continues to be a substantial investment of EPA resources.

- Resources from EPA were required to support new and ongoing disaster recovery efforts. These included efforts to recover from Hurricane Ian, which hit Florida in September 2022, and the FY 2023 wildfires in Hawaii and New Mexico, and will include efforts to recover from Hurricane Helene and Milton in October 2024.
- From January 1, 2024, to November 1, 2024, alone, FEMA declared 58 Fire Management Assistance Declarations, 89 Major Disaster Declarations, and 20 Emergency Management Declarations.

Metric Details: This measure tracks EPA contributions to supporting local communities' efforts to rebuild in a manner that increases community resiliency and adaptive capacity as they recover from federally declared disasters. This does not include cleanup or immediate response activities, but rather supports communities to build back in ways that help anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to climate change. There are no targets for this measure as the number of federally declared disasters where EPA assistance is requested varies by year. As the number of climate disasters increases so do the demands on EPA time to assist in the recovery. Across the country, communities are experiencing more climate impacts, and the communities increasingly look to EPA to ensure safe recovery of communities as they recover and to help the communities become more resilient to future climate-related disasters. The data on the number of hours spent post disaster will help EPA plan for and provide the support communities need to rebuild.

Objective 1.3: Advance International and Subnational Climate Efforts—Collaborate with Tribal, state, local, and international partners and provide leadership on the global stage to address climate change.

Performance toward target over time

Number of measures by percent of target achieved



Counts are of measures that exist in FY 2024. Chart does not include measures that previously existed but were eliminated prior to FY 2024.

Number of Climate Engagements that Result in an Individual Partner Commitment or Action to Reduce GHG Emissions, Adapt to Climate Change, or Improve Resilience in a Manner that Promotes Equity, FY 2022 - 2024



Summary of progress toward strategic objective:

- The U.S. and Canada, alongside Tribal Nations and Indigenous Peoples, formed an 18member Governance Body to address transboundary pollution in the Elk-Kootenai/y watershed. This followed a bilateral agreement to reduce pollution impacts into the tribal watershed, supported by a joint reference to the U.S.-Canada International Joint Commission (IJC).
- EPA spearheaded efforts to address climate change, pollution, and biodiversity across North America, aligning with key environmental justice priorities during its chairmanship of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) in 2023/2024. The Commission launched nine initiatives during this two-year period, including efforts to accelerate climate mitigation, promote equity, and incorporate Indigenous knowledge into environmental protection. The 31st CEC Council Session, chaired by Administrator Regan, brought together government leaders and the public to discuss solutions under the theme "Strengthening Environmental Justice Through Community Empowerment."
- EPA played an integral role in leading the U.S. and international partners' engagement in the International Workshop Agreement on Critical Mineral Supply Chains (IWA 45) in the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the premier global standard setting body. Actions included shaping the final IWA 45 report published in August 2024. The final report includes principles and recommendations for future ISO processes on developing strong environmental, social, and governance sustainability standards for critical mineral supply chains.

Challenges:

• Keeping up with increased commitments as EPA rapidly shifts efforts to align with White House priorities related to country engagement and climate programming.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, implement at least 40 international climate engagements that result in an individual partner commitment or action to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, adapt to climate change, or improve resilience in a manner that promotes equity.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM E13a) Number of climate engagements that result in an individual partner commitment or action to reduce GHG emissions, adapt to climate change, or improve resilience in a manner that promotes equity.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				8	10	10	Encoconta	Abarra Tanaat	
Actual				8	10	11	Engagements	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- On track to meet the Long-Term Performance Goal by the end of FY 2026.
- Examples of engagements include key EPA collaborations in Africa, Latin America, and the U.S.-Mexico border on climate resilience in communities that have demonstrated measurable progress in climate adaptation and resilience, particularly in vulnerable and overburdened communities. For example, though bilateral cooperation and initiatives such as the Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities (EPIC), EPA has collaborated with local governments in various African nations to build the capacity of local governments and communities to address climate resilience and sustainability. Additionally, under EPA's chairmanship of the CEC in 2023-2024, nine initiatives were launched to address climate mitigation, environmental justice, and Indigenous knowledge integration. The 31st CEC Council Session, led by Administrator Regan, emphasized equitable climate solutions and community empowerment.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the number of senior level EPA international actions implemented annually that result in the provision of tools that when utilized by partners can result in equitable GHG emissions reductions, adaptation to climate change, or improvements in resilience. Climate change is a global issue that has far-reaching human health, social, economic, and biodiversity impacts on the planet, with direct adverse effects in the United States. EPA represents the U.S. Government in climate-related multilateral meetings and treaty negotiations, such as the Montreal Protocol, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and G7 and G20 Environment Ministers meetings. EPA also works directly with other countries and stakeholders through bilateral agreements and work plans to share technical expertise, implement capacity building, and help countries address their climate gaps.

Other Core Work

Annual performance goal:

(PM E13b) Number of Border 2025 actions implemented in the U.S.-Mexico Border area to improve water quality, solid waste management and air quality including those that address climate change, and advance emergency response efforts.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				3	10	10	A	Alteres Transat	
Actual				6	10	12	Actions	Above Target	

GOAL 1: Tackle the Climate Crisis

Key Takeaways:

- Conducted trainings for first responders on ammonia and chlorine in multiple sister cities under the Border 2025 program to help prepare U.S. and Mexican border cities, many of which are disadvantaged communities with vulnerable populations, for hazardous material emergencies they may face.
- EPA and the Mexican Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) hosted a two-part webinar series on scrap tire management that outlined state policies and regulations in Mexico and highlighted innovative projects and case studies for scrap tire reuse. Scrap tires pose an enduring risk to public health and the environment on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border and remain a high priority for interested parties throughout the region.

Metric Details: This measure tracks EPA actions to provide tools and capacity building activities that when utilized by partners can result in improved water quality, solid waste management and air quality. These include actions to address climate change and advance emergency response efforts along the two-thousand-mile border between the United States and Mexico.

Goal 2 at a Glance

Take Decisive Action to Advance Environmental Justice and Civil Rights: Achieve tangible progress for historically overburdened and underserved communities and ensure the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income in developing and implementing environmental laws, regulations and policies.



FY 2024 Enacted Budget (in thousands) by goal and objective



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Objective 2.1: Promote Environmental Justice and Civil Rights at the Federal, Tribal, State and Local Levels—*Empower and build capacity* of underserved and overburdened communities to protect human health and the environment.

Performance toward target over time

Number of measures by percent of target achieved



Counts are of measures that exist in FY 2024. Chart does not include measures that previously existed but were eliminated prior to FY 2024.

Percentage of Required Civil Rights Procedural Safeguard Elements Implemented by State Permitting Agencies that are Recipients of EPA Financial Assistance, FY 2022 - 2024



Summary of progress toward strategic objective:

- Deployed multiple grant and technical assistance programs, including Thriving Community Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs) and the Environmental and Climate Justice Program (ECJ). Processed 247 grants in FY 2024.
- Increased engagement through monthly <u>National EJ Community Engagement</u> calls and outreach efforts through the Environmental Justice (EJ) Listserv. EJ Listserv membership has increased from 14,443 to 17,619 subscribers.
- State agency recipients of EPA financial assistance implemented 57 additional required civil rights procedural safeguards elements.
- <u>EPA's Tribal Direct Implementation Center of Excellence</u> continues to ensure implementation of federal environmental laws in Indian Country is as robust as elsewhere. EPA retains regulatory program implementation responsibilities for approximately 95% of federal environmental programs in Indian Country.
- Issued Supplemental Guidance on Providing Waste Data in <u>Indian Environmental General</u> <u>Assistance Program (GAP)</u> Progress Reports to assist tribes in calculating and reporting waste management data.
- A significant level of EPA direct implementation in Indian country regulatory data and information is now available to tribes and the public on a per tribe, tribal boundary basis in EPA's Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) interactive facility map.
- EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) launched the <u>Equitable Resilience</u> <u>Builder</u> and carried out more than 47 virtual and in-person briefings, demos, presentations, and trainings, reaching over 1,600 individuals to raise awareness of EPA's research capabilities.

Challenges:

- Navigating complex new grant programs and ensuring programs meet procurement and grant regulations.
- Hiring sufficient staff across all headquarters and regional environmental justice units to support the implementation of all financial and technical assistance programs.
- Tribes need additional resources to build long-term capacity to protect health and the environment.
- The Agency faces technical and funding hurdles as it works to make the locations of all facilities covered by EPA direct implementation authority available on a single Agency web site.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, all EPA programs that seek feedback and comment from the public will provide capacity-building resources to communities with environmental justice concerns to support their ability to meaningfully engage and provide useful feedback to those programs.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM EJCR01) Percentage of EPA programs and regional offices that provide capacity-building resources to communities with environmental justice concerns to improve how the public's feedback and comments inform the Agency's decision-making process.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target					25	50	Doroont		No Trand Data
Actual					N/A	27	A have Target	No Trend Data	
Numerator						7	Programs and	ograms and Above Target	
Denominator						26	Regions		

Key Takeaways:

- Missed target due to delays in hiring new staff for EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR), which led to challenges in program implementation.
- Developed implementation guidance, reporting tools, and learning resources to support this work across the Agency.
- 140 communities were provided with capacity-building resources from the five EPA regions and two program offices that reported.
- Hosted bi-monthly office hours to facilitate co-learning, continuous improvement, and best practices among EPA programs and regional offices providing capacity-building resources.
- EPA staff in programs and regional offices are developing intentional learning objectives that focus on skill-building so communities can apply, analyze, and evaluate the topic at hand.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the percentage of EPA national program sub-offices (those that regularly seek feedback from the public) and regional offices that provide capacity-building resources to communities with environmental justice concerns. The purpose of the measure is to improve how the public's feedback and comments inform the Agency's decision-making process. A qualifying capacity-building resource is a product designed to develop or strengthen skills and abilities on the topic as it relates to EPA's programs/policies/activities (*e.g.*, training, workshops, handbooks, train-the-trainer sessions, dedicated technical assistance programs, grants). Simple knowledge transfer or providing information resources does not qualify for this measure.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, include commitments to address disproportionate impacts in all written agreements between EPA and Tribes and states (e.g., grant work plans) implementing delegated authorities.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM EJCR04) Percentage of new grant workplans submitted by states that include commitments to address disproportionate impacts.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target					5	25	Doroont	A h T	No Trend Data
Actual					N/A	N/A	Percent		
Numerator							New Grant	Above Target	
Denominator							Workplans		

Key Takeaways:

• In FY 2024, EPA decided not to pursue this annual performance goal.

Metric Details: This measure tracked the percentage of new grant workplans submitted by states in performance partnership agreements/performance partnership grants (PPAs/PPGs) that included commitments to address disproportionate impacts.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, EPA programs with direct implementation authority will take at least 100 significant actions that will result in measurable improvements in Indian country.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM E21) Number of significant actions taken by EPA programs with direct implementation authority that will result in measurable improvements in Indian country.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				No Target	25	20	Significant	A have Target	
Actual				25	25	14	Actions	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

• Missed target due to challenges including more complex data systems such as Underground Storage Tank (UST) Finder that require more time to integrate.

- Increased staffing for the Tribal Direct Implementation (DI) Center of Excellence with EPA Region 9. The Center is focused on direct implementation activities in all EPA programs and regions, facilitating the Agency's efforts to identify best practices, promote uniformity, and add efficiency across EPA when performing direct implementation activities in Indian country. Work highlights include completion of a tribal DI baseline survey of 30 EPA programs.
- EPA continues to make progress in making multiple statute direct implementation regulatory data and information available to tribes and the public at a sole web location. Most actions in FY 2024 focused on ensuring that data systems in the Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) system- allow for tracking EPA regulated facilities in Indian country by tribe. Now, 17 of 25 targeted data systems integrated into ECHO have that capability.

Metric Details: This measure tracks number of significant actions by EPA direct implementation programs that will assist EPA in meeting federal trust responsibilities and provide for equitable program implementation in Indian country. There are four significant defined actions for each of 25 identified programs. Significant actions are those actions taken on an annualized basis by an EPA program to achieve four significant direct implementation program priorities: 1) training on direct implementation for EPA staff; 2) contributing to an Agency direct implementation report identifying barriers and making recommendations; 3) making EPA direct implementation federal facility and entity data available from a single, across media, public facing location; and 4) identifying actions taken to improve EPA direct implementation and progress made to remove direct implementation barriers.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, all state recipients of EPA financial assistance will have foundational civil rights programs in place.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM EJCR06) Percentage of required civil rights procedural safeguard elements implemented by state permitting agencies that are recipients of EPA financial assistance.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				20	40	70	Danaant		
Actual				33	58	72	Percent	A have Terrest	
Numerator				138	236	293	Elamanta	Above Target	
Denominator				408	408	408	Elements		

Key Takeaways:

- Released the <u>Civil Rights Guidance on Procedural Safeguards: Requirements and Best Practices</u> to assist EPA financial recipients in proactively addressing areas for developing and improving civil rights compliance.
- State agency recipients implemented 57 additional procedural safeguards elements during FY 2024.
- Twenty state agency recipients showed implementation of all the procedural safeguards elements reviewed, with another six state agency recipients needing to implement only one more procedural safeguard element to have full implementation.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the percentage of civil rights procedural safeguards elements implemented by state recipients of EPA financial assistance, calculated as the percentage of required civil rights procedural safeguards elements (8) implemented by state environmental permitting agencies that are recipients of EPA financial assistance (51) by using the denominator of 408 (51 x 8). The numerator is the total number of civil rights procedural safeguards elements implemented in aggregate by state environmental permitting agencies.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, increase by 40% the number of Office of Research and Development (ORD) activities related to environmental justice that involve or are applicable to Tribes, states, territories, local governments, and communities.

Annual performance goals that support this long-term performance goal:

(PM RD2) Number of ORD activities related to environmental justice that involve or are designed to be applicable to Tribes, states, territories, local governments, and communities.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	ł
Target				No Target	113	113	Activities	Abarra Tangat	
Actual				N/A	117	159	Activities	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

• Several ORD environmental justice-related research activities for the FY 2023-2026 research cycle are in progress and will be counted upon completion near the end of FY 2026.

GOAL 2: Take Decisive Action to Advance Environmental Justice and Civil Rights

• The ORD EJ Council sponsored (or collaboratively co-sponsored) six webinars for Agency staff to advance equity and environmental justice in EPA research through Agencywide dialogue and opportunities to build collaborations. For example, the Council co-sponsored "We Birthed the Movement: A Panel Discussion with Community Members," that was moderated by Charles Lee, OEJECR Senior Policy Advisor for Environmental Justice. During this panel event, community members shared their experiences about the events that occurred in Warren County, NC prior to, during, and after the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) landfill protests in 1982 that spurred the environmental justice movement.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the number of completed environmental justice-related ORD activities that involved communities or are designed to be applicable to tribes, states, territories, local governments, and communities with environmental justice concerns. ORD activities related to environmental justice are any actions, projects, research, tool development, training, etc. that are funded or conducted by ORD and intended to help inform and/or reach the goal of environmental justice as defined by EPA. An activity is considered to involve a tribe, state, territory, local government, or community if ORD engages with or consults the affected entity (or entities) on the specific activity. An activity is considered to be applicable to a tribe, state, territory, local government, or community if the results of the activity may be directly for or used by the entity (or entities) and/or be used in decisions affecting communities or otherwise have potential to benefit a community (or communities) with environmental justice concerns. The FY 2019-2022 baseline was established as 324 environmental justice-related ORD activities and included environmental justice-related research products, regional projects, technical assistance requests, workshops/webinars/trainings, and grants. The goal is a 40 percent increase, or 454 total environmental justice-related ORD activities over FY 2023-2026. The annual targets for FY 2023-2026 are 113 environmental justice activities/year).

(PM RD4)	Percentage of ORD	environmental justice-	-related research prod	ucts meeting partner needs.
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		J	1	81

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				93	94	94	Dancant		
Actual				100	100	88	Percent	Altarea Transat	
Numerator				1	3	7	Duaduata	Above Target	
Denominator				1	3	8	Products		

Key Takeaways:

- Met partner needs for 88 percent of environmental justice-related research products that were included in the annual partner satisfaction assessment. Of the eight environmental justice-related products that were surveyed, seven were found to meet the needs of ORD partners. One of the seven products evaluated lost points under quality and usability indicators and narrowly missed the threshold used for determining whether a product met partner needs.
- ORD has increased the number of environmental justice-related research products assessed and will continue to do so as it implements the <u>FY 2023-2026 Strategic Research</u> <u>Action Plans</u>.

Metric Details: Partner satisfaction is assessed through a robust survey process. The annual survey engages key users of ORD products. Survey respondents assess the scientific rigor of research products (quality), product relevance (usability), and timeliness of product delivery. This measure assesses a subset of ORD's research products specifically related to environmental justice. The denominator represents the number of assessed environmental justice-related products, and the numerator represents the number of assessed environmental justice-related products that met partner needs.

Objective 2.2: Embed Environmental Justice and Civil Rights into EPA's Programs, Policies, and Activities—Integrate environmental justice and civil rights in all the Agency's work to maximize benefits and minimize impacts to underserved and overburdened communities.

Performance toward target over time

Number of measures by percent of target achieved



Counts are of measures that exist in FY 2024. Chart does not include measures that previously existed but were eliminated prior to FY 2024.

Summary of progress toward strategic objective:

- Publicly released the <u>Achieving Health and Environmental Protection Through EPA's</u> <u>Meaningful Engagement Policy</u>. To do this, EPA used the Action Development Process to ensure agencywide engagement.
- Coordinated development of the Environmental Justice (EJ) Strategic Plan under Executive Order 14096 and the EPA Equity Action Plan.
- Developed an <u>interim (draft) cumulative impacts framework</u> to provide EPA programs and regions with the foundation for integrating cumulative impacts approaches into their work.
- Provided conflict prevention and resolution services to support facilitation and mediation for more than 150 active projects nationwide, which is the highest usage the Agency has reported in the past six years.
- Each of the 10 EPA regions and 11 headquarters offices developed FY 2024 Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (EJECR) Implementation Plans to advance EJECR work under Goal 2 of the *FY 2022-2026 EPA Strategic Plan*.
- Conducted over 50 training sessions on the use of environmental justice and equity mapping and screening tools (including EPA's <u>EJScreen</u> and the <u>Climate and Economic</u> <u>Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)</u>) reaching over 5,000 stakeholders, both internal and external to EPA.
- Developed a robust EJScreen website to better reach geospatial tool users and allow for training and knowledge transfer opportunities to the widest array of EPA environmental justice geospatial tool users.

Challenges:

- EPA has not yet reached sufficient staffing levels in headquarters and regional EJ units, leading to delays in implementing several program priorities.
- Developing an agencywide <u>Meaningful Engagement Policy</u> required a broad approach to ensure that the information aligned with EPA program and regional requirements, perspectives, and goals. This meant that the policy needed to be tailored to meet different program and decision contexts within allotted resources.
- Developing resources and tools to implement cross-agency performance goals has remained a challenge due to competing priorities.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, reduce disparities in environmental and public health conditions represented by the indicators identified through the FY 2022-2023 Agency Priority Goal.

For FY 2024 and FY 2025, progress on this Long-Term Performance Goal is tracked under the Agency Priority Goal (APG) "Implement guidance, tools, and metrics for EPA and its Tribal, state, local, and community partners to advance environmental justice and external civil rights compliance."

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, 80% of significant EPA actions with environmental justice implications will clearly demonstrate how the action is responsive to environmental justice concerns and reduces or otherwise addresses disproportionate adverse impacts.⁸

Annual performance goals that support this long-term performance goal:

(PM EJCR08) Percentage of significant EPA actions with environmental justice implications that respond to environmental justice concerns and reduce or address disproportionate adverse impacts.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target					40	50	Danaant		No Troud Data
Actual					N/A	72	Percent	A hove Terget	No Trend Data
Numerator						21	Astions	Above Target	
Denominator						29	Actions		

Key Takeaways:

- Established a cross-agency workgroup to develop implementation guidance, resources, and the reporting mechanism to track this measure.
- Launched the measure in April 2024 and gathered data for the entire fiscal year.
- EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR) worked with EPA's Office of Water (OW) and other national programs to develop the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) is the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation, first promulgated in 1991, that requires actions by public water systems to reduce levels of lead and copper in drinking water. This final rule advances the requirements of drinking water systems across the country to identify and replace lead pipes within 10 years. The LCRI also strengthens EPA's communication within communities so that families are better informed about the risk of lead in drinking water, the location of lead pipes, and plans for replacing them.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the percentage of actions (rules) determined to be significant under the Executive Order on Regulatory Review (EO 12866) as amended by EO 14094, Modernizing Regulatory Planning and Review. The Office of Policy's Office of Regulatory Policy and Management's (OP-ORPM) EPA Action Management System (EAMS) database is used to determine the denominator for this measure. Responding to environmental justice concerns means acknowledging the concerns in the written decision or final regulation and, wherever feasible, including terms, conditions, mitigation, monitoring, regulatory requirements, etc. that are responsive to the concerns expressed by communities and/or issues identified through environmental justice analysis. Reducing or addressing disproportionate adverse impacts in the final action means including an explanation for how the action reduces and/or mitigates disproportionality associated with cumulative threats to public health and environmental quality.

⁸ Changed from "By September 30, 2026, 80% of significant EPA actions with environmental justice implications will clearly demonstrate how the action is responsive to environmental justice concerns and reduces or otherwise addresses disproportionate adverse impacts."

GOAL 2: Take Decisive Action to Advance Environmental Justice and Civil Rights

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target					50	75	Demoent	Abassa Tanaat	No Trend Data
Actual					N/A	N/A	Percent		
Numerator							Duo quo una	Above Target	
Denominator							Programs		

(PM EJCR09) Percentage of EPA programs that have developed guidance on the use of environmental justice and equity screening tools.

Key Takeaways:

- Deprioritized this annual performance goal in FY 2024 to focus on advancing important EJScreen updates and to train internal and external stakeholders on using environmental justice and equity screening tools.
- Provided Geographic Information System (GIS) practitioners, non-GIS professionals, and key stakeholders with the knowledge and expertise to integrate environmental justice and equity screening tools into their work streams, to enhance projects with geographic context and to inform better decision-making.
- EJScreen tool updates and training supported Agency efforts for developing guidance documents and best practices, and for using retrospective reports to demonstrate how Agency actions are responsive to environmental justice concerns.

