United States
Environmental Protection Agency

Fiscal Year 2026

Justification of Appropriation Estimates for the Committee on Appropriations

Tab 02: Science and Technology

EPA-190R25002

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Environmental Protection Agency
FY 2026 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification

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APPROPRIATION: Science & Technology

Resource Summary Table

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Science & Technology				
Budget Authority	$782,646	$756,073	$500,780	-$255,293
Total Workyears	1,999.3	1,892.6	1,535.5	-357.1

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.
*For ease of comparison, Superfund transfer resources for the audit and research functions are shown in the Superfund account.

Bill Language: Science and Technology

For science and technology, including research and development activities, which shall include research and development activities under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980; necessary expenses for personnel and related costs; procurement of laboratory equipment and supplies; hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft; and other operating expenses in support of research and development, $500,780,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

Program Projects in S&T

(Dollars in Thousands)

Program Project	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Clean Air				
Atmospheric Protection	$7,295	$8,400	$0	-$8,400
Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs	$6,456	$6,162	$5,739	-$423
Federal Support for Air Quality Management	$15,762	$10,608	$10,727	$119
Federal Vehicle and Fuels Standards and Certification	$110,934	$113,454	$100,731	-$12,723
Subtotal, Clean Air	$140,448	$138,624	$117,197	-$21,427
Clean and Safe Water Technical Assistance Grants				
Congressional Priorities	$28,536	$17,500	$0	-$17,500
Enforcement				
Forensics Support	$14,668	$14,895	$10,095	-$4,800
Ensure Safe Water				

Program Project	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Drinking Water Programs	$4,111	$4,700	$4,700	$0
Homeland Security				
Homeland Security: Critical Infrastructure Protection	$11,253	$10,427	$10,214	-$213
Homeland Security: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery	$25,348	$23,598	$25,542	$1,944
Homeland Security: Protection of EPA Personnel and Infrastructure	$625	$625	$500	-$125
Subtotal, Homeland Security	$37,226	$34,650	$36,256	$1,606
Indoor Air and Radiation				
Indoor Air: Radon Program	$169	$22	$0	-$22
Radiation: Protection	$2,295	$1,740	$1,047	-$693
Radiation: Response Preparedness	$3,174	$3,400	$3,096	-$304
Reduce Risks from Indoor Air	$100	$88	$0	-$88
Subtotal, Indoor Air and Radiation	$5,737	$5,250	$4,143	-$1,107
IT / Data Management / Security				
IT / Data Management	$2,484	$3,079	$2,890	-$189
Operations and Administration				
Facilities Infrastructure and Operations	$67,394	$64,733	$55,023	-$9,710
Workforce Reshaping	$0	$0	$2,000	$2,000
Subtotal, Operations and Administration	$67,394	$64,733	$57,023	-$7,710
Pesticides Licensing				
Pesticides: Protect the Environment from Pesticide Risk	$2,151	$2,143	$2,616	$473
Pesticides: Protect Human Health from Pesticide Risk	$2,996	$2,889	$2,442	-$447
Pesticides: Realize the Value of Pesticide Availability	$823	$868	$684	-$184
Subtotal, Pesticides Licensing	$5,969	$5,900	$5,742	-$158
Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability				
Health and Environmental Risk Assessment	$42,055	$38,732	$24,694	-$14,038
Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability				
Endocrine Disruptors	$17,002	$15,535	$10,034	-$5,501
Computational Toxicology	$22,264	$20,526	$16,148	-$4,378
Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability (other activities)	$54,133	$52,244	$40,770	-$11,474
Subtotal, Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability	$93,399	$88,305	$66,952	-$21,353

Program Project	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Subtotal, Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability	$135,454	$127,037	$91,646	-$35,391
Research: Safe and Sustainable Water Resources				
Research: Safe and Sustainable Water Resources	$111,275	$111,500	$78,948	-$32,552
Research: Sustainable Communities				
Research: Sustainable and Healthy Communities	$134,581	$132,205	$58,597	-$73,608
Research: Air and Energy				
Research: Air and Energy	$94,764	$96,000	$33,543	-$62,457
TOTAL S&T	**$782,646**	**$756,073**	**$500,780**	**-$255,293**

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.
*For ease of comparison, Superfund transfer resources for the audit and research functions are shown in the Superfund account.

Clean Air

Atmospheric Protection

Program Area: Clean Air

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$99,198	$100,000	$0	-$100,000
Science & Technology	***$7,295***	***$8,400***	***$0***	***-$8,400***
Total Budget Authority	$106,494	$108,400	$0	-$108,400
Total Workyears	197.6	201.8	0.0	-201.8

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Atmospheric Protection Program is proposed for elimination in FY 2026 and all applicable statutory work (*e.g.,* Clean Air Act, Pollution Prevention Act, Energy Policy Act of 2005, etc.) will be accomplished in other programs within the Clean Air Program Area.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources and FTE are proposed for elimination for this program in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$8,400.0 / -25.4 FTE) This funding change proposes to eliminate the Atmospheric Protection Program, from the S&T account, to reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Air Act; Pollution Prevention Act (PPA), §§ 6602-6605; National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), § 102; Clean Water Act, § 104; Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), § 8001; Energy Policy Act of 2005, § 756.

Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs

Program Area: Clean Air

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$15,177	$13,423	$13,231	-$192
Science & Technology	***$6,456***	***$6,162***	***$5,739***	***-$423***
Total Budget Authority	$21,633	$19,585	$18,970	-$615
Total Workyears	62.8	62.8	61.7	-1.1

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work.

This program is responsible for managing the Clean Air Status and Trends Network (CASTNET), an ambient monitoring network that has been continuously collecting data for more than 35 years. CASTNET serves as the Nation's primary source for assessing long-term trends in rural air quality and atmospheric pollutant inputs to ecosystems. CASTNET sites are uniquely situated in remote and high elevation areas within 41 states and seven tribal boundaries. Rural CASTNET sites are intentionally located away from stationary emission sources. The network provides valuable data to support the ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) in many areas not monitored by state, local, and tribal monitoring agencies. Additionally, CASTNET ozone data are used for exceptional event assessments of international transport, background concentrations, wildfire events, and stratospheric ozone intrusions, often leading to ozone exceedances. The sites also fill critical data gaps needed to understand precursor emissions contributions leading to air quality issues affecting downwind population centers, such as agricultural activity, oil and gas production, wildfire smoke, and wood smoke in mountain valleys. The CASTNET monitoring network continues to be critical for assessing impacts of regional emission reduction programs particularly in rural and tribal communities across America and is used in evaluating how various stressors may impact future improvements to air quality.

The Agency's CASTNET Program also supports 42 ambient ammonia monitoring sites and 18 wet deposition sites through its contribution to the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) to assess atmospheric concentrations of particulate matter (PM) precursors (*e.g.*, ammonia); nitrogen impacts on air and