Metric Details: This measure tracked the percentage of EPA national program sub-offices that developed written guidance on the use of environmental justice and equity screening tools within their programmatic context. Screening tools (*e.g.*, EJScreen, CEJST) provide geospatial information about potential environmental, public health, and equity issues in underserved and overburdened communities.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, all EPA programs that work in and with communities will do so in ways that are community-driven, coordinated and collaborative, support equitable and resilient community development, and provide for meaningful involvement and fair treatment of communities with environmental justice concerns.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM EJCR19) Percentage of EPA national programs and regions that have created a new meaningful engagement plan for a specific Agency project or decision with potential impacts in communities with environmental justice concerns.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target						45	Doroont		No Trand Data
Actual						8	Percent	Above Target	No Trend Data
Numerator						2	Programs and		
Denominator						26	Regions		

Key Takeaways:

- Missed target due to delays in hiring new staff for OEJECR and challenges with program implementation, which led to postponing the measure launch until late in the fiscal year.
- Developed implementation guidance and reporting tools to support piloting this measure across the Agency.
- Hosted bi-monthly office hours to facilitate co-learning, continuous improvement, and best practices.

• Developed an optional meaningful engagement plan template that programs and regions can use when planning activities to seek public input on a specific Agency action. Provided professional public participation practitioner contract services to coach EPA staff in developing plans.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the percentage of EPA national program sub-offices and regional offices that create new meaningful engagement plans for a specific Agency project or decision with potential impacts in communities with environmental justice concerns. When seeking ideas, input, feedback, and recommendations from the public to influence a project or decision, national program sub-offices and regional divisions should develop a meaningful engagement plan. A meaningful engagement plan identifies the components of a well-designed process to involve the public in the Agency's decision-making from planning the process, to designing and implementing communication materials and involvement activities, to showing how the public influenced the project or decision. Qualifying plans will be tailored to fit the need and scale of a particular project or decision.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, all EPA programs and regions will identify and implement areas and opportunities to integrate environmental justice considerations and achieve civil rights compliance in their planning, guidance, policy directives, monitoring, and review activities.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM EJCR13) Percentage of EPA national programs and regions that have established environmental justice and external civil rights implementation plans.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	-
Target					100	100	Percent Programs and Regions	- Above Target	
Actual					100	100			
Numerator					17	21			
Denominator					17	21			

Key Takeaways:

- Four additional EPA offices developed FY 2024 EJECR Implementation Plans (IPs).
- For continuous improvement, EPA updated the EJECR IP templates to better align with Agency priorities and established performance measures to capture quantitative and qualitative progress. These improvements also allowed for centralized tracking of EJ and external civil rights work.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the percentage of EPA national program and regional offices that have established annual EJECR IPs and are tracking progress on commitments. OEJECR provides guidance on agencywide focus areas for environmental justice integration and external civil rights compliance to include in EJECR IPs on an annual basis.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, all EPA programs and regions will implement program and region-specific language assistance plans.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				30	35	60	Percent Programs and Regions	Above Target	
Actual				0	5	11			
Numerator				0	1	2			
Denominator				23	19	19			

(PM EJCR14) Percentage of EPA programs and regions that have implemented program and region-specific language assistance plans.

Key Takeaways:

• Missed target due to challenges in program implementation and staff vacancies. In Q3 of FY 2024, EPA hired a Limited English Proficiency-External Disability Access National Program Manager, who has assisted in making progress on this cross-agency measure.

- Developed a regional and a headquarters office sample language access plan (LAP) and a standard operating procedure on demographic analysis for providing meaningful access to individuals with LEP to assist regions and headquarters offices in developing their LAPs.
- One additional EPA headquarters office finalized and implemented their LAP, and at least nine more regional and headquarters office LAPs are in various stages of review, with plans for implementation in FY 2025.
- Provided training and technical assistance on the development of LAPs and conducting demographic and four-factor analysis. A demographic analysis identifies predominant language(s) in a target area. A four-factor analysis, as described in the <u>Department of Justice LEP Guidance</u>, provides the mix of LEP services required based on the analysis.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the percentage of EPA headquarters (9) and regional offices (10) that develop and implement plans and procedures, consistent with EPA Order 1000.32, "Compliance with Executive Order 13166: Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency." The Order outlines necessary steps the Agency will take to provide meaningful language access to persons with limited English proficiency. Program and regional office plans and procedures will ensure that every EPA community outreach and engagement activity considers the needs of community members with limited English proficiency and that EPA secures the language services necessary to provide "meaningful access" to EPA programs and activities for individuals with limited English proficiency.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, all EPA programs and regions will implement program and region-specific disability access plans.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM EJCR15) Percentage of EPA programs and regions that have implemented program and region-specific disability access plans.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target					No Target	10	Percent Programs and	Above Target	No Trend Data
Actual					0	0			
Numerator					0	0			
Denominator					19	19	Regions		

Key Takeaways:

- Missed target due to challenges in program implementation and staff vacancy. In Q3 of FY 2024, EPA hired a Limited English Proficiency-External Disability Access National Program Manager, which will assist in making progress on this cross-agency measure in FY 2025.
- EPA plans to develop an External Disability Directive, policies, and procedures, and to start the development of an external disability access model plan to be used by EPA regions and headquarters offices in FY 2025.
- A workgroup has been established that includes External Disability Access Representatives (EDARs) from each region and program along with EPA's disability experts to assist in developing the external disability access program, directive, model plan, and other program components to address identified barriers, and needs, and develop a program strategy.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the percentage of EPA headquarters (9) and regional offices (10) that develop and implement plans and procedures, consistent with guidance and an EPA Order to be issued in FY 2025 to ensure meaningful access to EPA programs and activities for persons with disabilities. Program and regional office plans and procedures will ensure every EPA community outreach and engagement activity considers the needs of persons with disabilities and that EPA provides persons with disabilities reasonable accommodations and appropriate auxiliary aids and services where necessary so they may effectively participate in Agency programs and activities.

Objective 2.3: Strengthen Civil Rights Enforcement in Communities with Environmental Justice Concerns—*Strengthen enforcement of and compliance with civil rights laws to address the legacy of pollution in overburdened communities.*

Performance toward target over time

Number of measures by percent of target achieved



Counts are of measures that exist in FY 2024. Chart does not include measures that previously existed but were eliminated prior to FY 2024.

Number of Information Sharing Session and Outreach and Technical Assistance Events Held With Overburdened and Underserved Communities and EJ Advocacy Groups on Civil Rights and EJ Issues, FY 2022 - 2024



Summary of progress toward strategic objective:

- Delivered 1,099 information sharing, outreach, and technical assistance activities with overburdened and underserved communities and environmental justice advocacy groups on external civil rights and environmental justice issues.
- Provided facilitation services for four cases under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to support the inclusion of all parties in the development of Informal Resolution Agreements between EPA and the recipients of Title VI complaints.
- Released the <u>Civil Rights Guidance on Procedural Safeguards: Requirements and Best</u> <u>Practices</u> to assist EPA financial recipients in proactively addressing areas for developing and improving civil rights compliance.
- Completed 17 post-award audits to ensure EPA financial assistance recipients are complying with federal civil rights laws.
- Entered into 146 six-month agreements to correct deficiencies for EPA financial assistance recipients under the revised Pre-Award Form 4700 review process, with 143 successfully completed.

Challenges:

• EPA continues to receive historic numbers of complaints: 44 in FY 2024. This has resulted in continued delays in the initiation of additional compliance reviews.
Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, initiate 45 proactive post-award civil rights compliance reviews to address discrimination issues in environmentally overburdened and underserved communities.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM EJCR16) Number of proactive post-award civil rights compliance reviews initiated to address discrimination issues in environmentally overburdened and underserved communities.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	Λ
Target				3	6	4	Compliance	Abaya Tanaat	•
Actual	1	1	0	1	0	0	Reviews	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- Initiated no new civil rights compliance reviews in FY 2024 due to ongoing resource limitations and receipt of a record number of civil rights complaints.
- Targeting 3-6 compliance reviews for initiation in FY 2025 in anticipation of additional resources. EPA onboarded four new staff members in the last half of FY 2024 and anticipates a maximum four more in early FY 2025.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the annual number of EPA's civil rights enforcement efforts through annual affirmative civil rights compliance reviews of EPA funding recipients targeting critical environmental health and quality of life impacts in overburdened communities.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, complete 305 audits to ensure EPA financial assistance recipients are complying with nondiscrimination program procedural requirements.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM EJCR17) Number of audits completed to ensure EPA financial assistance recipients are complying with federal civil rights laws.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				25	30	30	A	Alara Tanat	
Actual			0	0	1	17	Audits	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- Missed target due to resource limitations. EPA on-boarded and utilized contractors to assist in conducting post-award audits, which resulted in an increase in the number of audits initiated and completed.
- Initiated 19 and completed 17 post-award audits in FY 2024 as the audit process emerged from its preliminary phase to commence in earnest in the second quarter of FY 2024.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the annual number of post-award audits of Form 4700-4 forms completed to ensure EPA financial assistance recipients have in place foundational nondiscrimination program requirements as required by federal law and EPA's nondiscrimination regulation.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, complete 84 information sharing sessions and outreach and technical assistance events with overburdened and underserved communities and environmental justice advocacy groups on civil rights and environmental justice issues.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM EJCR18) Number of information sharing sessions and outreach and technical assistance events held with overburdened and underserved communities and environmental justice advocacy groups on civil rights and environmental justice issues.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				8	90	650	Sessions and	Alara Tanat	
Actual			40	30	235	1,334	Events	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- With a significant increase in staffing levels, the number of communities and environmental justice advocacy groups being provided information, outreach and technical assistance continues to increase exponentially.
- The increase in engagement has resulted in the Agency having more opportunities to not only share information, but to listen to communities to better understand and address their priorities and concerns. This work aligns with and supports other performance goals focused on planning for meaningful community engagement and for building community capacity.

Metric Details: Starting in FY 2022, this measure tracks the cumulative number of engagements by EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR) with overburdened and underserved communities and environmental justice advocacy groups on civil rights and/or environmental justice issues with impacts on communities with environmental justice concerns. This outreach will help the Agency to better identify concerns and priorities for EPA's civil rights and environmental justice work. This also allows for increased capacity-building and meaningful engagement opportunities for communities with environmental justice concerns.

GOAL 3: Enforce Environmental Laws and Ensure Compliance

Goal 3 at a Glance

Enforce Environmental Laws and Ensure Compliance: Improve compliance with the nation's environmental laws and hold violators accountable.



FY 2024 Enacted Budget (in thousands) by goal and objective

Objective 3.1: Hold Environmental Violators and Responsible Parties Accountable—Use vigorous and targeted civil and criminal enforcement to ensure accountability for violations and to clean up contamination.



Counts are of measures that exist in FY 2024. Chart does not include measures that previously existed but were eliminated prior to FY 2024.

Summary of progress toward strategic objective:

Combatting Climate Change

- EPA's <u>Mitigating Climate Change National Enforcement and Compliance Initiative</u> concluded 19 oil and gas cases, resulting in ~1.8B lbs. carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) and >73M lbs. volatile organic compounds (VOCs) reduced, and ~\$72M in penalties.
- Developed a <u>national hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) enforcement program</u>: Concluded nine HFC illegal importation cases and prevented entry of 37 shipments containing illegal HFCs. In total, this equated to >739M lbs. of CO₂e reduced.
- Concluded three civil landfill cases reducing ~194M lbs. CO₂e of methane emissions. *Strengthening Enforcement to Advance Environmental Justice (EJ) Goals*
- Concluded 1,851 civil judicial and administrative cases, the highest number of conclusions since 2017, with over 50% addressing facilities in areas with potential EJ concerns.
- Civil actions in small, overburdened, and vulnerable communities resulted in ~\$3.3B in injunctive relief, ~\$1.6B in penalties, and ~230M lbs. of pollution and waste reduced.
- Concluded 199 Safe Drinking Water Act actions, securing safe water for ~10M people, with 12 emergency orders protecting >21k people in small or overburdened communities.
- Resolved nine Federal Facility Agreement disputes to expedite Comprehensive Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) cleanups at sites affecting overburdened and vulnerable communities.

Strong Enforcement Results

- Civil actions: ~\$5.03B in injunctive relief, ~\$1.7B in penalties and ~931M bs. of pollution and waste reduced. Criminal Actions: >\$26M in fines/restitution, ~\$750k in court-ordered environmental projects, and forfeiture of ~\$322K in illegal proceeds; filed charges against 121 defendants, the highest number in the last five years.
- Secured CERCLA response and cost recovery commitments of almost \$1.16B (>\$11.7M from redevelopers).

Protecting Human Health Through Addressing Lead Exposures

• <u>Signed two</u> Memoranda of Understanding with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to support EJ and Children's Health commitments in EPA's Lead Strategy and EPA's Strategic Plan.

Challenges:

- Delays in promotions/new hire processing leave extended vacancies, reducing inspectors in the field and hindering knowledge transfer before departures.
- Complex cases (*e.g.*, national companies or large, multi-process facilities) often take longer.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, reduce to not more than 93 the number of open civil judicial cases more than 2.5 years old without a complaint filed.

Annual performance goals that support this long-term performance goal:

(PM 436) Number of open civil judicial cases more than 2.5 years old without a complaint filed.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target	129	120	99	99	96	95	Casa	Dalam Tanat	
Actual	94	74	66	65	50	57	Cases	Below Target	

Key Takeaways:

• EPA and the Department of Justice (DOJ) continue to move the most challenging civil judicial cases toward resolution in a timely manner, thereby returning violators to compliance more quickly and increasing pounds of pollutants reduced and pounds of waste managed. Case teams incorporate best practices into case docket reviews (*e.g.*, preparation of case status updates prior to docket reviews) to ensure timely case conclusion. Likewise, managers promote the use of docket best practices with their case teams. Today, the number of open civil judicial cases more than 2.5 years old without a complaint filed is more than 55 percent lower than in 2018, when the measure was initiated.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the number of all open civil judicial cases that are more than 2.5 years old without a complaint filed, excluding Superfund, bankruptcy, collection action, and access order cases. By measuring and highlighting the amount of time from the referral of an enforcement case to DOJ, to its conclusion, the Agency hopes to reduce the time by which violation(s) alleged in the case are corrected. Data are tracked in the Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS). The average time from referral to complaint filed between FY 2013 and FY 2017 was 2.5 years. The baseline for this measure is 129 cases that were more than 2.5 years old without a complaint filed as of June 30, 2018.

(PM 434) Millions of pounds of pollutants and waste reduced, treated, or eliminated through concluded enforcement actions.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target	325	325	325	325	325	No Target	Millions of	Altaria Tanaat	
Actual	347	2,058	7,864	195	1,214	931	Pounds	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- Two cases, Greenidge Generation LLC and Marathon Oil Company, accounted for approximately 73 percent of the FY 2024 total. Greenidge Generation LLC is an electrical generating plant in Dresden, New York that burns natural gas to generate electricity and Marathon Oil Company is a petroleum company in Houston, Texas.
- Results in any given year are dependent on actual case outcomes, which are variable and difficult to predict. Annual totals are often influenced by a few large cases (*e.g.*, in FY 2021, the exceptionally high result was due to the U.S. Magnesium case which accounted for approximately 90 percent of the total pounds of pollutants reduced, treated, or eliminated that year).

Metric Details: This measure combines estimated pounds of air, water, hazardous and non-hazardous waste, and toxics/pesticides pollutants reduced, treated, or eliminated through concluded enforcement actions. This measure has no targets beginning in FY 2024, as results are dependent on the settlement of a small number of cases which are difficult to predict.

Objective 3.2: Detect Violations and Promote Compliance—Ensure high levels of compliance with federal environmental laws and regulations through effective compliance tools -- including inspections, other monitoring activities, and technical assistance supported by evidence and advanced technologies.

Performance toward target over time

Number of measures by percent of target achieved



Counts are of measures that exist in FY 2024. Chart does not include measures that previously existed but were eliminated prior to FY 2024.

Summary of progress toward strategic objective:

Inspections

- Increased the number of onsite inspections to >8,500, over a 9% increase from FY 2023.
- Over 53% of onsite inspections were at facilities that affect communities with potential environmental justice concerns, exceeding the target of 50%.
- Continued rebuilding the inspector cadre by creating an Inspector Community of Practice and ensured >10,000 participants completed inspector training.
- Led or accompanied states, territories, or tribes that have been approved to implement and enforce the public water system program on nearly 240 onsite inspections and performed offsite compliance monitoring at around 130 community water systems.

National Enforcement and Compliance Initiatives (NECIs)

- The <u>Reducing Air Toxics in Overburdened Communities NECI</u> used advanced monitoring tools to conduct 184 inspections in 27 specific overburdened and vulnerable communities.
- The <u>Addressing Exposure to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) NECI</u> completed 11 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) investigations at large PFAS manufacturing facilities and six oversight actions for Federal Facility Agreements.
- The <u>Increasing Compliance with Drinking Water Standards NECI</u> increased yearly onsite inspections to nearly 240, up nearly 300% since FY 2020, and took enforcement actions at 158 systems. Compliance Advisors assisted and trained nearly 200 drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities, including 72% in overburdened and vulnerable communities.

Empowering Communities with Data Accessibility

- Provided over 100 trainings on enforcement and compliance data systems and tools to ~8,000 total attendees, teaching them how to access and interpret test results, communicate findings, and present cumulative impacts within their communities.
- Released/updated analytic tools to improve transparency and empower communities, including the <u>Water Quality Index Tool</u>, and updates to <u>PFAS Analytic Tools</u> to include new data and Geographic Information System (GIS) capabilities.

Challenges:

- During the past decade, the enforcement program has lost over 900 positions (nearly 30% of its workforce) resulting in a loss of expertise and fewer inspections.
- Despite efforts, thousands of community water systems violate health-based standards each year, exposing millions to potential health risks. Many states and tribes lack capacity to address violations.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, send 75% of EPA inspection reports to facilities within 70 days of inspection.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

	0	-	•	•	-			
	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction
Target			75	75	75	75	Damaant	
Actual		83	85	83	77	79	Percent	Alberry Transit
Numerator		4,177	1,940	4,362	5,521	6,273	Demonto	Above Target
Denominator		5.037	2 287	5 237	7 1 2 9	7 901	Reports	

(PM 444) Percentage of EPA inspection reports sent to the facility within 70 days of inspection.

Key Takeaways:

• Ongoing cooperation between EPA headquarters and regional offices continues to ensure most inspection reports are completed by EPA within 60 calendar days and sent to facilities within 70 calendar days of an inspection.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the percentage of inspection reports completed and sent to the facility within 70 calendar days of an inspection. Improving the timeliness of EPA inspection reports allows facilities to address compliance issues more efficiently. The 75 percent goal recognizes that it may not always be possible or appropriate to provide an inspection report within 70 days because of the nature and complexity of the compliance and enforcement program.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, conduct 55% of annual EPA inspections at facilities that affect communities with potential environmental justice concerns.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM 450) Percentage of EPA inspections at facilities affecting communities with potential environmental justice concerns.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				45	50	50	Democrat		
Actual				57	61	53	Percent	Above Target	
Numerator				3,333	4,700	4,500	T	Above Target	
Denominator				5,861	7,750	8,500	inspections		

Key Takeaways:

- The proportion of EPA inspections at facilities affecting communities with potential environmental justice concerns declined in FY 2024, due in part to EPA conducting more onsite inspections overall.
- The Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS) and internal tools have been enhanced to make this inspection data easily accessible to all Agency staff and management, ensuring that communities most in need of environmental protection are receiving appropriate attention and review.

GOAL 3: Enforce Environmental Laws and Ensure Compliance

Metric Details: This measure tracks the percentage of EPA onsite inspections conducted by credentialed EPA inspectors at facilities affecting communities with potential environmental justice concerns. The total includes facilities with one environmental indicator triggered at the 90th percentile at the national level (90th percentile/one index trigger) on EPA's environmental justice mapping and screening tool (EJScreen), and other areas flagged through an enhanced review. The baseline for this measure is 27 percent based on an average of FY 2017- FY 2019 results (pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels).

Other Core Work

Annual performance goal:

(PM 409) Number of federal onsite compliance monitoring inspections and evaluations and off-site compliance monitoring activities.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	11,000	Inspections &	Above	
Actual	10,300	8,500	10,800	13,900	13,100	12,500	Evaluations	Target	

Key Takeaways:

• Conducted approximately 8,500 onsite inspections (~750 more than in FY 2023) and 4,000 offsite compliance monitoring activities. EPA has increased the number of onsite inspections, while still utilizing offsite compliance monitoring activities where appropriate (*e.g.*, reviewing responses to information requests, facility monitoring reports, and sampling data). Although the focus on onsite inspections (which often take more time) has led to a slight decrease in the overall number of compliance monitoring activities, the numbers remain above the target.

Metric Details: This measure tracks EPA inspections and off-site compliance monitoring activities to determine whether a facility or group of facilities is in compliance with applicable law.

Goal 4 at a Glance

Ensure Clean and Healthy Air for All Communities: Protect human health and the environment from the harmful effects of air pollution.



FY 2024 Enacted Budget (in thousands) by goal and objective

45

Obj 4.1

Obj 4.2

Objective 4.1: Improve Air Quality and Reduce Localized Pollution and Health Impacts—*Reduce air pollution on local, regional, and national scales to achieve healthy air quality for people and the environment.*

Performance toward target over time

Number of measures by percent of target achieved



Counts are of measures that exist in FY 2024. Chart does not include measures that previously existed but were eliminated prior to FY 2024.



Summary of progress toward strategic objective:

- Finalized decision to revise the primary annual fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) National <u>Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)</u> to 9.0 μg/m³, which will result in enhanced health protections for all communities.
- Finalized updated <u>Mercury and Air Toxics Standard (MATS) for coal-fired power plants</u>, which will reduce the emissions limit for filterable particulate matter (fPM) for existing coal-fired power plants.
- Finalized <u>rule to reduce toxic air pollution from the synthetic organic chemical</u> <u>manufacturing industry and the polymers and resins industry</u> that will provide critical health protections to hundreds of thousands of people living near chemical plants by reducing emissions of the highly toxic ethylene oxide (EtO), chloroprene, and other harmful air pollutants.
- Finalized <u>rule for EtO Commercial Sterilizers</u> that will reduce lifetime cancer risks by reducing EtO emissions by more than 90%.
- Published <u>2023 emissions data from power plants</u> subject to the Acid Rain Program (ARP), the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR), CSAPR Update, Revised CSAPR Update (RCU), Good Neighbor Plan and the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) to ensure the public can easily track and compare changes in emissions from these sources. Compared with 2022 numbers, the data showed the most significant year-over-year reductions since 2020, including decreases in SO₂ (24%), NO_x (15%), Ozone Season NO_x (9%), Hg (17%), and CO₂ (7%).

Challenges:

- Increased Agency workload resulting from Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and environmental justice responsibilities is adding to the continuing workload of federal implementation of the NAAQS and other Clean Air Act (CAA) requirements. EPA is working through the hiring process to bring on needed staff.
- Litigation on related Agency actions could affect implementation of programs intended to reduce pollutants and protect public health.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, reduce ozone season emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) from electric power generation sources by 21% from the 2019 baseline of 390,354 tons.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM NO_x) Tons of ozone season NO_x emissions from electric power generation sources.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				355,000	344,000	332,000	Τ	Dalam Tana d	
Actual	390,354	341,082	359,124	324,285	293,519	287,888	TONS	below Target	

Key Takeaways:

- Nationwide power plant ozone season emissions data for 2024 show a 2 percent decrease compared with 2023, demonstrating continued maintenance of the trend of the last few years.
- These decreases in emissions were due primarily to changes in the mix of fossil fuel-fired generation and improved emission rate performance.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the ozone season NO_x emissions from sources in five of EPA's nationwide and multi-state air pollution control programs: an annual NO_x trading program and three ozone season NO_x trading programs operated by EPA on behalf of 27 states in the eastern U.S. under Title I of the CAA, as well as a national NO_x emissions reduction program for the power sector operated by EPA under Title IV of the CAA, the Acid Rain Program. NO_x are precursors for $PM_{2.5}$ and ground-level ozone (O_3). Researchers have associated $PM_{2.5}$ and O_3 exposure with adverse health effects in toxicological, clinical, and epidemiological studies. Lowering exposure to $PM_{2.5}$ and O_3 contributes to significant human health benefits. The ozone season corresponds to the warm summer months when ozone formation is highest (May 1-September 30). Reductions in NO_x emissions during the ozone season help areas attain ambient ozone standards. For more information, see <u>EPA's Progress Report on Emissions Reductions</u>.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, improve measured air quality in counties not meeting the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) from the 2016 baseline by 10%.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM NAAQS) Percentage of air quality improvement in counties not meeting current NAAQS.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				7	8	9			
Actual	7	8	10	8	10	Data Avail 11/2025	Percent	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- Long-term progress is due to emissions reductions from State Implementation Plans and other regulatory control programs.
- Meteorology and exceptional events, like wildfires, can contribute to year-to-year variability in this measure.

Metric Details: This measure shows progress in reducing pollutant concentrations in counties not meeting one or more current NAAQS relative to the 2016 calculated baseline. The CAA requires EPA to set the NAAQS for six "criteria" pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment. These national standards form the foundation for

GOAL 4: Ensure Clean and Healthy Air for all Communities

air quality management. The measure is presented as the aggregate percentage change in design value concentrations since the baseline year. The design value is a statistic that describes the air quality status of a given location relative to the NAAQS. The aggregate percentage change is weighted by the number of counties violating the NAAQS for each pollutant in the baseline year, so more weight is given to pollutants with more violating counties. Four criteria pollutants (ozone, PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, SO₂, and lead) are part of this measure. All counties met the NAAQS for carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide in 2016, so those two criteria pollutants are not considered in this measure.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, strive to ensure all people with low socio-economic status (SES) live in areas where the air quality meets the current fine particle pollution (PM_{2.5}) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				90	93	97			
Actual	82	81	85	83	83	Data Avail 11/2025	Percent	Percent Above Target	
Numerator	51,560,102	48,678,558	50,304,779	49,634,175	50,976,415		Decula		
Denominator	62,687,368	60,053,454	59,241,268	59,614,742	61,560,379		People		

(PM NAAQS2) Percentage of people with low SES living in areas where the air quality meets the PM_{2.5} NAAQS.

Key Takeaways:

- Continuing to make long-term progress due to emissions reductions from State Implementation Plans and other regulatory control programs. The percentage of low SES population living in counties that meet both PM_{2.5} NAAQS has doubled since the baseline period of 2006-2008.
- Meteorology and exceptional events, like wildfires, can contribute to year-to-year variability in this measure.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the percentage of people with low socioeconomic status (SES), defined as two times the poverty level, living in counties with monitors measuring concentrations of $PM_{2.5}$ that meet the 2012 annual and 2006 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS. Long- and short-term exposures to fine particles can harm people's health, leading to heart attacks, asthma attacks, and premature death. In the baseline period of 2006-2008, 43 percent of the low SES population lived in counties that met both $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS. Changes since that time reflect the effectiveness of strategies designed to reduce fine particle pollution.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, ensure U.S. consumption of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) is less than 76.2 tons per year of ozone depletion potential.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM HCFC) Remaining U.S. consumption of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), chemicals that deplete the Earth's protective ozone layer, in ozone depletion potential (ODP)-weighted metric tons.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				76.2	76.2	76.2			
Actual	224.2	-110.8	-20.8	-6.4	-18.9	Data Avail 10/2025	ODP Tons	Below Target	

Key Takeaways:

- The FY 2023 result (latest available data) is negative because exports and destruction together exceeded production and imports in calendar year 2023.
- The measure demonstrates how the U.S. continues to meet its obligations as a Party to the Montreal Protocol.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the United States' annual consumption of HCFCs in ODP-weighted tons. Consumption means the amount of HCFC produced, plus imports, minus exports, minus destruction, and minus amounts produced or imported for transformation. As a Party to the Montreal Protocol, the U.S. must incrementally decrease HCFC consumption and production, culminating in a complete HCFC phaseout in 2030. The current annual consumption cap of the U.S. for all HCFCs is 76.2 ODP-weighted metric tons, down from the 2015-2019 target of 1,520 ODP-weighted metric tons per year. Ozone-depleting potential can be found in the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer's <u>Annex C: Controlled substances</u>. For more information, see <u>EPA's page on the Phaseout of Class II Ozone-Depleting Substances</u>.

Objective 4.2: Reduce Exposure to Radiation and Improve Indoor Air—*Limit unnecessary radiation exposure and achieve healthier indoor air quality, especially for vulnerable populations.*

Performance toward target over time

800

400 0

FY 2019

FY 2020

Number of measures by percent of target achieved



Counts are of measures that exist in FY 2024. Chart does not include measures that previously existed but were eliminated prior to FY 2024.



FY 2021

Actual — Target

FY 2022

FY 2023

FY 2024

Number of Lung Cancer Deaths Prevented through Lower Radon Exposure, FY 2019 - FY 2024

Summary of progress toward strategic objective:

- Awarded \$11M in <u>competitive grant funding for wildfire smoke preparedness in</u> <u>community buildings</u> that serve the public, and disadvantaged communities and vulnerable populations.
- Continued <u>oversight of the Department of Energy (DOE) Waste Isolation Pilot Plant</u> (<u>WIPP</u>) for transuranic radioactive waste from DOE facilities, conducting 10 waste generation site inspections and various other quality assurance activities.
- Successfully planned and conducted the Nuclear Energy Agency's Sixth International Nuclear Emergency Exercise in Washington, D.C. Led more than 250 participants, including federal, state, local, and tribal governments, and observers from Canada and the United Kingdom. This is the first international exercise to focus on long-term recovery efforts after a large-scale radiological incident.
- Launched <u>Version 2 of the Indoor AirPlus certification program</u> requiring construction practices and product specifications that minimize exposure to airborne pollutants and contaminants.

Challenges:

- Additional workload associated with providing guidance on indoor air quality to a diverse set of stakeholders and administering new grant programs.
- Critical sustained investments are necessary to provide appropriate regulatory oversight of existing and new nuclear facilities.
- The pandemic, wildfire smoke, and widespread water and mold issues from storms and flooding have dramatically raised public concern about poor indoor air quality and increased the need for more comprehensive technical assistance and responses to these issues.
- Additional needs to address Analytical Radiation Data System (ARaDS) radiation monitoring information technology and radiochemistry lab modernization efforts and actions to improve security posture pursuant to Agency requirements and replace a legacy Laboratory Information Management System to minimize the risk to the availability and integrity of the radiation data, which are essential to protecting public health.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, prevent 2,250 lung cancer deaths annually through lower radon exposure as compared to the FY 2020 baseline of 1,684 prevented lung cancer deaths.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM LCD) Number of lung cancer deaths prevented through lower radon exposure.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	η Π Π Π
Target				1,881	1,981	2,083	Deaths	Alara Tanat	
Actual	1,578	1,684	1,795	1,894	1,970	2,051	Prevented	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- Narrowly missed the target due to small changes in the model and a slight decrease in radon-resistant new construction.
- The <u>2021-2025 National Radon Action Plan</u> will further support increased efforts to find, fix, and prevent indoor radon levels in homes and buildings and prevent annual lung cancer deaths.

Metric Details: This measure tracks lung cancer deaths prevented annually by reducing radon exposure, calculated using estimates of the number of homes in the U.S. with radon levels above the EPA action level of 4pCi/L (picocuries per liter) that have been mitigated and the number of new homes that have been built with radon resistant features. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among both men and women in the United States. Exposure to radon indoors is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. EPA estimates there are 21,000 avoidable lung cancer deaths annually attributable to indoor radon exposure and more than seven million homes in the U.S. are at or above the EPA radon action level. For more information, see the <u>National Academies Report on the Health Effects of Exposure to Radon</u> and the <u>EPA Assessment of Risks from Radon</u> in Homes.

Other Core Work

Annual performance goals:

(PM RAD2) Percentage of radiation emergency response program personnel and assets that meet functional readiness requirements necessary to support federal radiological emergency response and recovery operation.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				90	92	92	Democrat	Abaya Tanaat	
Actual			91.7	87.7	87.1	88.6	Percent	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- Missed target largely due to ongoing staffing challenges. However, several hiring efforts are in process.
- Continuing to make progress in adding capabilities to EPA's National Environmental Radiation Monitoring System (RadNet).
- Participated in key government exercises including the Nuclear Energy Agency's Sixth International Nuclear Emergency Exercise in Washington, D.C.

GOAL 4: Ensure Clean and Healthy Air for all Communities

Metric Details: This measure tracks percent readiness of EPA headquarters, laboratory and field support elements including assets and equipment, procedures and programs, licenses and accreditations, personnel, qualifications, exercise participation, and training. Percent readiness is calculated by the total score earned during an annual assessment of elements divided by the total points assigned to those elements.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				1,800	2,855	3,005	Duo onoma	Alexya Tangat	
Actual	1,645	2,132	2,446	2,705	2,954	3,287	Programs	Above Target	

(PM IA) Number of programs equipped to support the infrastructure, delivery and sustainability of comprehensive asthma care.

Key Takeaways:

- Working to ensure that all people with asthma have access to programs that deliver comprehensive asthma care and improve indoor air quality.
- Providing technical assistance to equip all asthma stakeholders (individuals, state, and community-based healthcare, housing and school systems) to carry out straightforward and proven solutions that create healthier indoor environments. There were more than 900 participants in EPA's technical assistance webinars in FY 2024.
- EPA also supports the Public Health Institute's Regional Asthma Management and Prevention project through a cooperative agreement to provide technical assistance to states and communities to expand and sustain in-home environmental asthma interventions. The project has provided technical assistance to 28 states and communities since 2021.
- EPA's annual National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma Management recognizes excellence in delivering environmental asthma management as a part of comprehensive asthma care services. To date, 53 programs have been recognized through this award, the only one of its kind at the national level.
- EPA's asthma community network has more than 1,100 members supporting asthma programs across the country.

Metric Details: This measure tracks EPA delivery of technical assistance, tools, and grant support to equip community-based programs and the organizations that support them to deliver evidence-based, comprehensive asthma care. Twenty-four million Americans, including 4.2 million children, have <u>asthma</u>. Low-income and minority children suffer disproportionately. In-home environmental interventions reduce health care utilization and improve quality of life for people with asthma. No targets were established in FYs 2018-2021 because this measure was not included in these EPA Annual Performance Plans.

(PM NDC) Number of countries with household energy emissions reductions in their NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions or Paris Climate Plans).

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target						100			No Trend Data
Actual						Data Avail 2/2025	Countries	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- NDCs are typically updated and submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) NDC registry every five years. The next NDC updates are due February of 2025. Looking ahead, NDCs may be updated more frequently.
- EPA has been working closely with the Clean Cooking and Climate Consortium to host a series of expert consultations to facilitate more direct interaction and support to countries in the development of household energy components in their NDCs, and organizing their measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) activities, household energy financing opportunities, and best practices for scaling household energy programs to meet their national climate goals.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the number of countries that have put household energy emissions reductions in their NDCs. More than three billion low-income people around the world, including 600,000 low-income Americans, cook their food and/or heat their homes with open fires or rudimentary stoves. The resulting exposure to

GOAL 4: Ensure Clean and Healthy Air for all Communities

extraordinarily high levels of indoor air pollution causes 3.2 million premature deaths worldwide, primarily among women and girls. Emissions from household energy/cookstoves are the largest controllable source of the short-lived climate pollutant black carbon (>50 percent) and cookstove emissions also include methane and carbon dioxide (CO₂). EPA launched the Clean Cooking & Climate Consortium with the Clean Cooking Alliance, Berkeley Air Monitoring Group, Climate & Clean Air Coalition, Stockholm Environment Institute, and UNFCCC to work with country governments on reducing climate emissions from household energy sources in low-to-middle income countries to achieve climate goals as part of their NDCs. The Consortium is providing national governments with evidence and guidance on how best to articulate, plan, and meet the cooking-related goals in their NDCs; to access opportunities for implementation support and potential funding; and is providing guidance on program design and implementation, as well as measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) for clean cooking initiative.

Goal 5 at a Glance

Ensure Clean and Safe Water for All Communities: Provide clean and safe water for all communities and protect our nation's waterbodies from degradation.



FY 2024 Enacted Budget (in thousands) by goal and objective

Obj 5.1

54

Obj 5.2

Objective 5.1: Ensure Safe Drinking Water and Reliable Water Infrastructure—*Protect public health from the risk of exposure to regulated and emerging contaminants in drinking and source waters by improving the reliability, accessibility, and resilience of the nation's water infrastructure to reduce the impacts of climate change, structural deterioration, and cyber threats.*

Performance toward target over time

Number of measures by percent of target achieved



Counts are of measures that exist in FY 2024. Chart does not include measures that previously existed but were eliminated prior to FY 2024.

Number of Community Water Systems Still in Noncompliance with Health-based Standards since March 31, 2021



EPA, in consultation with the Office of Management and Budget, has determined that performance toward this objective is making noteworthy progress.

Summary of progress toward strategic objective:

- The Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF and DWSRF) have helped provide \$15B (\$9.4B and \$5.6B) in water infrastructure project financing to help fund over 1,986 wastewater projects and 1,600 drinking water projects.
- The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program closed 19 transactions totaling almost \$2B in loans, financing nearly \$5B for water infrastructure projects and creating more than 12,700 jobs.
- 93% of the population served by (CWSs) (including 88% of the population in Indian Country served by CWSs) received drinking water that met all applicable health-based drinking water standards.
- Awarded over \$50M in Small Underserved Disadvantaged Communities Grants to improve compliance with drinking water rules, \$30M for communities and schools to remove sources of lead in drinking water, \$58M for Lead Testing and Remediation in Schools and Childcare Programs, and \$19M to improve climate resilience.
- Allotted \$3B of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding to replace lead service lines.
- Published final <u>National Primary Drinking Water regulation to address the risk posed by</u> per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water.
- Provided >3,200 communities (including 1,100 disadvantaged communities), tribes, and territories with technical assistance for drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater challenges. Provided resiliency training to >7,000 drinking water and wastewater systems.
- Provided \$264M in drinking water and wastewater for tribes and Alaskan Native Villages.

Challenges:

- The 20-year national DWSRF-eligible drinking water infrastructure need is estimated at \$629.1B; including 9.2M lead service lines which will cost \$50-\$80B to replace.
- Over 80% of CWSs serve fewer than 3,300 persons. These systems are often challenged to maintain technical, managerial, and financial capacity and address cybersecurity threats.
- Adversary nations are exploring options for potential cyberattacks to critical U.S. infrastructure including drinking water and wastewater treatment systems.
- Natural disasters exacerbated by climate change, and aging infrastructure, are an increasing challenge. Fulfilling water emergency response responsibilities with existing resources is a significant challenge.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, reduce the number of community water systems still in noncompliance with healthbased standards since March 31, 2021, from 752 to 500.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM DW-02) Number o	of community	water syste	ems still in n	oncompliance v	with health-	-based stand	ards since]	March 31.	2021.
•		,									

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target			875	640	450	425	CWC-	Dalam Tanat	
Actual	1,128	1,048	654	537	466	400	CWSS	below Target	

Key Takeaways:

- While EPA exceeded the FY 2024 target of not more than 425 (and has exceeded the Long-Term Performance Goal of not more than 500) CWSs in noncompliance, the Agency continues to anticipate slower progress going forward due to the remaining CWSs being more challenging and potentially requiring significant infrastructure or source water investments.
- EPA headquarters continues to provide quarterly updates on CWSs with violations to EPA regional drinking water and enforcement programs so that they can work with states on actions to address noncompliance. The Agency also sends quarterly reports on CWSs with violations to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development for their awareness of systems in their purview for potential funding.
- Ninety-three percent of the population served by CWSs received drinking water that meets all applicable health-based drinking water standards.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the number of CWSs still in noncompliance with the health-based National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (Maximum Contaminant Level or Treatment Technique) during any part of the year, relative to the group in noncompliance as of September 30, 2017. A CWS is a public water system that supplies water to the same population year-round. There are approximately 50,000 CWSs in the U.S. The total includes CWSs in Indian country. As of September 30, 2024, 400 of the original 3,508 systems were still in noncompliance with health-based standards. Data are derived from the Safe Drinking Water Information System Federal Data Warehouse (SDWIS-FED), which contains information about violations by public water systems as reported to EPA by the primacy agencies (tribes and states with EPA-delegated enforcement responsibility). EPA's technical assistance focuses on non-compliant water systems in underserved communities. Similarly, the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) prioritizes non-compliant water systems for funding under various programs, including those implementing BIL funding. EPA expects progress on this measure to decelerate because many of the remaining systems have complex compliance issues or may require capital infrastructure improvements to help address noncompliance. While BIL funding will support these systems, infrastructure projects can take many years to complete.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, reduce the number of community water systems in Indian country still in noncompliance with health-based standards since March 31, 2021, from 110 to 70.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM DWT-02) Number of community water systems in Indian Country still in noncompliance with health-based standards since March 31, 2021.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				100	55	35	CWS	Dalary Tangat	
Actual				74	54	39	C w Ss	Below Target	

Key Takeaways:

- While EPA has exceeded the Long-Term Performance Goal of not more than 70, the Agency missed the FY 2024 target of not more than 35, due to the remaining systems having significant capacity challenges or the need for new infrastructure. EPA regularly monitors CWSs with violations and works with partners on actions to bring those systems back into compliance.
- EPA has plans in place to address most of the remaining systems in long-term noncompliance. The Agency is working closely with the Indian Health Service to address infrastructure needs. EPA headquarters also continues to provide quarterly updates on CWSs with violations to EPA regional drinking water and enforcement programs so that they can address noncompliance.
- Eighty-eight percent of the population in Indian Country served by CWSs received drinking water that meets all applicable health-based drinking water standards.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the number of tribal CWSs still in noncompliance with the health-based National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (Maximum Contaminant Level or Treatment Technique) during any part of the year, relative to the group in noncompliance on March 31, 2021. There are approximately 730 tribal CWSs. Data are derived from SDWIS-FED, which contains information about violations by public water systems as reported to EPA by the primacy agencies (EPA regional offices and tribes with EPA-delegated enforcement responsibility).

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, leverage an additional \$45 billion in non-federal dollars through EPA's water infrastructure finance programs (CWSRF, DWSRF and WIFIA).

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target	8.0	8.0	8.0	9.0	9.5	9.5	Billions of	Alexya Tangat	
Actual	10.3	10.2	12.1	14.6	11.4	10.5	Dollars	Above Target	

(PM INFRA-01) Billions of non-federal dollars leveraged by EPA's water infrastructure finance programs (CWSRF, DWSRF and WIFIA).

Key Takeaways:

- EPA's CWSRF, DWSRF, and Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) programs exceeded the target by leveraging over \$10.5 billion in non-federal dollars for water infrastructure projects.
- The SRFs and WIFIA programs continue to successfully increase total investments in water infrastructure by leveraging state and local dollars.

Metric Details: This measure tracks funds leveraged by the three primary water infrastructure programs. These programs represent the largest federal source of funds to address this critical component of the nation's drinking water and clean water infrastructure. Non-federal funds include SRF loans made from recycled loan payments, bond proceeds, state match, interest earnings, and co-funding from non-SRF sources. EPA has increased the amount of non-federal funds leveraged by providing communities with tools, training, and resources to help plan for infrastructure improvements and identify funding opportunities. The Agency will ensure a focus on climate resiliency and equity as well as progress toward the Administration's Justice40 goal by revising loan guidelines and program guidance, and providing technical assistance. SRF data are tracked in the SRF Data System.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, in coordination with other federal agencies, provide access to basic sanitation for an additional 36,500 American Indian and Alaska Native homes.

In FY 2022, the Indian Health Service updated the tribal home count methodology, and EPA is no longer able to report on this measure. EPA is exploring an alternative measure.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, provide 2,203 Tribal, small, rural, or underserved communities with technical, managerial, or financial assistance to improve operations of their drinking water or wastewater systems.

Annual performance goals that support this long-term performance goal:

(PM INFRA-06) Number of tribal, small, rural, or underserved communities provided with technical, managerial, or financial assistance to improve system operations.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				339	542	1,100			
Actual			187	1,668	2,892	Data Avail 4/2025	Communities	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

• EPA is likely to slightly exceed the FY 2024 target, based on preliminary data, due to several grant recipients receiving extensions to their project periods, enabling them to complete more technical assistance projects nationwide. However, more time is needed to compile the results due to the implementation of new Agency reporting guidance and potential over-reporting by one of the grantees. The new guidance will ensure precise monitoring of all technical assistance activities completed in FY 2024 and beyond.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the number of tribal, small, or rural communities, or communities with environmental justice concerns, provided with EPA technical, managerial, or financial assistance through on-site visits or training to effectively operate drinking water systems or wastewater treatment systems. Data are collected through grantee reports.

(PM DW-07) Number of drinking water and wastewater systems, tribal and state officials, and water sector partners provided with security, emergency preparedness, and climate resilience training and technical assistance.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				2,000	3,500	4,500	Systems and	Altaria Transat	
Actual				3,939	3,895	7,199	Partners	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- Exceeded target by 2,699 due to additional outreach for CWSs to develop/revise Risk and Resilience Assessments and Emergency Response Plans under SDWA Section 1443. This requirement is due every five years. EPA does not anticipate the trend to continue as training and outreach will ramp down as SDWA Section 1443 deadlines pass in FY 2025.
- In addition, EPA conducted over 200 cybersecurity assessments for individual drinking water and wastewater systems and provided 34 training workshops, exercises, and webinars on cybersecurity topics.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the number of drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater (water sector) utilities, tribal and state officials, and water sector partners provided by EPA with practical tools, training, and technical assistance to increase resilience to extreme weather events (*e.g.*, drought, flooding, wildfires, hurricanes), malevolent acts (*e.g.*, cyberattacks), and climate change. EPA assistance promotes a clear understanding of climate change and potential long-term adaptation options for decision-making related to water utility infrastructure operations and financing. Training and technical assistance targets participation by underserved communities.

Other Core Work

Annual performance goal:

(PM INFRA-07) Number of lead service line replacements funded.*

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	No Trond Data
Target						222,000	Lead Service	Alara Taurat	No Trend Data
Actual						89,000	Lines	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- Missed target because efforts were focused on developing service line inventories in advance of the October 16, 2024, Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) inventory deadline.
- Since identifying lead service lines is a critical first step, EPA is still on track to achieve the FY 2025 goal of 500,000 lead service line replacements funded. Over the past year, EPA announced the <u>Get the Lead Out Initiative</u>, hosted trainings for SRF managers and staff, and on October 8, 2024, finalized the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI).

Metric Details: This measure tracks the estimated cumulative number of lead service line replacements funded through drinking water funding programs beginning in FY 2024, primarily through BIL and DWSRF funds, but also WIFIA and the Reducing Lead in Drinking Water and Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction grant programs. This measure captures the impact of EPA's work providing technical assistance to states and communities (*e.g.*, increasing awareness, supporting SRF application development in disadvantaged communities) to ensure the equitable distribution of lead service line replacements funds, and contributes to the Administration's Justice40 goal. DWSRF data are derived from the estimated number of lead service line replacements funded by assistance agreements provided by state SRF programs. Data for the WIFIA and the Reducing Lead in Drinking Water and Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction grant programs will be collected internally. A lead service line connects a water main to a building inlet. A lead service line may be owned by the water system, the property owner, or both. Based on available data, EPA estimates that in recent years on average, 73,000 lead service lines have been funded annually. EPA estimates there are 9.2 million lead service lines in the country. This measure tracks progress toward a FY 2024-2025 Agency Priority Goal (APG).

* This measure is also used to track progress in implementing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Objective 5.2: Protect and Restore Waterbodies and Watersheds—Address sources of water pollution and ensure water quality standards are protective of the health and needs of all people and ecosystems.

Performance toward target over time

Number of measures by percent of target achieved



Counts are of measures that exist in FY 2024. Chart does not include measures that previously existed but were eliminated prior to FY 2024.

Summary of progress toward strategic objective:

- As of FY 2024, states and territories have 19,443 square miles of priority areas covered by Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), other restoration plans, or protection approaches.
- States restored 108,941 square miles of catchment area of waters that were previously impaired and 40,406 square miles that were previously impaired due to nutrients.
- Reduced the backlog of EPA's new National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit applications by 88.2%, and the backlog of existing NPDES permits by 54.0%, compared with the March 2018 baseline.
- Published the National Aquatic Research Surveys (NARS) National Rivers and Streams Assessment and National Lakes Assessment reporting on the extent of waters achieving the Clean Water Act (CWA) goals to support and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the nation's waters.
- Nationally, between the 2013-14 and 2018-19 surveys, miles of rivers and streams in good condition for total phosphorus increased by 16% while miles in poor condition decreased by 17.7%. EPA and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers released 10 memoranda implementing the 2023 Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rulemaking.
- Signed <u>final rule establishing discharge standards for approximately 82,000 international</u> and domestic vessels operating in the WOTUS or the waters of the contiguous zone.

Challenges:

- A changing climate is affecting how water systems respond to pollution due to changes in temperature, flow, and sediment.
- More frequent natural events (*e.g.*, hurricanes, flooding, and wildfires) may increase nonpoint source pollution loading.
- Nutrient pollution affects upwards of 50% of lakes and 44% of rivers and streams. Excess nutrients contribute to harmful algal blooms, low oxygen "dead zones," and high levels of nitrates that contaminate waters while also damaging the economy.
- The National Lakes Assessment reported 50% of lakes had detections of the algal toxin microcystin and exceeded the EPA recreational criterion in 2% of lakes. Impervious surfaces can generate increased flows of stormwater pollutants, degrading water quality and threatening public health.
- Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) is a widespread contaminant in fish tissue with detections in more than 90% of rivers and lakes sampled under the NARS.
- Recent Supreme Court decisions, ongoing litigation and pending court decisions create challenges for effective implementation of rules.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, increase by 41,000 square miles the area of watersheds with surface water meeting standards that previously did not meet standards.

Annual performance goals that support this long-term performance goal:

(PM SWP-01) Annual increase in so	quare miles of watershee	ds with surface wate	r meeting standards th	at previously di	d not meet standards.
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	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				8,000	8,000	17,100	Sama Milaa	A 1 T	
Actual				20,511	7,121	108,941	Square Miles	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- Significantly exceeded target due to a large number of states submitting CWA Section 303(d)/305(b) Integrated Reports (IRs) during the reporting year, and those states having a large number of waters now meeting standards. For example, long-term efforts in Michigan resulted in many waters meeting standards in the Great Lakes.
- Although IRs are due on April 1 of even numbered years, they are usually submitted slowly throughout the two-year period. EPA continues to push states to get the IRs submitted on time.

Metric Details: This measure tracks improvements in impaired waters as reported on state CWA Section 303(d)/305(b) Integrated Reports. States report on their water quality assessments every two years. Water quality standards attainment means that: 1) the impairments have been effectively removed due to actions including water quality restoration efforts, more complete monitoring to better understand waterbody conditions, or appropriate changes in water quality standards; and 2) the waterbody now either fully supports the use or meets the water quality criterion for the pollutant or stressor for which it had been impaired. EPA will ensure watersheds will continue to meet the standards by assessing for equity and climate impacts. Data are tracked in EPA's Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Load Tracking and Implementation System (ATTAINS). As states continue to perform assessments, they continue to identify additional impaired waters. As of July 28, 2022, there were 504,605 square miles of watersheds with surface water not meeting standards. This is an update to the draft estimate of 425,198 square miles that was included in the FY 2023 Budget. This measure has transitioned from using the old National Hydrology Dataset Plus (NHDPlus) V2 catchments to the new a NHDPlus HR-VF-Gen catchment layer. Targets are based on receipt of IRs due to EPA every even year, with some reporting delayed to other years.

(PM SWP-02) Annual increase in square miles of watersheds with previously impaired surface waters due to nutrients that now meet standards for nutrients.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				2,100	1,400	1,400	Causa Milas	A h T	
Actual				12,833	904	40,406	Square Miles	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

• Significantly exceeded the target due to a large number of states submitting CWA Section 303(d)/305(b) IRs during the reporting year, and those states having a large number of waters impaired for nutrients that were restored.

Metric Details: This measure tracks improvements in impaired waters due to nutrients as reported on state CWA Section 303(d)/305(b) IRs. As of July 28, 2022, there were 157,485 square miles of watershed area with surface water not meeting standards due to nutrients.

Other Core Work

Annual performance goals:

(PM NPDES-03) Number of existing EPA-issued NPDES individual permits in backlog.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target	360	280	230	250	210	200	Damaita	Dalam Tanat	
Actual	373	333	284	229	194	252	Permits	Below Target	

Key Takeaways:

- Missed target due to delays resulting from litigation, and other technical and complex permit-specific issues.
- EPA has addressed 458 of the original 547 permits in the March 2018 baseline. However, other permits have been added to the backlog over time that still need to be addressed.
- Despite the overall increase in backlog in FY 2024, EPA removed 75 permits from the backlog and prevented 28 additional permits from becoming backlogged during the year.
- Factors that could potentially influence permit backlog reduction in the next two years include the large number of permits set to expire; ongoing delays due to San Francisco supreme court litigation which has led to EPA pausing issuance of permits with only a limited number of high priority permits being issued; new requirements of the EPA CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification Improvement Rule where the reasonable period of time for certification defaults to six months but can be up to a year versus the previous 60-day timeframe, other technical and complex permit-specific issues; and challenges in promptly backfilling permit writers and other critical staff due to competing priorities.

Metric Details: This measure tracks existing EPA-issued NPDES individual permits that are administratively continued for 180 days or more. Permits are removed from the backlog as soon as the Agency issues, denies, or terminates a permit. The baseline for this measure is 547 as of March 2018. Data are tracked in EPA's Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS)-NPDES Database.

(PM TMDL-03) Square miles of priority areas covered by TMDLs, other restoration plans, or protection approaches.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target					7,940	19,280	Course Miles	Alara Tanat	
Actual					15,432	19,443	Square Miles	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- Exceeded target by providing consistent messaging and programmatic support to encourage states to maintain progress and report their results before the end of the year.
- Success during the two-year FY 2023-2024 bridge period provides a strong foundation for implementation of the Vision 2.0 measure beginning in FY 2025.

Metric Details: This measure tracks square miles of priority areas covered by TMDLs, other restoration plans, or protection approaches included in state commitments submitted to EPA by September 30, 2022. The original universe was 22,685 square miles. This measure does not require a final plan to be in place to count toward the result; states could choose whether each plan would be in place or in development at the end of the two-year period. States are able to meet targets with a mix of plans in development and plans in place depending on their initial commitments. EPA uses a weighting factor of 0.5 for plans in development. Data are tracked in ATTAINS. FY 2023-2024 was a two-year bridge measure developed by EPA in collaboration with the Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA), beginning after completion of the Section 303(d) Vision 1.0 measure

GOAL 5: Ensure Clean and Safe Water for all Communities

(PM TMDL-02). After completion of this two-year measure, EPA will transition into a Vision 2.0 measure beginning in FY 2025. The Vision 2.0 measure will also include a longer-term planning component to align with the timeline of the Vision. The Vision 2.0 measure will begin in FY 2025 and end in FY 2032. The measure will be calculated in the same way as the bridge measure in the sense that states will choose waterbody/parameter combinations to develop plans for and EPA will calculate a universe in square miles of catchment. The eight years will consist of four two-year periods. Each two-year period will be measured separately, with a new universe as states decide which waterbody/parameter combinations to develop plans for during that period. States will use their long-term Prioritization Frameworks to guide their priorities for each two-year period through FY 2032. To calculate the FY 2025 and FY 2026 targets, EPA will multiply the universe of 30,226 sq miles by 0.35 and 0.85 respectively. State commitments, by square miles, will increase.

Goal 6 at a Glance

Safeguard and Revitalize Communities: Restore land to safe and productive uses to improve communities and protect public health.



FY 2024 Enacted Budget (in thousands) by goal and objective

FY 2024 Performance toward target by objective

Number of measures by percent of target achieved



■ 100% of target met (G)

Objective 6.1: Clean Up and Restore Land for Productive Uses and Healthy Communities—*Clean up and restore contaminated sites to protect human health and the environment and build vibrant communities, especially in underserved and overburdened areas.*

Performance toward target over time

Number of measures by percent of target achieved



Counts are of measures that exist in FY 2024. Chart does not include measures that previously existed but were eliminated prior to FY 2024.



Brownfields Accomplishments, FY 2019 - FY 2024

Brownfields Properties Assessed

Summary of progress toward strategic objective:

- Cleaned up 161 brownfields, conducted site assessments at 2,284 properties, made 840 sites ready for anticipated use, and leveraged 12,385 jobs and \$2.28B.
- Made 87 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) corrective action sites ready for anticipated use. Completed construction on 41 final remedies at corrective action facilities and achieved designated performance standards at 43 facilities.
- Completed 63 Superfund cleanup projects that address lead as a contaminant, an all-time high for the program.
- Issued 35 Superfund federal facility decision documents; completed 24 remedial actions.
- Accomplished 6,066 Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) cleanups that meet riskbased standards (~90% of expected results).
- All measures benefit from monthly review by senior leadership within EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM), and quarterly reviews with regional program divisions.

Challenges:

- EPA and the states face challenges including increasingly difficult cleanups, lack of viable responsible parties and cleanup funding, legislative limitations on liability, and variations in cleanup standards and adoption of risk-based corrective actions.
- The remaining sites across all programs are increasingly complicated, requiring more personnel, funds, and expertise to complete cleanup actions.
- EPA is implementing increased oversight and reporting for \$778 million in brownfields grants issued under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).
- EPA added 13 Superfund sites with human exposures under control but retracted 34 sites due to additional investigations (-21 net) and made 10 additional sites ready for anticipated use, but similarly retracted 18 sites (-8 net). Completed 73 remedial actional projects.
- Superfund actions could become more costly due to increased costs for lead (Pb) and perand polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) removals.
- Remedies at contaminated sites could be vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events. EPA's Superfund Program <u>developed an approach that raises</u> <u>awareness of these vulnerabilities</u> and applies climate change and weather science as a standard operating practice in cleanup projects.

Brownfields Sites Made Ready for Anticipated Use

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, bring human exposures under control at additional 60 Superfund sites.

Annual performance goals that support this long-term performance goal:

(1 1) 101/1(united of Superfund Stees (iten numun exposures stought under control)
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	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target	12	10	10	12	12	12	C:4	Alarra Transat	
Actual	17	20	13	-14	-3	-21	Sites	Above Target	-

Key Takeaways:

- Brought human exposures under control at an additional 13 Superfund sites, but these accomplishments were offset by 34 site retractions.
- Retractions were primarily due to additional sampling for PFAS concentrations in drinking water and new vapor intrusion pathway investigations. Additional retractions were due to lead (Pb) contaminants.

Metric Details: This measure documents progress achieved in controlling unacceptable human exposures to contamination at both private and federal facility Superfund sites and denotes a site-wide accomplishment. The human exposure determination at a site can change over time as conditions across portions (operable units) of a site change. EPA regional offices enter human exposure determinations and supporting data into the Superfund Enterprise Management System (SEMS). Results reflect a net accomplishment as sites can shift between human exposure under control to human exposure not under control or human exposure insufficient data. The status change often occurs when a previously unknown exposure pathway (*e.g.*, vapor intrusion) or contaminant is discovered, and a reasonable expectation exists that people could be exposed or that there are insufficient data to make such a determination until further investigation takes place. As of October 2024, there were 1,512 Superfund sites with human exposures under control out of a total of 1,850 sites where human exposure is tracked.

(PM S10) Number of Superfund sites made ready for anticipated use site-wide.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target	51	51	51	25	15	10	Sites	Above Terest	
Actual	48	34	26	-48	11	-8	Siles	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- An additional 10 sites were made ready for anticipated use, but these accomplishments were offset by 18 site retractions.
- The retractions resulted from a rigorous review that identified sites that no longer met protectiveness requirements due to detection of PFAS and other emerging contaminants, aging remedies, and new exposure pathways requiring new institutional controls.
- While most eligible sites have already achieved sitewide ready for anticipated use (SWRAU) status, the remaining sites potentially face more significant obstacles to achieving this goal. However, several sites retracted from SWRAU in FY 2022 have re-entered the potential universe of SWRAU sites and already have, or are likely to, regain status in coming years.

Metric Details: This measure tracks EPA's progress in cleaning up and preparing Superfund sites (both private and federal facility) for reuse site-wide, while ensuring human health and environmental protection. To be considered "eligible" for SWRAU achievement, a site must be on the final National Priorities List (NPL) or designated as a non-NPL Superfund Alternative Approach (SAA) site and have achieved Construction Complete status. A site is considered SWARU if it meets three criteria: 1) The site has a current Human Exposure status of current human exposures under control and all protective remedies in place or long-term human health protection achieved. 2) For media that affect current and future land uses, all cleanup goals in the Record(s) of Decision (RODs) or other remedy decision document(s) must be met so that there are no unacceptable risks. 3)

All controls required for achieving protectiveness (engineered as well as institutional) are identified in the ROD(s) or other remedy decision document(s) such as an Explanation of Differences or ROD Amendment, and are in place. EPA documents the SWRAU determination directly in SEMS once a site meets all required criteria and the appropriate EPA regional personnel have approved the determination. The rate of SWRAU accomplishments has been decreasing since 2018, but the eligible universe has increased as sites are retracted from SWRAU and returned to the eligible universe. The number of SWRAU eligible sites is currently estimated at 265 sites following FY 2024 final reporting. Many of the remaining eligible sites face increasingly difficult challenges to achieve SWRAU, primarily related to institutional controls implementation and emerging contaminants. Cleaning up contaminated land reduces the environmental and health effects of exposure to contamination in communities, especially overburdened communities, and contributes to the Administration's Justice40 goal.

(PM 170) Number of remedial action projects completed at Superfund sites.*

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target	95	80	80	80	75	75	Dupinata	A have Target	
Actual	89	91	75	74	69	73	Projects	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- Issues that contributed to missing the target include changed scope of work, addressing PFAS contamination, potentially responsible party (PRP) processing delays, remedy redesign, supply chain issues, and larger reports that require increased review time. These issues and others routinely arise and may continue to be impediments to reaching targets in future years.
- Issued updated guidance in January 2024 with lower screening levels for residential lead (Pb) sites. EPA is exploring whether this guidance has changed the pace of work at ongoing projects.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the number of remedial action projects completed at Superfund sites. Cleaning up contaminated land reduces the environmental and health effects of exposure to contamination in communities, especially overburdened communities, and contributes to the Administration's Justice40 goal. By tracking the completion of a discrete scope of Superfund cleanup activities (for both private and federal facility sites), this measure documents incremental progress in reducing risk to human health and the environment. Multiple remedial action projects may be necessary to achieve sitewide construction completion. EPA captures this data in SEMS.

* This measure is also used to track progress in implementing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

(PM 137) Number of Superfund removals completed.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target	175	141	141	183	183	183	Demovals	Abarra Tanaat	
Actual	233	197	150	195	194	203	Removals	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

• The pace of removals declined in the early part of FY 2024 due to a high number of unexpected events in FY 2023 (*e.g.*, East Palestine train derailment, Maui wildfires, responses to severe weather, other sizeable disaster responses, etc.). Emergency response staff (such as On-Scene Coordinators, Community Involvement Coordinators, and Public Information Officers) were deployed to disaster sites, and needed time to recover and refocus work on other areas of the removal program once they completed work on these responses.

Metric Details: This measure tracks Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) removal-related hazardous waste cleanups, known as Superfund removal actions, including those that are Superfund-lead and PRP-lead. There is no pre-established universe of removal sites, as removal actions take place after a release has occurred. Data are tracked in SEMS.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, complete 225 Superfund cleanup projects that address lead as a contaminant.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM 155) Number of Superfund cleanup projects completed that address lead as a contaminant.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				45	45	45	Dualaata	A h T	
Actual			56	45	49	63	Projects	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

• Exceeded the target by completing 63 response action projects, consisting of 43 removal and 20 remedial projects.

Metric Details: This measure documents progress to reduce exposure to lead and associated health impacts by reporting the completion of both removal and remedial cleanup actions that include lead as a contaminant. The universe of applicable remedial actions consists of those at all final and deleted NPL sites and sites with SAA agreements. There is no pre-established universe of removal sites, as removal actions take place after a release has occurred. Removals are time-critical and emergency in nature. Remedial cleanups take multiple years to complete. Much of the data for this performance measure comes from PRPs and federal facilities, and EPA cannot always control when it is submitted.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, clean up an additional 650 brownfields properties.

Annual performance goals that support this long-term performance goal:

(PM B32) Number of brownfields properties cleaned up.*

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				130	160	160	Duomontios	Alexya Tangat	
Actual	190	183	168	173	169	161	Properties	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

• Fifty-six percent of cleanups were completed in communities in census tracts identified as disadvantaged by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST).

Metric Details: This measure tracks the number of properties that have been cleaned up to a regulatory risk-based standard using EPA brownfields funding, as reported by cooperative agreement recipients into the Assessment, Cleanup and Redevelopment Exchange System (ACRES) database. Cleaning up contaminated land reduces the environmental and health effects of exposure to contamination in communities, especially overburdened communities, and contributes to the Administration's Justice40 goal. Reusing brownfields enables communities to pursue economic growth without expanding their environmental footprint. There are no targets in FYs 2019-2021 because this measure was not included in these EPA Annual Performance Plans.

* This measure is also used to track progress in implementing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target	684	684	684	600	600	600	C:too	Alara Tanat	
Actual	910	809	616	662	736	840	Sites	Above Target	

(PM B30) Number of brownfields sites made ready for anticipated use.*

Key Takeaways:

• Completed a significant data backlog cleanup effort, which resulted in higher accomplishments compared with initial projections. EPA regional offices worked closely with grantees on data entry in ACRES to ensure timely reporting.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the number of properties/sites benefiting from EPA brownfields funding that have been assessed and determined not to require cleanup, or where cleanup has been completed and institutional controls are in place if required, as reported by cooperative agreement recipients. This activity results in additional sites available for productive reuse.

* This measure is also used to track progress in implementing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

(PM B29) Number of brownfields properties assessed.*

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				1,400	1,650	1,650	Duomontios	Abaya Tangat	
Actual	1,693	1,772	1,682	1,637	1,894	2,284	Properties	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- Completed a significant data backlog cleanup effort, which resulted in higher accomplishments compared with initial projections.
- Fifty-three percent of assessments completed occurred in communities that were in census tracts identified by CEJST as disadvantaged.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the number of properties that have been environmentally assessed for the first time using EPA brownfields funding, as reported by cooperative agreement recipients. There are no targets in FYs 2019-2021 because this measure was not included in these EPA Annual Performance Plans.

* This measure is also used to track progress in implementing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, make an additional 425 RCRA corrective action cleanups Ready for Anticipated Use.

Annual performance goals that support this long-term performance goal:

(PM RSRAU) Number of RCRA corrective action facilities made ready for anticipated use.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target	91	117	133	114	100	85	Engiliting	Alexya Tangat	
Actual	127	169	146	124	117	87	racilities	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

• There is a decreasing universe of sites, and many of the remaining sites are complex and require significant resources.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the number of RCRA corrective action facilities made ready for anticipated use (RAU). To be determined RAU, facilities must meet the following criteria: human exposure under control; final cleanup goals achieved for media that would affect the anticipated use; and if needed, controls in place to ensure long-term protectiveness. Information is entered into the RCRAInfo database by authorized states and/or EPA regional offices overseeing cleanups. EPA is on track to achieve the Long-Term Performance Goal. The targets decrease as a majority of RCRA facilities requiring corrective action are completed and the remaining facilities are more challenging. There were 3,977 facilities subject to RCRA corrective action at the end of FY 2024, of which 1,850 had not yet been determined RAU.

(PM CA5RC) Number of RCRA corrective action facilities with final remedies constructed.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target	98	98	73	55	55	44	Easilities	Abarra Tangat	
Actual	80	64	57	55	48	41	Facilities	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

• Several facilities experienced delays completing final remedies by the end of FY 2024. Many of these will be completed in FY 2025. In addition, the pipeline of available facilities is narrowing and the facilities remaining have complex issues such as groundwater contamination or financial concerns.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the number of RCRA corrective action facilities that have final remedies constructed such as a groundwater treatment system, designed to achieve long-term protection of human health and the environment. This measure tracks a mid-term step in the progression toward completing facility cleanup. Targets are selected based on the number of sites in the pipeline with construction planned or underway.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, conduct an additional 35,000 cleanups at Leaking Underground Storage Tank facilities.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM 112) Number of LUST cleanups completed that meet risk-based standards for human exposure and groundwater migration.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target	11,200	11,200	11,200	7,439	7,125	6,970	Cleanups	Above Target	
Actual	8,358	7,211	7,271	6,536	6,597	6,066			

Key Takeaways:

- As the backlog of remaining cleanups declines, confirmed releases also decline and state resources continue to be constrained, making cleanup completions increasingly challenging.
- EPA faces several challenges at the sites including supply chain issues. EPA headquarters frequently coordinates with regional counterparts to address specific issues and problem-solve where applicable.

Metric Details:

This measure tracks the number of completed cleanups of petroleum-contaminated confirmed releases, also known as LUST cleanups. The totals include cleanups reported by states as well as EPA cleanups in Indian country. Cleanups in Indian country represent approximately 0.2 percent of total cleanups completed. Data are tracked in the LUST4 database. The backlog will continue to reduce over time so the targets will correspondingly reduce. Initial forecasted backlog reduction was based on five years of data trends through FY 2020. Revised targets consider the continued decline in cleanups completed as well as declining federal and state budgets. Decline in annual cleanups completed is due in part to lower numbers of trained state staff, reduced number of confirmed releases, and a lower number of remaining cleanups in some states (38 states have completed cleanup at 90 percent or more of their confirmed releases). As of FY 2024, there were 577,365 cumulative confirmed releases, out of which there were 522,031 cleanups completed.

Other Core Work

Annual performance goal:

(PM OCR02) Cumulative number of communities that, as a result of OCR assistance, have been able to attract new investment and/or enact policies that produce improved public health and environmental outcomes.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	No Trond Date
Target						No Target	Communities	A have Target	No Trend Data
Actual						2	Communities	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- EPA's Office of Community Revitalization (OCR) engaged in a pilot program to provide community-based planning assistance to Gonzales, LA and Brooklyn Park, MN, with a focus on leveraging local initiatives to enhance the downtown areas, increase economic opportunities, and advance transportation accessibility. The pilot has supported training and resources development for a community-first approach to leverage and secure federal, state, and regional funding for transportation projects that improve mobility while also supporting local economic activity, workforce development, environmental health and improved quality of life.
- Louisiana Clean Fuels received a federal grant to upgrade or replace older diesel engines with cleaner alternatives, and partnered with the Louisiana Community and Technical College System to develop training curricula specifically targeted at the installation, service and maintenance of electric vehicle charging stations. Gonzales also secured regional transportation dollars to electrify non-profit run paratransit services and expand access to public transit more broadly.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the number of technical assistance engagements by OCR with communities that have had programmatic or financial investments from federal programs within the past five years. These investments include those of EPA or other federal agencies. This subsequent technical assistance can help maximize the previous investment by supporting its implementation or expanding upon it by helping the community make related improvements. These efforts can help coordinate and align federal engagements and create connections that will spur ongoing utilization of smart growth tools and best practices toward environmental protection and economic development.

Objective 6.2: Reduce Waste and Prevent Environmental Contamination—*Prevent environmental pollution by preventing releases, reducing waste, increasing materials recovery and recycling, and ensuring sustainable materials management practices.*

Performance toward target over time

Number of measures by percent of target achieved



Counts are of measures that exist in FY 2024. Chart does not include measures that previously existed but were eliminated prior to FY 2024.

Number of Confirmed Releases at Underground Storage Tank Facilities, FY 2019 - 2024



Summary of progress toward strategic objective:

- Increased the percentage of updated permits at Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) facilities to 75.0% from a starting point of 71.0%. Renewed an additional 124 permits in FY 2024.
- Recorded the lowest number of confirmed releases at underground storage tank (UST) facilities (4,047) since the program began, indicating success of the release prevention program.
- Continuing to advance <u>circular economy strategies</u>.
 - Awarded 56 grants for the first round of SWIFR funding for all states, territories, and the District of Columbia; 58 grants for tribes and intertribal consortia, and 25 grants for communities to improve solid waste management programs and systems.
 - Awarded 25 grants to advance consumer education and outreach through the Recycling Education and Outreach (REO) grant program. In September 2024, EPA announced an additional \$117 million in funding available for competition. These investments continue to support communities in advancing sustainable materials management practices through implementation of the *National Recycling Strategy*, the *National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Recycling Organics*, and the *National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*.

Challenges:

• Risks of reduced capacity due to staff turnover and shifting prioritizations for federal, state, tribal and local environmental land and emergency management programs. These impacts as well as the potential loss of expert technical knowledge could decrease EPA's ability meet projected targets due to training and recruitment time lags.
GOAL 6: Safeguard and Revitalize Communities

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, increase the percentage of updated permits at RCRA facilities to 80% from the FY 2021 baseline of 72.7%.

Annual performance goals that support this long-term performance goal:

(PM HW5) Number of updated permits issued at hazardous waste facilities.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target	64	105	100	90	100	105	Damaita	Altaria Transit	
Actual	124	104	130	107	114	124	Permits	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

• Exceeded the target, with 124 updated permits. This raised the percentage of updated permits from 71 percent to 75 percent, putting the Agency on a path to achieve the 80 percent goal at the end of FY 2026 (considering that there are fewer permits coming up for renewal in FY 2025 and FY 2026).

• These results are challenging to forecast since there are several factors that can be difficult to project, including newly proposed facilities and facilities that no longer need a permit.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the number of RCRA hazardous waste permit updates or clean-closures in the universe of permitted facilities using EPA's RCRAInfo system. This does not include all permit maintenance since permit modifications cannot be projected and are not included. The related Long-Term Performance Goal refers to the overall percentage of RCRA facilities with permits that are not past expiration and have been updated though a permit renewal (or are not past the permit term/expiration). Maintaining upto-date permits ensures that permitted facilities have consistent and protective standards to prevent releases. This will ensure permits reflect updated standards, remain protective under changing conditions due to climate change, and provide meaningful community involvement in the permitting process over time. Proper standards for waste management can protect human health, prevent land contamination/degradation and other releases, and avoid future cleanups and associated costs. EPA directly implements the RCRA Program in Iowa and Alaska and provides leadership, work-sharing, and support to the remaining states and territories authorized to implement the permitting program. There are about 1,300 permitted hazardous waste facilities in the workload as of October 2024.

(PM UST01) Number of confirmed releases at UST facilities.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target			No Target	5,150	5,075	4,700	Dalaasas	Dalaw Targat	
Actual	5,375	4,944	4,991	4,568	4,354	4,047	Releases	below Target	

Key Takeaways:

• Recorded the lowest number of annual confirmed releases in the history of the program, for a third consecutive year. Leading factors in this reduction include implementation of the 2015 regulation changes and maintenance of the three-year inspection cycle.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the number of confirmed releases discovered at UST facilities during the year. The Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Prevention Program provides funding to tribes and states to prevent releases from the 539,585 federally regulated USTs by ensuring compliance with federal and state laws through inspections and other activities (data as of FY 2024). Preventing UST releases is more efficient and less costly than cleaning up releases after they occur. The three-year inspection cycle is a requirement from the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The 2015 revisions strengthen the 1988 federal UST regulations by increasing emphasis on properly operating and maintaining UST equipment. This includes such items as sump and spill bucket testing, walkthrough inspections, and leak detection functionality testing. The revisions help

GOAL 6: Safeguard and Revitalize Communities

prevent and detect UST releases, which are a leading source of groundwater contamination. The two facets of the program (every facility inspected every three years and new requirements) work in tandem to ensure that the number of confirmed releases continues to decline.

Objective 6.3: Prepare for and Respond to Environmental Emergencies—*Prevent, prepare, and respond to environmental emergencies and support other agencies on nationally significant incidents, working with tribes, states, and local planning and response organizations.*

Performance toward target over time

Number of measures by percent of target achieved



Counts are of measures that exist in FY 2024. Chart does not include measures that previously existed but were eliminated prior to FY 2024.





Summary of progress toward strategic objective:

• Achieved the target of 40% of emergency response and removal exercises incorporating environmental justice. Conducted 56 such exercises and participated in 83 additional trainings.

Challenges:

• A significant proportion of the required training sessions must be held in person for successful completion.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, ensure that 40% of annual emergency response and removal exercises that EPA conducts or participates in incorporate environmental justice.

Annual performance goals that support this long-term performance goal:

(PM ER02) Percentage of emergency response and removal exercises that EPA conducts or participates in that incorporate environmental justice.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				14	30	40	Dancant		
Actual				49	53	40	Percent	Above Terret	
Numerator				80	98	56	Energian	Above Target	
Denominator				164	185	139	Exercises		

Key Takeaways:

• Met target by adapting EPA work plans to this Administration priority.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the number of emergency response and removal exercises that EPA conducts or participates in that incorporate solutions to or address environmental justice challenges. The following mechanisms are used to advance this goal: involving facilities in locations that affect communities with environmental justice concerns; including an entity with environmental justice concerns as a participating organization; including environmental justice concerns or communities in the exercise scenario; and including scenario injects that incorporate environmental justice concerns or entities. Incorporating solutions to or addressing environmental justice challenges includes addressing language, mobility, or financial barriers or engaging community-based leadership. The estimated baseline for this measure is 12.5 percent, based on FY 2021 data.

(PM ER01) Number of emergency response and removal exercises that EPA conducts or participates in.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				120	120	120	Evening	Abaya Tangat	
Actual			120	164	185	139	Exercises	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

• Exceeded the target by conducting or participating in 139 emergency response and removal exercises.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the number of emergency response and removal exercises that EPA conducts or participates in, including: 1) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) exercises which can include participation in exercises with Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) or Risk Management Plan (RMP) facilities with emphasis on CERCLA hazardous substance releases; 2) oil spill preparedness exercises including tabletop, functional and full scale, and Government-Initiated Unannounced Exercises (GIUEs), including internal exercises to ensure readiness and external training and readiness exercises; 3) Homeland Security exercises in which EPA staff participated; and 4) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) exercises in which EPA staff participated. The baseline is 120 exercises in FY 2021. Annual targets for this measure maintain this level of effort.

Goal 7 at a Glance

Ensure Safety of Chemicals for People and the Environment: Increase the safety of chemicals and prevent pollution at the source.



FY 2024 Enacted Budget (in thousands) by goal and objective

Objective 7.1: Ensure Chemical and Pesticide Safety—Protect the health of families, communities, and ecosystems from the risks posed by chemicals and pesticides.

Performance toward target over time

Number of measures by percent of target achieved



Counts are of measures that exist in FY 2024. Chart does not include measures that previously existed but were eliminated prior to FY 2024.

Percentage of Risk Assessments Supporting Pesticide Registration Decisions for New Active Ingredients that Consider the Effects Determinations or Protections for Federally Threatened and Endangered Species, FY 2020 - FY 2024



EPA, in consultation with the Office of Management and Budget, has highlighted this objective as a focus area for improvement.

Summary of progress toward strategic objective:

- Implemented a case flagging system in the New Chemical Review database to identify and ensure prioritization of new cases in sectors supporting the climate goals of the Inflation Reduction Act; completed 494 risk assessments and completed 467 risk management actions to manage potential risk to human health and the environment from chemicals by identifying conditions to be placed on the use of a new chemical before it is entered into commerce; and proposed Significant New Use Rules (SNURs) for 158 chemicals and finalized SNURs for 25 chemicals.
- Initiated prioritization and published proposed designations for five existing chemicals as High-Priority Substances (HPS), and finalized two rules (<u>Asbestos Part 1</u>, <u>Methylene</u> <u>Chloride</u>) to address unreasonable risks.
- Finalized revisions to the <u>dust lead hazard standards and dust lead clearance levels rule</u> to strengthen requirements for the removal of lead-based paint hazards in pre-1978 buildings and childcare facilities. The final rule will reduce lead exposures for nearly 1.2 million people every year, of which 178K to 326K are children under the age of six.
- Helped protect overburdened and underserved communities by delivering 25 training sessions on lead-safe work practices in 11 communities.
- Completed 1,418 Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA) actions, including decisions on 25 new active ingredients (20 registered); and completed 7,144 non-PRIA applications, including 5,440 fast track amendments and notifications.
- The number of farmworkers receiving EPA-funded Work Protection Standard (WPS) training continued to improve following impacts from the pandemic.

Challenges:

- Missed statutory deadline to complete final risk evaluations for 20 HPS chemicals that were prioritized in December 2019, due to resource constraints over multiple fiscal years. EPA continues to work through this backlog and issue draft and final risk evaluations.
- Due to resource constraints, EPA will be challenged to meet the Long-Term Performance Goal of 78 pesticide registration review case completions.
- EPA is updating its information technology infrastructure which is outdated and causes systems to go down periodically. For example, the updates will allow EPA to issue data call-ins for information necessary to re-evaluate active ingredients under pesticide registration review.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, complete at least eight High Priority Substance (HPS) TSCA risk evaluations annually within statutory timelines compared to the FY 2020 baseline of one.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM TSCA4) Number of HPS TSCA risk evaluations completed within statutory timelines.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	No Trond Data
Target				0	0	1	Englishting	Alarra Tanat	No Trend Data
Actual		1	0	0	0	0	Evaluations	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

• Missed target due to chronic underfunding over multiple fiscal years. EPA prioritized 20 chemicals for risk evaluations in December 2019 and the statutory deadline for these risk evaluations passed in FY 2023 without final risk evaluations. The Agency continues to work through this backlog of HPS and issue risk evaluations and technical support for other chemicals which are shown in the denominator of PM TSCA5. Additional chemicals are being prioritized in FY 2024-FY 2025 for the next statutory deadline of FY 2028.

Metric Details: This measure tracks HPS chemical risk evaluations completed annually for existing chemicals within statutory timelines. Risk evaluations are needed to protect human health and the environment from unnecessary risks. TSCA requires risk evaluations for HPS to be completed within 3.5 years of the date the chemical is prioritized. TSCA requires that upon completion of a HPS risk evaluation, EPA must designate at least one additional HPS to take its place, thus ensuring that at least 20 EPA-initiated HPS risk evaluations are underway at all times. A baseline of one HPS risk evaluation was completed within statutory timelines to protect human health and the environment from unnecessary risk in FY 2020. For more information, see EPA's Risk Evaluations for Existing Chemicals under TSCA page.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, initiate all TSCA risk management actions within 45 days of the completion of a final existing chemical risk evaluation.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM TSCA5) Percentage of existing chemical TSCA risk management actions initiated within 45 days of the completion of a final existing chemical risk evaluation.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				100	100	100	Democrat		
Actual				100	100	100	Percent	III Abovo Torgot	
Numerator				2	6	1	A	Above Target	
Denominator				2	6	1	Actions		

Key Takeaways:

• Completed a risk evaluation for the chemical Tris(2-chloroethyl) phosphate (TCEP) in September 2024. The proposed rule was tiered in February 2024 in order to foster an expeditious rulemaking process given statutory deadlines that are very aggressive compared to EPA's Action Development Process. The risk management action for TCEP was initiated within 45 days of the completed risk evaluation.

GOAL 7: Ensure Safety of Chemicals for People and the Environment

Metric Details: This measure tracks the percentage of existing chemical risk management rulemakings initiations, defined as the point at which EPA convenes the Agency workgroup following the tiering process for the rulemaking, within 45 days of publishing the final risk evaluation for HPS. TSCA Section 6(a) requires EPA to issue a proposed risk management rule for a chemical substance no later than one year after the date on which the final risk evaluation is published, and to publish a final rule no later than two years after the publication date of the final risk evaluation. The denominator indicates the number of HPS TSCA risk evaluations or revised risk determinations completed. Prompt initiation of risk management actions after the completion of risk evaluations is necessary for protecting human health and the environment from chemical risks. A final risk management action is initiated on the date EPA convenes the Agency workgroup following the tiering process for the rulemaking. A baseline of 100 percent of existing chemical TSCA risk management actions were initiated within 45 days of the completion of a final existing chemical risk evaluation in FY 2020. For more information, see <u>EPA's Risk</u> Management for Existing Chemicals under TSCA page.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, review 90% of risk management actions for past TSCA new chemical substances reported to the 2020 Chemical Data Reporting Rule (CDR) compared to the FY 2021 baseline of none.⁹

Annual performance goals that support this long-term performance goal:

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				5	25	30	Democrat		
Actual				N/A	16	100	Percent	Alexan Tanat	
Numerator					40	258	Desisions	Above Target	
Denominator					258	258	Decisions		

(PM TSCA6a) Percentage of past TSCA new chemical substances decisions with risk management actions reviewed.

Key Takeaways:

• Improved existing data systems and review processes to completed review of the remaining 218 past TSCA new chemical substances decisions with risk management actions in the first quarter of FY 2024 for a total of 258 reviewed.

Metric Details: This measure tracked the cumulative percentage of past risk management decisions for <u>TSCA new chemical substances</u> that were reported under the CDR Rule, that EPA reviewed for adherence/non-adherence with these requirements. EPA used the 2020 CDR report which covers calendar years 2016 to 2019. EPA puts measures in place to protect human health and the environment by identifying conditions to be placed on the use of a new chemical before it is entered into commerce. EPA reviews compliance with established restrictions in TSCA Section 5 Consent Orders or SNURs by cross-walking action requirements with information reported under the CDR rule. Instances of noncompliance are relayed to EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance for additional actions. This could include additional virtual records auditing, on-site audits, issuance of compliance advisories or guidances, requests for information/subpoenas, and modifications/updates to TSCA Section 5 Consent Orders, SNURs, or other requirements, as appropriate.

⁹ Changed from "By September 30, 2026, review 90% of past risk mitigation requirements for TSCA new chemical substances decisions compared to the FY 2021 baseline of none."

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				N/A	25	30	Danaant		
Actual				N/A	70	89	Percent	Abaya Taraat	
Numerator					28	194	Substances	Above Target	
Denominator					40	218	Substances		

(PM TSCA6b) Percentage of TSCA new chemical substances with risk management actions reported to the 2020 CDR reviewed for adherence/non-adherence with TSCA Section 5 risk management actions that are determined to adhere to those requirements.

Key Takeaways:

• Found that 89 percent (194/218) of the new chemical substances reviewed were in adherence with TSCA Section 5 risk management requirements. EPA completed this work in FY 2024.

Metric Details: This measure tracked the percentage of <u>new chemical substances</u> reported under the 2020 CDR reviewed for adherence/non-adherence with TSCA Section 5 risk management actions that were determined to be in adherence with reported risk mitigation requirements of the actions.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, recertify before the expiration date 36% of lead-based paint Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) firms whose certifications are scheduled to expire compared to the FY 2021 baseline of 32%.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM RRP30) Percentage of lead-based paint RRP firms whose certifications are scheduled to expire that are recertified before the expiration date.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				32	33	34	Dancant		
Actual	19	40	36	31	31	31	Percent	Abaya Targat	
Numerator	1,185	9,006	6,524	2,874	2,308	2,303		Above Target	
Denominator	6,091	22,384	18,158	9,423	7,529	7,515	KKP FIITMS		

Key Takeaways:

- Recertification numbers vary year to year due to external variabilities such as the high level of turnover in the industry (*e.g.*, companies closing and opening, or no longer working in pre-1978 homes).
- It will be difficult to achieve the current targets without significant additional outreach to firms/consumers and/or increased enforcement activity.
- In FY 2025, EPA is planning to adjust its national outreach materials to firms who need to re-certify, based on a pilot study in EPA Region 9 which found wording reflecting potential enforcement consequences elicited the greatest re-certification rates.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the percentage of expiring lead-based paint firm certifications renewed before the expiration date. Number of recertifications can vary widely from year to year due to external factors. This industry has a high level of turnover (companies closing and opening). Higher numbers for this measure reflect interest in the industry for continuing to provide these critical services. Federal law requires EPA certification for all RRP firms performing renovations or dust sampling in housing or facilities built before 1978 where children are routinely present. To apply, a firm must submit a completed application and fee to EPA online. EPA RRP firm certifications are good for five years. Firms must apply for recertification at least 90 days before the firm's current certification expires. Data are tracked in the Federal Lead-Based Paint Program database. Data

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include recertifications from jurisdictions where EPA administers the RRP Program. These data do not include recertifications from tribes or states with delegated programs. The baseline of 32 percent is based on the average recertification rate during the final six months of FY 2021 due to unusual circumstances in the first half of the fiscal year.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, complete pesticide registration review for 78 cases.¹⁰

Annual performance goals that support this long-term performance goal:

(PM FIFRA3a) Number of pesticide registration review cases completed.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	N
Target				15	8	4	Casas	Albaria Tangat	
Actual				16	15	6	Cases	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

• Exceeded the target. Two cases moved more quickly than anticipated through the registration review process than anticipated, because no additional data were needed to complete them.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the number of pesticide registration review completions for cases with initial registration after October 1, 2007, or a final decision in the first cycle of registration review. EPA must review each registered pesticide every 15 years to determine whether it still meets the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) standard for registration and to ensure that pesticides already in the marketplace do not pose unreasonable adverse effects on people or the environment based on current science standards. A total of 78 registered pesticides have 15-year cycle due dates that fall within the timeframe of this measure. The pace of this work has slowed due to competing priorities.

(PM FIFRA3b) Number of pesticide registration review dockets opened for registration review cases.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				25	20	25	Dealeate	A h T	
Actual				35	25	17	Dockets	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

• The pace of this work has slowed due to competing priorities and reduced resources over the course of multiple fiscal years. The available registration review resources were needed to complete other registration review activities, including decisions for cases with initial registration before October 1, 2007, and development and implementation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Endocrine Disrupter Screening Program strategies.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the number of docket openings for pesticide registration review cases with initial registration after October 1, 2007, or a final decision in the first cycle of registration review. Every registered pesticide must complete registration review every 15 years. Docket openings are the first stage of the registration review process and offer the first opportunity for the public to provide comment. The baseline is 11 docket openings in FY 2020. The pace of this work has slowed due to competing priorities.

¹⁰ Changed from "By September 30, 2026, complete 78 pesticide registration review cases with statutory due dates that fall after October 1, 2022." The December 2022 omnibus bill extended the deadline for completing pesticide registration review for cases registered prior to October 1, 2007, from October 1, 2022 to October 1, 2026.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				9	16	4	Draft	Alara Tanat	
Actual				25	10	2	Assessments	Above Target	

(PM FIFRA3c) Number of draft risk assessments completed for pesticide registration review cases.

Key Takeaways:

• Missed target due to appropriations falling below the federally required minimum and fee receipts falling below expectations. In addition, there were programmatic delays in requesting the data needed from pesticide registrants to complete risk assessments due to outdated information technology systems, which EPA is in the process of updating.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the annual number of draft risk assessments completed for pesticide registration review cases with initial registration after October 1, 2007, or a final decision in the first cycle of registration review. Every registered pesticide must complete registration review every 15 years. The draft risk assessment presents EPA's preliminary risk findings to the public and provides opportunity for public comment. The baseline is five draft risk assessments completed in FY 2020. The pace of this work has slowed due to competing priorities.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, consider the effects determinations or protections of federally threatened and endangered species for new active ingredients in 90% of the risk assessments supporting pesticide registration decisions compared to the FY 2020 baseline of 50%.¹¹

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM ESA1) Percentage of risk assessments supporting pesticide registration decisions for new active ingredients that consider the effects determinations or protections for federally threatened and endangered species.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				40	80	90	Demonst		
Actual		50	62	100	100	100	Percent	Abaya Tanaat	
Numerator		8	8	14	12	26	Risk	Above Target	
Denominator		16	13	14	12	26	Assessments		

Key Takeaways:

• EPA was able to consider effects on endangered species for all new active ingredients it registered in FY 2024, with the majority of these being "no effect" determinations for biopesticides.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the percentage of risk assessments for pesticide registration decisions for new active ingredients that incorporate ESA requirements to ensure federal actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of federally threatened or endangered species or damage their critical habitat. Historically, EPA did not incorporate ESA determinations into its regulatory decisions other than determinations of "no effects" (mostly for biopesticides), due to the lengthy process of ESA consultation with the Services (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service). EPA is now more routinely incorporating ESA effects determinations into these decisions and ensuring

¹¹ Changed from "By September 30, 2026, consider the effects determinations or protections of federally threatened and endangered species for new active ingredients in 90% of the risk assessments supporting pesticide registration decisions for new active ingredients compared to the FY 2020 baseline of 50%."

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protection for listed species earlier in the consultation process through label mitigation. The FY 2020 baseline year included a relatively higher percentage of determinations of "no effects" for biopesticide new active ingredient registration decisions in relation to overall new active ingredient registration decisions. Biopesticide determinations of "no effects" are estimated to apply to 70-80 percent of new active ingredient registration decisions in any given fiscal year. The remainder includes conventional pesticides, antimicrobial pesticides, and biopesticides for which determinations of "no effects" cannot be made.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, consider the effects determinations or protections of federally threatened and endangered species in 50% of the risk assessments supporting pesticide registration review decisions compared to the FY 2020 baseline of 27%.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM ESA2) Percentage of risk assessments supporting pesticide registration review decisions that include effects determinations or protections of federally threatened and endangered species.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				20	30	20	Danaant		
Actual		27		79	78	50	Percent	Alterna Terrard	
Numerator		29		27	7	6	Risk	Above Target	
Denominator		107		34	9	12	Assessments		

Key Takeaways:

- EPA was able to make "no effects" determinations for some draft risk assessments, which resulted in exceeding this target, while also focusing on development of an ESA strategy for biopesticides.
- Streamlined the ESA process with the Final Herbicide Strategy, which implements early, practical protections for listed species, and the Vulnerable Species Action Plan, which provides a framework for EPA to adopt early, meaningful protections for a subset of listed species that EPA identifies as particularly vulnerable to conventional pesticides.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the percentage of risk assessments for pesticide registration review decisions that incorporate ESA determinations, including decisions subject either to the statutory deadline of October 2026 for the first cycle of registration review or to a 15-year schedule of review under the second cycle. Implementation of this process for pesticide registration review decisions will follow implementation for new active ingredient pesticide registration decisions. Some cases in the first cycle of registration review are currently involved in litigation due to EPA's failure to incorporate ESA considerations. The FY 2020 baseline of 27 percent is based on the portion of all actions in registration review during FY 2020 for conventional pesticides, biopesticides, and antimicrobial pesticides that included either a determination of "no effects" or measures to reduce exposure to listed species (29/107), all of which were "no effects" determinations in that year.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, support Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS) pesticide safety training for 20,000 farmworkers annually compared to the FY 2018-2020 annual average baseline of 11,000.

Annual performance goals that support this long-term performance goal:

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				20,000	12,000	13,000	Eamourantrana	Abaya Targat	
Actual				12,716	15,155	15,380	Farmworkers	Above Target	

(PM WPS1a) Number of farmworkers receiving EPA-supported WPS pesticide safety training.

Key Takeaways:

• An outreach campaign by the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP), the grantee for this cooperative agreement, contributed to exceeding this target. AFOP asked each partner organization for assistance meeting the last quarter goal and provided extra incentives to the trainers at AFOP's expense (nonfederal funds).

Metric Details: This measure tracks the number of farmworkers trained under EPA cooperative agreements in accordance with the Agricultural WPS rule. The purpose of the WPS is to reduce pesticide poisonings and injuries among agricultural workers and pesticide handlers. The WPS offers occupational protections to over 2 million agricultural workers and pesticide handlers who work at over 600,000 agricultural establishments. WPS pesticide safety training is an annual requirement. An average of 11,000 individuals took the EPA-supported WPS training from FY 2018-2020, which reflects a sharp drop-off in training in FY 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

(PM WPS1b) Percentage of pesticide safety content knowledge demonstrated by farmworker/trainees upon completion of EPA-supported WPS pesticide training.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				95	95	95	Davaant	Above Terret	
Actual				96	97	98	Percent	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

• Farmworkers continue to have a high level of understanding of the content administered in the annual WPS training.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the average level of knowledge of the pesticide safety content demonstrated by farmworkers/trainees at the conclusion of EPA-supported WPS pesticide training, based on pre- and post-survey questions administered to trainees. The baseline of 95 percent is based on post-training assessments conducted annually from FY 2018-2020.

Objective 7.2: Promote Pollution Prevention—*Encourage the adoption of pollution prevention and other stewardship practices that conserve natural resources, mitigate climate change, and promote environmental sustainability.*

Performance toward target over time

Number of measures by percent of target achieved



Counts are of measures that exist in FY 2024. Chart does not include measures that previously existed but were eliminated prior to FY 2024.

EPA, in consultation with the Office of Management and Budget, has highlighted this objective as a focus area for improvement.

Summary of progress toward strategic objective:

- Awarded 39 Pollution Prevention (P2) Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) grants, 32 P2 State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG), and selected new grants for the P2 environmental justice grant category. These grants are promoting source reduction activities consistent with the Pollution Prevention Act.
- Selected 38 recipients to receive funding under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) for improved reporting on reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- Added 29 new chemicals to the <u>Safer Chemical Ingredients List</u>, certified 139 new products to carry the <u>Safer Choice</u> label, and <u>updated the Safer Choice Standard</u> for the first time since 2015, including creating a new label for products used outdoors.

Challenges:

- Missed pollution prevention targets due to challenges including resource availability, the residual effects of the COVID-19 pandemic during which some firms turned down opportunities for technical assistance, and business consolidation in the institutional sector of the cleaning industry resulting in fewer brands with the Safer Choice label.
- Results of BIL and IRA-funded pollution prevention grants do not show up in current performance results due to data lags.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, reduce a total of 6 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO₂e) released attributed to EPA pollution prevention grants.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM P2mtc) Reduction in million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO₂e) released per year attributed to EPA pollution prevention grants.*

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target			No Target	1.2	1.2	1.2			
Actual	1.5	1.4	1.1	1.0	0.7	Data Avail 10/2025	MMTCO ₂ e	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- The trailing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is still a factor. Business establishments turned down opportunities for voluntary technical assistance during the pandemic.
- Businesses that received EPA grants in FY 2023 during first full year of funding from BIL will begin to report these results in FY 2024. Most grantees begin to report results during the second year of funding.

Metric Details: This measure tracks GHG reductions in MMTCO₂e from all Pollution Prevention Grant Program activities. MMTCO₂e is calculated by using an online tool to convert standard metrics for electricity, green energy, fuel use, chemical substitutions, water management, and materials management into MMTCO₂e (See <u>EPA's Pollution</u> <u>Prevention Tools and Calculators page</u>). Annual results are the total reported by grantees in a single year plus the contributions from the previous three years. This method accounts for recurring benefits of a pollution prevention action, not just in the year it was implemented, but also in future years. Pollution prevention grants are "two-year" grants with an optional third year for follow-up reporting and case study development. These grants have annual reporting but with a one-year reporting lag due to the grant reporting cycle.

* This measure is also used to track progress in implementing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, EPA's Safer Choice program will certify a total of 2,300 products compared to the FY 2021 baseline of 1,892 total certified products.¹²

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM P2sc) Number of products certified by EPA's Safer Choice program.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				1,950	2,000	1,792	Due du ste	Alara Tanat	
Actual	1,989	1,929	1,892	1,835	1,788	1,724	Products	Above Target	

¹² Changed from "By September 30, 2026, EPA's Safer Choice program will certify a total of 2,300 products compared to the FY 2021 baseline of 1,950 total certified products."

GOAL 7: Ensure Safety of Chemicals for People and the Environment

Key Takeaways:

- Missed target due in part to resource limitations and industry consolidation which has resulted in fewer products in certain sectors. EPA is focusing on product volume to measure program impact on the market for safer chemical ingredients. Since FY 2021, the production volume of Safer Choice and Design for the Environment (DfE)-certified products has increased by 50 percent, with an actual production volume of 2.4 billion pounds in FY 2024.
- In addition, disinvestment from the program by the previous administration caused a drop in the number of certified products. In FY 2021-2024, the Safer Choice program prioritized maintenance of existing partnerships and was not able to invest in broadening the number of certified products and new product sectors.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the total number of products certified by the <u>Safer Choice program</u> at the end of the year, including Design for the Environment (DfE)-certified antimicrobial products. Safer Choice is a voluntary program that helps consumers, businesses, and purchasers find products that perform and contain ingredients that are safer for human health and the environment. Certified products are verified by EPA to meet the Safer Choice and DfE Standard through initial certification, annual audits, and recertification every three years. Data are tracked in EPA's Safer Choice database.

Cross-Agency Strategies at a Glance

EPA's FY 2024 enacted budget, in thousands, included \$1,610,781 of \$9,158,894 total for cross-agency mission and science support. This funding was allocated across strategic goals and objectives in the FY 2022-2026 EPA Strategic Plan.

FY 2024 Performance toward target by objective

Number of measures by percent of target achieved



Strategy 1: Ensure Scientific Integrity and Science-Based Decision Making—Deliver rigorous scientific research and analyses to inform evidence-based decision-making.

Performance toward target over time

Number of measures by percent of target achieved



Counts are of measures that exist in FY 2024. Chart does not include measures that previously existed but were eliminated prior to FY 2024.

Percentage of Office of Research and Development Research Products Meeting Partner Needs, FY 2019 - FY 2024



EPA, in consultation with the Office of Management and Budget, has determined that performance toward this strategy is making noteworthy progress.

Summary of progress toward strategic objective:

- Finalizing an updated <u>Scientific Integrity Policy</u>. The updated Policy introduces a new federal definition of Scientific Integrity (SI) and enhances several policy elements critical to fostering a culture of SI. As part of finalizing the policy, in FY 2024, EPA released an updated drafts for internal Agency comment, external public comment via the Federal Register, and formal consultation with tribes. The final draft incorporates results of internal and external comments and was informed by engagement with the Chief Scientist, Deputy Administrator, unions, and significant legal review.
- Deputy Scientific Integrity Officials (DSIOs) throughout the Agency implemented 66 additional actions to strengthen SI. DSIOs have demonstrated creative and innovative approaches to advancing and supporting a culture of scientific integrity.
- The Scientific Integrity Committee continues to drive cultural and procedural changes to bolster and support scientific integrity.
- Delivered a final Scientific Integrity Action Aid for the Action Development Process to help ensure scientific integrity is considered in the Agency's decision-making process.
- The Chief Scientist, Deputy Administrator, and Scientific Integrity Official (SIO) presented an update on scientific integrity at EPA and engaged with employees during an agencywide meeting on scientific integrity.
- Continued to deliver on EPA's commitment to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the environment and released the final Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) Assessment for Perfluorobutanoic Acid and Related Salts, supporting risk management decision-making.

Challenges:

- EPA will need to create or update additional procedures and follow-on policies to implement the updated SI policy. This will be a large workload for a relatively small team.
- EPA is developing an agencywide electronic clearance system for scientific products to provide a consistent process. Delays in its release caused offices and regions to implement a patchwork of varied clearance processes.
- A considerable percentage of EPA's research and development staff are retirement eligible. EPA will be delayed in meeting research goals if unable to sustain and train a skilled workforce. To address this, EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) is working to improve hiring efficiencies and enhancing succession management practices.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, increase the annual percentage of Office of Research and Development (ORD) research products meeting partner needs to 95% from a baseline of 93% in FY 2021.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM RD1) Perce	entage of ORD rese	earch products mee	eting partner needs.
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	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target	77	80	81	93	94	94	Doroont		
Actual	79	80	93	94	96	92	Percent	Above Torget	
Numerator	154	120	60	77	278	141	Duoduota	Above Target	
Denominator	196	150	64	82	290	153	FIGUELS	Products	

Key Takeaways:

- As expected, ORD delivered fewer research products to partners as it developed new products under the FY 2023-2026 Strategic Research Action Plan (StRAP) cycle. Of the 153 Products that were delivered to a partner, 18 were under the FY 2023-2026 StRAP and 100 percent of those were found to meet partner needs.
- Though product timeliness continued to score high with survey respondents, the assessment of average product usability and quality declined from FY 2023.
- The FY 2024 survey was distributed to 348 respondents, the most since it first launched, and achieved a response rate of 63 percent. Of the 218 responses that were received, 54 were from state partners.

Metric Details: Partner satisfaction is assessed through a robust survey process. The annual survey engages key users of ORD products. Survey respondents assessed the scientific rigor of research products (quality), product relevance (usability), and timeliness of product delivery. Products are randomly selected from the universe of products identified as delivered during the previous fiscal year in the Research Approval Planning Implementation Dashboard (RAPID). Per information collection request stipulations, each year ORD surveys 50 randomly selected products of the universe of products that were delivered. The numerator is a statistical inference from the survey results calculated via a stratified sample design to account for the proportion of products delivered by ORD and then applied to the entire universe of products. The denominator is the total universe of products.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, implement 131 actions for scientific integrity objectives that are certified by Deputy Scientific Integrity Officials in each EPA program and region.¹³

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM RD5) Number of actions implemented for EPA scientific integrity objectives.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				No Target	21	22	Actions	Abaya Taraat	
Actual				N/A	24	66	Actions	Above Target	

¹³ Changed from "By September 30, 2026, implement 126 actions for scientific integrity objectives that are certified by Deputy Scientific Integrity Officials in each EPA program and region." At the beginning of FY 2023, there were 21 DSIOs, currently there are 22 DSIOs.

Key Takeaways:

- Completed 66 actions for SI objectives, exceeding the target of 22. Highlights include:
 - o Increased training and outreach efforts across the Agency and states;
 - Inclusion of voluntary SI language in performance standards for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) National Enforcement Investigations Center's non-supervisory employees who manage, use, conduct, and/or communicate science;
 - Agencywide review and comment on the draft SI policy;
 - o Development of a procedure and pilot program to resolve EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention's (OCSPP) Differing Scientific Opinions backlog;
 - o Launch of a "Scientific Integrity in Action" forum that focused on SI challenges in EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR);
 - Monthly Science Advisory Board work group meetings for the Review of Science Supporting EPA Decisions to examine planned actions sent by EPA into interagency review; and
 - o Inclusion of SI principles in EPA's Office of Water's (OW) programmatic and regulatory activities.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the annual number of actions completed by EPA DSIOs to implement the scientific integrity objectives that implement the <u>EPA Scientific</u> Integrity Policy. From FY 2023-FY 2026, each DSIO is certifying completion of two actions for each of the three scientific integrity objectives: scientific integrity is highly visible at EPA (Objective 1); all of EPA embraces and models scientific integrity (Objective 2); and robust mechanisms protect and maintain EPA's culture of scientific integrity (Objective 3). DSIOs are members of the Scientific Integrity Committee representing each EPA program office and region. There were 21 DSIOs at the beginning of FY 2023, and there are 22 DSIOs currently.

Strategy 2: Consider the Health of Children at All Life Stages and Other Vulnerable Populations—Focus on protecting and improving the health of children at all life stages and other vulnerable populations in implementing our programs.

Performance toward target over time

Number of measures by percent of target achieved



Counts are of measures that exist in FY 2024. Chart does not include measures that previously existed but were eliminated prior to FY 2024.

EPA, in consultation with the Office of Management and Budget, has determined that performance toward this strategy is making noteworthy progress.

Summary of progress toward strategic objective:

- Completed 306 actions that consider children's environmental health information and data, exceeding the goal of 166. Actions include rules, risk assessments, guidance, reports, and workshops where children's health data and information were considered in the decision making.
- Nine of 10 EPA regions implemented projects that are durable, replicable, widespread, and focused on disadvantaged communities. These include actions to reduce asthma and blood lead level disparities in overburdened and underserved communities in several EPA regions.
- Engaged with the <u>Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (CHPAC)</u> to receive recommendations on lead and community engagement, respond to EPA-wide climate change recommendations, and issue a new charge on international lead efforts.
- Supported the <u>Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSUs)</u> to educate and address environmental issues for children's health. These efforts included identifying sources and impacts of lead exposure in homes to children and providing education and resources to keep children safe from the impacts of lead. One PEHSU also helped medical students better understand the cumulative impacts of environmental and other stressors.
- Published the <u>Healthy Child Care & Early Learning Facilities Self-Assessment</u>, a checklist that helps users identify common environmental exposures and risks, and launched a Climate Resilient Schools project to help schools plan upgrades that both address climate change impacts and have an impact on children's environmental health.
- Co-led the President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Engaged 17 departments and agencies along with other federal partners to advance an array of issues in its four priority areas: asthma disparities; lead exposures; chemical exposures; and climate, emergencies, and disasters.

Challenges:

• Environmental and public health statutes differ in the extent to which they require protection of children and sensitive populations, presenting challenges in aligning approaches across EPA program offices.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, assess and consider environmental health information and data for children at all life stages for EPA actions that concern human health.

Annual performance goals that support this long-term performance goal:

(PM CH01) Number of EPA actions that concern human health that include assessment and consideration of environmental health information and data for children at all life stages to the extent relevant data are available.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				50%	163	166	A	Above Terrest	
Actual				N/A	298	306	Actions	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- Completed 306 actions that consider children's environmental health information and data, exceeding the target of 166. These include:
 - Rules, such as the *Final Reconsideration of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter (PM)*. This rule evaluated and incorporated the environmental health effects of exposure to PM pollution among children because children were identified as a susceptible population.
 - Research products, such as the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) Toxicological Review of Perfluorodecanoic Acid (PFDA) and Related Salts, which derived toxicity values for PFDA based on developmental delays and developmental immune effects, since evidence indicated that early life is a susceptible lifestage for effects of PFDA exposure.
 - Compliance activities, such as investigating Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) noncompliance with the *Lead Renovation Repair and Painting Rule and Lead Disclosure Rule* at privatized military housing. Approximately 179,000 families and approximately 215,000 children reside in privatized military housing nationally.
 - Grant programs, such as the Clean School Bus Awards. To date, this program has directed nearly \$3 billion to replace approximately 8,700 buses nationwide in more than 1,300 school districts.
 - Actions to advance progress toward institutionalizing Children's Environmental Health throughout Agency programs by issuing guidance on considering children's health in the Action Development Process, developing and releasing a children's health risk assessment training on EPA's online training platform, and hosting live trainings for several program offices.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the number of EPA actions (*e.g.*, rules, risk assessments, exposure assessments, economic and benefits analyses, research and other products, program implementation guidances, enforcement and compliance efforts and activities, grants, training, partnerships, fact sheets, internal capacity building work, and other communication materials) that have a human health impact and for which children's environmental health information and data was considered and assessed, to the extent relevant data are available. The intent of this measure is to demonstrate improvements in complying with <u>EPA's 2021 Policy on Children's Health</u>, which calls for EPA to protect children from environmental exposures by "consistently and explicitly considering early life exposures and lifelong health in all human health decisions." In FY 2022, the measure was a percentage. EPA will set the FY 2026 target based on FY 2025 results.

(PM CH02) Number of EPA regional offices with stakeholder engagement on children's environmental health designed to provide durable, replicable, and widespread results.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				3	6	9	Decisional Officer	A have Target	
Actual				6	9	9	Regional Offices	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- Nine of 10 EPA regions implemented projects that are durable, replicable, widespread, and focused on disadvantaged communities. EPA continued to meet its target due to EPA leadership's increased emphasis on sustainability of engagements as critical to the success of the Cross-Agency Strategy and partnerships with PEHSUs. For example:
 - o Region 2 established a Lead & Asthma Disparities Reductions (LADR) Task Force.
 - Region 3 awarded a grant to the Harrison-Clarksburg Health Department to conduct lead outreach and highlight the importance of blood lead level testing to pediatricians in Harrison County, WV.
 - Region 4 supported the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in completing a lead in drinking water project targeting childcare facilities.
 - Region 6 continued its project to provide education on pesticide use and its potential health impacts to migrant farmworkers and their families along the U.S.-Mexico border. This is the third year of a multiyear, five-state regionwide effort to train health care providers, school nurses, respiratory therapists, community health workers, and others in children's environmental health issues.
- Several projects continued into their second and third years, highlighting their durability. In addition, each project aims to address health disparities for vulnerable populations where they may exist within tribal communities, among farmworkers, and within Pacific Island communities.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the number of EPA regional offices that have developed and are implementing stakeholder engagement activities on children's environmental health that support joint planning, collaboration, or action; identify and address community-scale issues; build federal/state/local "whole-of-government" partnerships; and/or address health disparities. EPA aims to increase outcome-driven stakeholder participation and program visibility. The activities under this measure must be underway in disadvantaged communities for more than one year (durable), include outreach or training materials that could be adapted by other regions or communities (replicable), and involve more than one EPA region or program office and/or community (widespread).

Strategy 3: Advance EPA's Organizational Excellence and Workforce Equity—Foster a diverse, equitable, and inclusive workforce within an effective and mission-driven workplace.

Performance toward target over time





Counts are of measures that exist in FY 2024. Chart does not include measures that previously existed but were eliminated prior to FY 2024.

Percentage of EPA Contract Spending Awarded to HUBZone Businesses, FY 2019 - FY 2024



Summary of progress toward strategic objective:

- Advanced cybersecurity goals by making solid progress toward multifactor authentication requirements; achieving 97% of EPA data in compliance with encryption requirements; and completing all "Zero Trust Architecture" projects on time.
- Achieved 3.3% of EPA contract spending awarded to HUBZone businesses toward the target of 3.4%. Began tracking internal quarterly targets to drive incremental progress. Awarded ~\$26M more to HUBZone businesses compared with FY 2023.
- Awarded \$15M ceiling enterprise-wide Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) blanket-purchase agreement to three small women-owned businesses.
- Improved 243 operational processes, exceeding the target with contributions from all 10 EPA regions and nine program offices. Made significant improvements to grants management processes to address additional Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) activities.
- Automated one priority internal administrative process and five EPA permitting processes.
- Opened EPA's first National Digitization Center, marking a crucial step toward eliminating EPA's legacy paper records while complying with federal requirements.
- Received 25th consecutive clean financial audit opinion, highlighting EPA's commitment to responsible and transparent financial management.
- Developed agencywide governance, rules, training, compliance plans and IT services to enable EPA's safe, secure, and ethical adoption of Generative Artificial Intelligence.
- Processed 6,355 grant actions totaling \$40B. Oversaw the processing of 12,957 contractual actions obligating \$1.9B and processed 98% of incremental funding purchase requests on time (from 91% in FY 2023). Also supported the Agency in achieving small and disadvantaged business spend of 22%, exceeding the Agency goal by 9%.
- Developed and implemented a new hiring and recruiting marketing campaign that resulted in 4,525 applicants, the highest total number of applicants in the last 5 years.
- Issued agencywide succession management (SM) plan and 21 individual office SM plans.
- Established a centralized agencywide internship program and exceeded the Agency goal of increasing the number of summer interns by 26% with a record 441 participants.
- Established Reasonable Accommodation Procurement Program (RAPP) to ensure supervisory-approved reasonable accommodation items are provided to employees.

Challenges:

- Achieving cybersecurity requirements for remaining systems will require additional time due to legacy systems issues.
- Missed target for priority climate resiliency projects. Additional investments are needed to meet climate resiliency goals.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, EPA will be in full compliance with the five high-priority directives in Executive Order 14028 - *Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity*.

Annual performance goals that support this long-term performance goal:

(PM MFA) Percentage of E	PA applications in	compliance with	n multifactor	authentication r	equirements.
١	T TAT TATU V	j i ci centage oi D	a applications in	compnance with	munulacion	authentication	cyun cincints.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				75	85	100	Danaant		
Actual				48	79	90	Percent	Above Terret	
Numerator				223	321	395	Amplications	Above Target	
Denominator				463	406	439	Applications		

Key Takeaways:

- Made progress over previous years but missed target due to variance in technical requirements for implementing multifactor authentication compliance, as well as competing priorities across EPA programs which administer the prerequisite cybersecurity improvements.
- Progress made in FY 2024 is due in part to greater visibility through the Information Technology (IT) Portfolio Review Dashboard and close coordination with EPA system owners.
- Making solid progress toward its ambitious goal of 100 percent compliance.

Metric Details: This measure tracks EPA implementation of one of the five priority requirements of *Executive Order 14028 – Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity*. Multifactor authentication confirms user identify and ensures only authorized users have access to Agency systems and information.

(PM DAR) Percentage of EPA data at rest in compliance with encryption requirements.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target					90	95	Daraant		
Actual					93	97	reicent	Above Terret	
Numerator					110	113	Contours	Above Target	
Denominator					118	117	Systems		

Key Takeaways:

- Exceeded the goal of 95 percent of EPA data at rest in compliance with encryption requirements due to greater visibility through the IT Portfolio Review Dashboard and close coordination with system owners.
- Remaining systems are expected to require additional time due to legacy issues.

Metric Details: This measure tracks EPA implementation of one of the five priority requirements of *Executive Order 14028 – Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity*. Encrypting data at rest ensures any unauthorized individual who has gained access to EPA's network or any of its information systems will still be unable to read the data in any meaningful and potentially destructive or malicious way. The August 2022 baseline for this measure is 83 percent.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target					90	98	Deveent		
Actual					98	97	Percent	Above Terret	
Numerator					116	114	Systems	Above Target	
Denominator					118	117	Systems		

(PM DIT) Percentage of EPA data in transit in compliance with encryption requirements.

Key Takeaways:

- Narrowly missed target of 98 percent of EPA data in transit in compliance with encryption requirements.
- EPA regions and program offices will continue to work to address compliance requirements, and balance resource and technical constraints.

Metric Details: This measure tracks EPA implementation of one of the five priority requirements of <u>Executive Order 14028 – Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity</u>. Encrypting data in transit ensures that any unauthorized individual who has gained the ability to monitor network traffic will be unable to read and interpret data in a meaningful and potentially destructive or malicious way. The August 2022 baseline for this measure is 82 percent.

(PM ZTA) Percentage of "Zero Trust Architecture" projects completed on time.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	_
Target					100	100	Danaant		
Actual					50	100	Percent	Above Terret	
Numerator					1	3	Dupingta	Above Target	
Denominator					2	3	Projects		

Key Takeaways:

- Completed three "Zero Trust Architecture" projects and stood-up a Zero Trust leadership council and an Identity, Credential, and Access Management (ICAM) working group. ICAM is an important cybersecurity domain that allows agencies to securely access resources across existing systems and emerging platforms. With ICAM, agencies can ensure that the right person with the right privileges can access the right information at the right time.
- Maintained the goal of ensuring all devices are assigned to a Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA) Boundary in which over 80 percent are in compliance with zero trust architecture requirements. A FISMA boundary clearly maps out the limits of the networks and the connection between each information system for an information system inventory.
- Completed an Alternative Analysis project as part of work in adoption of Zero Trust Network Access which will aid EPA in completing projects on time.
- Under its goal of Identity Governance, Collaboration, and ICAM Architecture, EPA initiated a project to evaluate individual ICAM implementations from an enterprise perspective and perform a maturity assessment based on current Zero Trust requirements, and developed a roadmap for going forward.

Metric Details: This measure tracks EPA implementation of one of the five priority requirements of <u>Executive Order 14028 – Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity</u>. The "Zero Trust Architecture" security model eliminates implicit trust in any one element, node, or service and instead requires continuous verification of the operational picture via real-time information from multiple sources to determine access and other system responses. Once implemented, the various components of Agency network infrastructure will be more resistant to unauthorized access. Each year, EPA determines the final portfolio of "Zero Trust Architecture" implementation projects that will be completed under this measure and the associated deadlines. EPA works to achieve the deadlines 100 percent of the time.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	No Trond Date
Target				EL1	EL3	EL3	Т:	Altaria Tanant	No Trend Data
Actual				EL0	EL0	EL0	Tier	Above Target	

(PM ALR) Implementation of advanced event logging requirements (EL3) across EPA networks.

Key Takeaways:

- Missed target due to the variance in technical requirements to implementing Enterprise Logging compliance, as well as competing priorities across EPA programs which implement logging requirements.
- This measure reports at the lowest level of enterprise-wide achievement, currently EL0, until all systems are in compliance with a higher level of event logging requirements. 109 of 117 EPA systems (93 percent) are in compliance with advanced event logging requirements (EL3), compared with 6 of 117 (five percent) remaining at EL0.
- This measure will be discontinued in FY 2025 because a sufficient number of systems are in compliance to be considered low risk.

Metric Details: This measure tracked EPA implementation of one of the five priority requirements of <u>Executive Order 14028 – Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity</u>. EPA will implement the highest event logging tier of "Advanced" (EL3) across EPA networks and infrastructure as established by Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-21-31 – Improving the Federal Government's Investigative and Remediation Capabilities Related to Cybersecurity Incidents.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, award 4% of EPA contract spending to small businesses located in Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZones) compared to the FY 2018-2020 average annual baseline of 2.2%.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM SB1) Percentage of EPA contract spending awarded to HUBZone businesses.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	Π
Target				3.0	3.2	3.4	Danaant		
Actual	2.2	2.0	4.9	3.1	3.1	3.3	Percent	Abarra Tangat	
Numerator	35.0	30.3	75.6	59.6	69.3	94.9	Millions of	Above Target	
Denominator	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,900	2,265	2,848	Dollars		

Key Takeaways:

- Began tracking internal quarterly targets for each program and region. These targets helped drive incremental progress in expanding HUBZone contracting opportunities by providing greater visibility and opportunity to track advances toward year-end targets.
- Quarterly tracking enabled organizations to problem solve and discuss solutions to address identified shortfalls, and ultimately contributed to EPA's overall success in awarding a record level of dollars and percentage of total spend to HUBZone businesses.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the percentage of EPA prime contracting dollars awarded to firms designated as certified HUBZone small business awardees in the Federal Procurement Data System. To qualify for certification as a HUBZone firm, the small business must: 1) be at least 51 percent owned and controlled by U.S. citizens, a Community Development Corporation, an agricultural cooperative, or an Indian tribe; 2) maintain its principal office within a HUBZone; and 3) hire at least 35 percent of its workforce from a HUBZone area. HUBZones are generally defined to include urban and rural communities with low income, high poverty, or high unemployment.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, initiate all priority climate resiliency projects for EPA-owned facilities within 24 months of a completed facility climate assessment and project prioritization.

Annual performance goals that support this long-term performance goal:

(PM CRP) Percentage of priority climate resiliency projects for EPA-owned facilities initiated within 24 months of a completed facility climate assessment and project prioritization.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target					100	100	Danaant		No Trond Data
Actual					100	0	Percent	A hove Target	No Trend Data
Numerator					1	0	Draiaata	Above Target	
Denominator					1	1	Projects		

Key Takeaways:

- Conducted feasibility studies for two climate resiliency projects including hardening of a causeway road at the Gulf Breeze, FL laboratory and roof replacements at the Narragansett, RI laboratory. EPA did not conduct a feasibility study for adding solar power and energy storage to provide sustainable and redundant energy generation and storage at the Narragansett lab, due to insufficient resources in the FY 2024 budget.
- Full initiation of these projects (design and build) would require \$8 \$10 million of Buildings & Facilities appropriation funding. Due to unfunded budget requests and reductions in this account in the FY 2024 enacted budget, EPA will be unable to proceed with initiation of resiliency projects identified by future resiliency assessments given the existing backlog of repair and improvement projects requiring prioritization of Buildings & Facilities funding.

Metric Details: This measure tracks initiation of climate adaptation projects at EPA-owned facilities following a climate assessment. EPA will prioritize identified projects based on multiple factors (*e.g.*, ability to execute, impact on facility resiliency, cost) and initiate projects within 24 months of identification as a priority. Initiation is defined as beginning of a design-build or design-build process for a construction project following completion of a scoping or feasibility study which provides cost estimates and options for resiliency mitigation projects to address the identified risks. In FY 2023, the denominator was reported as the number of climate resiliency projects identified as a priority within the prior 24 months. Starting in FY 2024, the denominator is the number of climate resiliency projects identified as a priority two fiscal years prior to the reporting year. In FY 2023, the numerator was reported as the number of projects beginning planning, however starting in FY 2024, the numerator is reported as the number of projects beginning physical work.

(PM CAA) Number of EPA-owned facility climate adaptation assessments completed.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	1
Target				2	7	12	A	Alarra Tanat	
Actual				1	7	10	Assessments	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

• Completed climate resiliency assessments at Edison, NJ; Corvallis, OR; and Fort Meade, MD facilities in FY 2024, bringing the cumulative number of completed assessments since FY 2022 to 10, with a target of 18 facilities by 2026. These assessments inform future climate resiliency projects at EPA-owned facilities. Due to budget reductions in the Climate Resiliency program in the FY 2024 enacted budget, EPA did not initiate an assessment at the Duluth, MN laboratory as planned. Achieving targets for FY 2025 facility assessments will be subject to funding levels.

- The outcomes of these assessments indicated:
 - Edison, NJ: The site is vulnerable to straight line winds, warming surface temperature, and extreme heat as the major sources of risk, as well as the lower frequency but higher damage risks of hurricanes and extreme precipitation. Highest priority near-term action is a full replacement of the end of useful life mechanical system and installation of a building automation system, and to implement projects to mitigate water intrusion to the mechanical plant and other areas within the campus.
 - Corvallis, OR: The site is vulnerable to extreme heat events that already affect operations, as well as extreme precipitation events that have previously resulted in water intrusion and transportation disruptions from flooding in the broader area. The highest priority near-term action is putting the chiller plant back into service to increase the Main Laboratory Building's cooling capacity.
 - Fort Meade, MD: The site is vulnerable to straight-line winds, hail, wildfire, and extreme heat. The highest priority near term action is roof replacement to prevent water intrusion and improve building envelope characteristics.

Metric Details: This measure tracks cumulative completion of climate adaptation assessments at EPA-owned facilities with planned long-term occupancy that will determine which facilities require investments to protect against climate change. Climate resiliency assessments enable EPA to identify facility-specific vulnerabilities and proactively identify projects that will increase resiliency and fortify facilities against climate-related events.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, EPA will achieve the highest Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) Maturity Level of "Leading and Sustaining" as defined by the November 2021 *Government-wide Strategic Plan to Advance DEIA in the Federal Workforce* and achieve all EPA goals identified in the Agency's Gender Equity and Equality Action Plan.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM DEIA) Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity, and Accessibility (DEIA) actions completed toward Maturity Level "Leading and Sustaining" achieved.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target					2	4	A	Alara Tanat	
Actual					2	4	Actions	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- Completed two additional strategic actions from EPA's DEIA Strategic Plan:
 - DEIA Strategic Action #5: Create a curious and agile culture at EPA that constantly leans into discomfort, with a willingness to make mistakes, own them, and a commitment to learning from those mistakes to continually adjust its DEIA path. Updated current Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee charter to reflect the newly established Workforce Inclusion & Innovation Council; established a new DEIA National Honor Award; updated and published the Agency's Architectural and Engineering Guidelines to include the installation of all-gender restrooms where feasible in all new construction and major renovation projects.
 - DEIA Strategic Action #8: Engage senior career leaders as change agents and advocates. Created and delivered the State of DEIA Report to the Administrator, Deputy Administrator, Assistant Administrators, and Regional Administrators, then shared with the Agency via mass mailer and SharePoint site (ongoing); consistently have Administrator or Deputy Administrator at all National Observance events (ongoing); established DEIA Section in the Successful Leaders Program (ongoing) for EPA staff.
- Additionally, EPA on-boarded a new Director in the Office of Inclusive Excellence, providing stability and dedicated leadership for accomplishing the office's strategic goals; established a DEIA Blanket Purchase Agreement, enabling the acquisition of DEIA services across the Agency and providing available data for understanding DEIA achievements; and developed and launched the Reasonable Accommodations Procurement Program pilot to centrally fund and procure goods to support approved reasonable accommodations agencywide.

Metric Details: This measure tracks completion of the eight Strategic Actions in the EPA DEIA Strategic Plan. Each completed action signifies progress toward achieving the highest DEIA Maturity Level of "Leading and Sustaining."

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, automate all priority internal administrative processes.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM GOPA) Number of priority internal administrative processes automated.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target					1	1	Duo ooggoog	A have Target	
Actual					1	1	Processes	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- Met target by automating one internal administrative process, the non-bargaining and bargaining unit telework forms. EPA staff have begun using the new process for submitting telework applications for 2025. This work has been fundamental for future automation by providing lessons learned for improvement and moving towards having a template for working through the process.
- Began to roll out the Power Platform Governance process and began to identify potential processes for automation in FY 2025.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the completion of processes to complete priority administrative forms and/or processes to full automation for improved internal data collection and utilization. EPA is prioritizing 10 identified internal administrative processes to be automated by 2026 but is tracking all efforts to automate administrative processes. Previous examples of administrative process automation include: transitioning OGE-450 Financial Disclosure Forms from electronic documents to a centralized reporting database; transitioning paper-based employee performance reviews to USA Performance; and transitioning Headquarters Transit Subsidy requests from a paper form to a digital approval workflow.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, automate the major EPA permitting programs.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM PAT) Annual percentage of EPA permitting processes automated.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target					10	30	Danaant		
Actual					8	38	Percent	Above Terret	
Numerator					1	5	Permitting	Above Target	
Denominator					13	13	Processes		

Key Takeaways:

• Automated five permitting processes: the Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM's) RCRAInfo Financial Assurance Tool; and the Office of Air and Radiation (OAR's) Electronic Permit System for EPA-issued and State-issued Title V permits as well as EPA-issued and State-issued New Source Review (NSR) permits.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the Agency's progress toward bringing EPA into the 21st century by transitioning the Agency's major permitting programs from paper to electronic processes. EPA will advance the paperless transformation through automation of permit application, review, and issuance processes for EPA's permitting programs. This

will reduce processing time on issuing permits, decrease the time between receiving monitoring data and engaging in enforcement actions, and foster transparency by allowing communities to search, track, and access permitting actions easily. Further, permit automation will enable the integration of climate change and environmental justice considerations into permit processes and ensure that they are addressed within the terms and conditions of the permit. For the regulated community, permit automation will allow for a simplified, streamlined, and transparent permitting processes which will result in time and costs savings. EPA identified a universe of 13 eligible processes.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, improve 1,000 operational processes.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM OP1) Number of operational processes improved.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target	50	72	500	200	200	200	Operational	Abaya Targat	
Actual	66	502	507	208	236	243	Processes	Above Target	

Key Takeaways:

- Exceeded the target with contributions from all 10 regions and nine program offices. OAR, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO), and Region 6 were the top contributors. Each of these organizations had over 25 processes improved with OAR being the top contributor with 38 processes improved.
- Notably, Region 9 and OAR each made significant improvements to their grants management processes that allowed them to address unprecedented grant funding received under BIL and IRA. OAR was able to increase grants dollars awarded by 75 percent because of their process improvement efforts. Region 9 implemented a continuous quality improvement project to facilitate a 25 percent improvement in the number of new grant applications awarded.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the number of EPA operational processes improved through the application of Lean principles improving the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the Agency's operations. An operational process is a sequence of activities that results in the delivery of a service. Process improvement efforts are intended to empower frontline staff, engage leadership, drive innovation, improve operations, and create a better customer experience. A process improvement is counted when a baseline measure is exceeded by a reasonable amount, as determined by EPA program or regional office leadership. While a standard percentage improvement is not required, teams are encouraged to have stretch goals to promote breakthroughs. Process improvements result from a variety of tools (*e.g.*, kaizen events, special senior leadership projects, other problem-solving activities) and often include standard work (*e.g.*, standard operating procedures) and visual management (visible placement of information and indicators that quickly convey the status of the process) to help ensure the improvement is sustained and can be shared to promote benchmarking when appropriate.

Strategy 4: Strengthen Tribal, State, and Local Partnerships and Enhance Engagement—Collaborate and engage effectively with Tribal nations in keeping with the Federal Government's trust responsibilities, state and local governments, regulated entities, and the public to protect human health and the environment.

Performance toward target over time

Number of measures by percent of target achieved

- 100% of target met (G)
- □ 75-99% of target met (Y)



Counts are of measures that exist in FY 2024. Chart does not include measures that previously existed but were eliminated prior to FY 2024.

Number of Freedom of Information Act Responses in Backlog, FY 2019 - FY 2024



Summary of progress toward strategic objective:

- Revised and implemented the <u>EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian</u> <u>Tribes</u> and completed three national trainings to promote consistent implementation. From FY 2011 through FY 2024, EPA completed approximately 1,100 tribal consultations.
- Developed agencywide staff training on Working Effectively with Tribal Governments which covered tribal consultation, Indigenous Knowledge (IK), and tribal treaty rights, and trained ~2,000 EPA staff. The trainings recognized IK as one of the many important bodies of knowledge that contribute to the scientific, technical, social, and economic advancements and advance collective understanding of the natural world.
- Championed the White House Council on Native American Affairs (WHCNAA) and coled two workgroups:
 - Climate Change, Tribal Homelands, and Treaties Committee (with the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Agriculture).
 - International Indigenous Issues Committee.
- Participated in the Executive Order 14112 Implementation Committee, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Working Group, the Critical Minerals Working Group, the Sacred Sites MOU Work Group, the White House Subcommittee on Indigenous Knowledge, and the Health Committee.
- Received over 7,500 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and closed over 7,100.
- Completed a data migration of over 1.8 million previously released Agency records into the Agency's current case management system where they are readily accessible to the public via EPA's FOIA Reading Room.
- Completed the Phase II update to FOIA regulations to improve transparency and affordability, and help expedite the release of information for communities with environmental justice concerns.
- Developed the <u>E-Enterprise Leadership Council Strategic Direction for FY 2024-2026</u>, establishing a joint EPA, state, and tribal framework to develop tools, services, and products for co-regulators, including improvements to cross-media electronic reporting and pre-award and post-award grant processes.
- Advanced the EPA Learning Agenda priority area on grant commitments met by piloting data collection on a set of common definitions (*e.g.*, outreach and engagement; technical assistance) and associated measures (*e.g.*, dollars of economic activity generated).

Challenges:

• Received a large number of Artificial Intelligence-generated FOIA requests at the end of FY 2024, which contributed to challenges decreasing the backlog.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, consider Tribal treaty rights as part of all EPA Tribal consultations that may affect Tribal treaty rights.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM	EC41) Per	centage of EPA t	ribal consultations	that may a	ffect tribal treaty	rights that cons	ider those rights as	part of the consultati	on.
(- ···								part of the construction	

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				20	25	80	Doroont		
Actual				100	100	83	reicent	Above Terret	
Numerator				19	10	5	Tribal	Above Target	
Denominator				19	10	6	Consultations		

Key Takeaways:

- Revised and implemented the EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes and accompanying guidance.
- Included discussions of tribal treaty rights in consultations with:
 - o The Osage Minerals Council on the CapturePoint Solutions Class VI Well Application.
 - The Makah Tribe on the Northwest Area Contingency Plan.
 - o Tribes on the 2024 Revisions to the Minnesota Statewide Mercury Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).
 - Tribes on the Wisconsin 2024 Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303(d) Impaired Waters List.
 - Tribes on the Minnesota 2024 CWA 303(d) Impaired Waters List.

Metric Details: This measure tracks the annual percentage of EPA tribal consultations that may affect tribal treaty rights that consider those rights as part of the consultation, consistent with the <u>EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes: Guidance for Discussing Tribal Treaty Rights</u>, which establishes clear Agency standards for consultations when an EPA action or decision may affect tribal treaty rights. Data are collected in EPA's Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System, a publicly accessible database used to communicate upcoming and current EPA consultation opportunities to tribal governments and that documents EPA consultations using the tribal treaty rights guidance. The system provides a management, oversight, and reporting structure that helps ensure accountability and transparency.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, eliminate the backlog of overdue Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) responses, compared to the FY 2021 baseline of 1,056.

Annual performance goal that supports this long-term performance goal:

(PM FO2) Number of FOIA responses in backlog.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Units	Preferred Direction	
Target				845	712	474	Despenses	Balow Target	
Actual	2,128	1,395	1,056	950	704	782	Responses	Delow Target	

Key Takeaways:

- Missed the FY 2024 target due to delays transitioning to a new FOIA case management system, staffing and records management challenges, and receipt of a large number of FOIA requests in the last quarter of FY 2024, 1,500 of which were generated with artificial intelligence. Approximately 90 percent of the backlog is concentrated in two Agency offices that faced staffing and record keeping challenges unique to those offices.
- Received over 7,500 FOIA requests and closed over 7,100 requests.
- Completed a data migration of over 1.8 million Agency records that were previously released from the prior FOIA case management system into the Agency's current case management system. Thus, 1.8 million Agency records are now readily accessible to the public via EPA's FOIA Reading Room.
- Completed the Phase II update to EPA FOIA regulations to improve transparency, affordability and help expedite the release of information for communities with environmental justice concerns.
- Updating the FOIA Policy and Procedures to reflect updates to EPA's FOIA regulations. These updates will be completed in 2025.

Metric Details: This measure tracks EPA's responsiveness to the public by measuring progress toward reducing EPA's backlog of responses to FOIA requests. Overdue responses are indicated in FOIAXpress as pending beyond the statutory deadline of 20 working days for simple requests, 30 days or longer for unusual circumstances (*e.g.*, complex requests), or another timeframe to which the requestor has agreed. EPA receives approximately 7,000 FOIA requests annually.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Performance Report - FY 2024 Results as of September 30, 2024

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provides generational investments in rebuilding America's infrastructure. With these historic investments, EPA is funding projects that improve people's health and safety, strengthen our infrastructure to make it more resilient to climate change, expand economic markets for American products, and increase the number of good-paying jobs in communities across the country. EPA's BIL investments focus on our communities, especially the most vulnerable and underserved that have disproportionately borne the burden of pollution and environmental harms.

EPA posts financial status by program (including total BIL appropriations and obligations) on its <u>Bipartisan Infrastructure Law page</u>. For more information, see The <u>Investing in America Report</u>, which highlights the Agency's progress in implementing BIL and Inflation Reduction Act projects across the country. Additional information on how these funds are being used, including location-specific project descriptions, can be found on the Agency's <u>interactive map</u>.

Unless otherwise noted, the results in this appendix reflect progress from BIL funding.

Clean School Bus Program

The BIL provides \$5 billion over five years (FY 2022-2026), including \$3 billion for FY 2022-2024, to replace existing diesel school buses with low and zero-emission buses through new Clean School Bus rebates and competitive grants, open to all communities, including tribal nations, Alaska Native Villages, and communities in the U.S. Territories.

Measures	FY 2024 Results
Number of new buses expected from funding to date.	8,930
Number of school districts expected to receive new buses to date.	1,341

Water Infrastructure Improvements

The BIL provides \$43 billion over five years (FY 2022-2026), including \$25 billion for FY 2022-2024, to strengthen the nation's drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure. This includes a historic \$15 billion investment, including \$9 billion for FY 2022-2024, to identify and replace lead drinking water service lines. Lead is particularly hazardous to the health of children and infants as it is a known developmental neurotoxin that interferes with brain development. There is no safe level of lead exposure for children. With the final Lead and Copper Rule Improvements announced by EPA October 8, 2024, drinking water systems across the country will identify and replace lead pipes within 10 years.

Measure	FY 2024 Results
Number of lead service line replacements funded.*	89,000

* This measure is also used to track progress under annual appropriations.

Emerging Contaminants – Small or Disadvantaged Communities

The BIL provides \$5 billion over five years (FY 2022-2026), including \$3 billion for FY 2022-2024, to address emerging contaminants such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water in small and disadvantaged communities. PFAS contaminants pose multiple human health risks, such as reproductive, developmental, and cardiovascular effects, as well as certain cancers. This is one of the key funding sources available to public water systems to address emerging contaminants. All states and territories have had a robust uptake of the available funding, with most projects focused on addressing PFAS.

Measure	FY 2024 Results
Total dollar amount of Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation	\$2.053B
Emerging Contaminants in Small and Disadvantage Communities Grant	
funding for projects where the emerging contaminant is Per- and	
polyfluoroalkyl Substances.	

Geographic Programs

The BIL provides funding for the 12 Geographic Programs administered by EPA. The work varies significantly by program and includes a range of efforts, including ecosystem and habitat restoration, water quality improvement and water quality monitoring, nutrient reduction monitoring, climate resilience, environmental education and outreach, and local capacity building.

Chesapeake Bay Program

The BIL provides \$238 million over five years (FY 2022-2026), including nearly \$142.8 million for FY 2022-2024, to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay, the nation's largest estuary. Goals include improving water quality, protecting, restoring, and enhancing fisheries and habitats, maintaining healthy watersheds, increasing stewardship, conserving landscapes, and expanding public access. The goals also address other critical issues, such as environmental justice, toxic contaminants, and climate resiliency. Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) is an important indicator of the health of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Grasses in the Bay and its tidal tributaries provide critical habitat for fish and shellfish and other wildlife. There is a one-year data lag for SAV data. According to preliminary data from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), 79,234 acres of underwater grasses were mapped in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries in 2023. This is 61% of the Chesapeake Bay Program's 2025 target of 130,000 acres and 45% of the partnership's 185,000-acre goal.

Measure	FY 2024 Results
Acres of restored submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) in the Chesapeake	79,234
Bay.*	

* This result includes work funded by annual appropriations.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)

The BIL provides \$1 billion over five years (FY 2022-2026), including \$600 million for FY 2022-2024, for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. These funds are crucial to accelerating cleanup and restoration of the 24 remaining most environmentally degraded sites throughout the Great Lakes Region, known as Areas of Concern (AOC). Management actions are the cleanup and restoration projects that lead to the eventual delisting of the AOC. The Great Lakes are one of the largest sources of freshwater in the world.

Measures	FY 2024 Results
Cubic yards of contaminated sediment remediated in Great Lakes Areas of	5,900,00
Concern (AOCs).*	
Number of beneficial use impairments removed in Areas of Concern	128
(AOC) in the Great Lakes region.*	
Number of areas of areas of concern (AOCs) in the great Lakes region	17
where all management actions necessary for delisting have been	
implemented.*	
* These results include work funded by annual appropriations	

These results include work funded by annual appropriations.
San Francisco Bay

The BIL provides \$24 million over five years (FY 2022-2026), including \$14.4 million for FY 2022-2024, for the San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund (SFBWQIF) to support project implementation and climate resilience in underserved communities. It provides additional funding to advance the goal of investing in America's infrastructure and delivering environmental and public health benefits for communities with environmental justice concerns.

Measures	FY 2024 Results
San Francisco Bay Water Quality BIL funding to community-based	9.128
organizations (\$ millions).	
Number of San Francisco Bay BIL projects.	15

South Florida

The BIL provides \$16 million over five years (FY 2022-2026), including \$9.6 million for FY 2022-2024, for the South Florida Program to protect and restore the quality of South Florida's waterways and address disproportionate risks in underserved communities. The area faces challenges including Harmful Algal Blooms, sea-grass loss, coral disease and loss, failing septic systems, flood control, water supply and water quality needs, and mitigating and adapting for extreme weather events and sea-level rise. In total, EPA issued six BIL-funded grants, four of which directly benefit underserved communities.

Measure	FY 2024 Results
Percent of dollars directly benefiting South Florida underserved	56.3%
communities.*	

* This result includes work funded by annual appropriations.

Long Island Sound

The BIL provides \$106 million over five years (FY2022-2026), including \$63.6 million for FY 2022-2024, through the Long Island Sound Study (LISS) to five state partners and non-profit organizations to implement BIL priorities under the LISS Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. Pass-through funding is provided to 22 organizations to increase climate resilience and support environmental and public health benefits for communities with environmental justice concerns in the Long Island Sound watershed.

Measures	FY 2024 Results
Number of organizations receiving BIL funds from EPA for LISS projects.	27
Partners receiving BIL funds to execute LISS projects.	5

Columbia River Basin

The BIL provides \$79 million over five years (FY 2022-2026), including \$47.4 million for FY 2022-2024, for the Columbia River Basin Program. Funds are provided through a series of three competitions that were completed in FY 2024: one for Columbia River Basin environmental protection and restoration; one for tribes to reduce toxics in the Columbia River Basin; and one to help develop a basin-wide toxics reduction program which includes agricultural best management practices, green infrastructure, voluntary certification programs such as Salmon Safe, and cleanup of contaminated sites.

Measure	FY 2024 Results
Number of Columbia River Basin projects funded.	18

Puget Sound

The BIL provides \$89 million over five years (FY 2022-2026), including \$53.4 million for FY 2022-2024, for three new multi-year cooperative agreements to support implementation of the Puget Sound Partnership Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan to protect and restore habitat. Pollution and agricultural runoff have reduced the safe harvest and consumption of shellfish across 143 thousand acres of shellfish beds in Puget Sound. In FY 2024, partners protected and restored 2,435 acres of Puget Sound wetlands, riparian, estuarine, and shoreline habitats, and restored 52 miles of streams.

Measures	FY 2024 Results
Dollars leveraged from EPA Puget Sound funds.*	\$1.1 billion
Net increase in harvestable shellfish acreage in Puget Sound.*	653
Habitat acreage restored or permanently protected in Puget Sound.*	2,435
* These results include work funded by ennuel engenietions	

* These results include work funded by annual appropriations.

Superfund

The BIL provided \$3.5 billion, all of it in FY 2022, to the Superfund Remedial Program to eliminate the backlog of unfunded construction projects and expedite cleanup of ongoing remedial projects, making it one of the largest investments in American history to address legacy pollution that harms the public health of communities and neighborhoods.

Measure	FY 2024 Results
Number of remedial action projects completed at Superfund sites.*	21
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* This measure is also used to track progress under annual appropriations and other funding sources.

Brownfields

The BIL provides \$1.5 billion over five years (FY 2022-2026), including \$900 million for FY 2022-2024, for EPA grants to communities and nonprofits to assess and clean up brownfields properties to prepare these sites for reuse. Cleaning up and reinvesting in these properties increases local tax bases, facilitates job growth, utilizes existing infrastructure, and takes development pressures off undeveloped open land. Approximately 160 million Americans live within three miles of a brownfield site, many of which are in disadvantaged communities.

Measures	FY 2024 Results
Number of brownfields properties assessed.*	745
Number of brownfields properties assessed in disadvantaged communities.	403
Number of brownfields properties cleaned up.*	35
Number of brownfields properties cleaned up in disadvantaged	19
communities.	
Cleanup and redevelopment dollars leveraged at brownfields sites.	\$79,637,235
Number of jobs leveraged from brownfields activities.	142
Number of brownfields sites made ready for anticipated use.*	138

* These measures are also used to track progress under annual appropriations.

Solid Waste Management for Recycling (SWIFR) Grants

The BIL provides \$275 million over five years (FY 2022-2026), including \$165 million for FY 2022-2024, to implement the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant Program. SWIFR Grants

BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

support improvements to local post-consumer materials management, including municipal recycling programs, and assist local waste management authorities in making improvements to local waste management systems, including those that serve disadvantaged communities.

Measures	FY 2024 Results
Communities benefitting from grants awarded in FY 2023 and FY 2024.	286
Disadvantaged communities benefitting from grants awarded in FY 2023	285
and FY 2024.	

Recycling Education and Outreach (REO) Grants

The BIL provides \$75 million over five years (FY 2022-2026), including \$45 million for FY 2022-2024, to inform the public about residential or community recycling and composting programs, including those that serve disadvantaged communities, provide information about the materials accepted as part of these programs, and increase material collection rates. "Communities reached through outreach activities" is the number of tribes, municipalities, cities, and towns benefiting as a result of REO grants that were awarded in FY 2023 and FY 2024. "Disadvantaged community" is defined in the REO Round One Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Measures	FY 2024 Results
Communities reached through outreach activities.	524
Disadvantaged communities reached through outreach activities.	499

Pollution Prevention

The BIL provides \$100 million over five years (FY 2022-2026), including \$60 million for FY 2022-2024, to expand the current Pollution Prevention (P2) Grant Program, which triples the annual funding available to states, tribes, and other eligible entities to help businesses adopt voluntary source reduction practices to protect the environment and save money. Source reduction prevents pollution at its source prior to recycling, treatment, or disposal of waste. The results below reflect reporting to date.

Measures	FY 2024 Results
Number of facilities that receive direct P2 technical assistance.	246
Facilities implementing P2 practices as a result of technical assistance.	2
Number of businesses that receive indirect P2 technical assistance to	39
improve human health and/or the environment in disadvantaged	
communities.	
Reduction in pounds of hazardous materials used and of hazardous	105
substances, pollutants, and contaminants released to land, water and	
air from P2 actions.	
Reduction in metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (MMTCO ₂ e)	589
released.*	
Reduction in pounds of air pollutants emitted.	552,062
Reduction in gallons of water used.	142
Cost savings achieved from reducing hazardous material use,	133,062
pollutants released, MTCO ₂ e released, and water used by	
implementing pollution prevention actions (dollars).	

* This measure is also used to track progress under annual appropriations.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

American Rescue Plan Performance Report - Cumulative Results as of September 30, 2024

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 provided EPA with \$100 million dollars to address health outcome disparities from pollution and the COVID-19 pandemic, with which EPA is funding environmental justice initiatives and enhanced air quality monitoring.

EPA identified performance measures for major categories of funding under ARP. EPA is reporting final results for most measures. EPA posts financial status by funding categories (including total funding, obligations, and remaining funding) on its website.

Additional information is available on EPA's American Rescue Plan page.

Environmental Justice Grants and Technical Assistance

EPA provides environmental justice grants and technical assistance directly to community-based organizations, federally recognized tribes, state governments, local governments, and U.S. territories for projects that support underserved communities and build partnerships to address local environmental and public health issues. EPA allocated a total of \$16.65 million in ARP funding to environmental justice grants and technical assistance through the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program, the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program, the State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement Program, and other technical assistance.

Measures	Final Results
Number of partnering organizations participating in projects.	491
Number of recipients.	150
Number of new recipients.	125

Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) funding

EPA's Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Program—authorized under sections 791 through 797 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16131 through 16137)—funds grants and rebates that protect human health and improve air quality by reducing harmful emissions from diesel engines. EPA allocated a total of \$7 million to fund electric school bus rebates in underserved communities. Selected applicants received \$300,000 for each bus replacement, and applicants could request up to four new buses.

Measures	Final Results
Total DERA ARP Rebate Funding Awarded.	\$6,600,000
Number of new buses expected from funding to date.	22

Civil and Criminal Enforcement

EPA's Civil and Criminal Enforcement Program ensures compliance with environmental requirements. When warranted, EPA may take civil or criminal enforcement to ensure compliance with environmental laws. EPA allocated a total of \$5.13 million to support civil and criminal enforcement.

Measure	Final Results
Number of views of environmental crime victim outreach ads on social	17,129,834
media.	

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

Brownfields

EPA's Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Program—authorized under section 104(k)(7)(A) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)(7)(A))—helps communities and other stakeholders to understand the risks and challenges posed by brownfield sites and to learn how to safely assess, clean up, revitalize, and reuse brownfields properties. TAB grant recipients (also known as TAB providers) serve as an independent resource and can provide expert technical assistance and guidance to help communities. EPA allocated \$5 million to fund TAB cooperative agreements for organizations serving as technical assistance providers for activities targeted toward underserved communities.

Measures	Final Results
Number of new communities receiving technical assistance.	839
Number of communities receiving technical assistance.	2,337

Children's Health

EPA works to protect children from environmental exposures by consistently and explicitly considering early life exposures and lifelong health in all human health decisions. Children who live in pollution-overburdened or underserved communities may have reduced biological resilience and ability to recover from exposure to environmental hazards (see: EPA's 2021 Policy on Children's Health). EPA allocated \$4.85 million to fund children's health programs.

Measures	Final Results
Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSUs): Number of	424
underserved communities trained.	
PEHSUs: Number of community outreach activities.	196
PEHSUs: Number of health and public health providers trained (in	1,892
environmental medicine).	
Children's Healthy Learning: Number of cooperative agreements awarded.	10
Children's Healthy Learning: Number of children served by projects	23,985
conducted under a cooperative agreement.	

Drinking Water

EPA's drinking water initiatives in rural and tribal areas ensure that assistance is provided to communities through specific regional projects. A total of \$4.7 million was allocated to fund 13 technical assistance programs to improve drinking water and compliance monitoring in urban, rural, and tribal areas.

Measures	Results to Date
Number of drinking water systems supported that serve overburdened	502
and underserved communities.	
Number of tribal drinking water systems supported.	300

Community Technical Assistance

EPA's community technical assistance efforts support community-driven solutions to collaboratively build community capacity to address air and drinking water issues in underserved communities. A total of \$2.15 million was allocated for this work.

Measures	Final Results
Number of underserved communities served.	84

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

Measures	Final Results
Number of partnerships supported.	159

Tribal Engagement (Public Participation)

EPA supports federally recognized tribal governments to establish or modify public participation programs where fair treatment and meaningful participation priorities have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. EPA allocated \$1.6 million to support tribal public participation efforts. After receiving six eligible applications totaling \$500 thousand in awards, EPA allocated and used the remaining funds to support three competitive grant awards for enhanced air quality monitoring for tribes.

Measures	Final Results
Number of communities engaged by supported public participation	27
programs.	
Number of public participation processes (a) developed and/or	10
(b) modified by supported tribal programs.	

Direct Awards for Continuous Monitoring of PM 2.5 and other Common Air Pollutants

A total of \$50 million was provided to EPA to improve ambient air quality monitoring for communities across the United States and to address adverse and disproportionate health outcomes from pollution and the COVID-19 pandemic. Of that \$50 million, EPA allocated and awarded \$22.5 million in direct awards to air agencies for continuous monitoring of fine particles and the five other criteria pollutants covered by the National Ambient Air Quality Standards under the Clean Air Act.

Measure	Final Results
Number of grant projects awarded.	127

Grant Competition for Community Air Monitoring

Also to improve ambient air quality monitoring for communities across the United States and to address adverse and disproportionate health outcomes from pollution and the COVID-19 pandemic, EPA allocated and awarded \$20 million through a grant competition seeking proposals from community groups; state, tribal and local government air agencies; and other eligible entities.

Measure	Final Results
Number of competitive grant projects awarded.	54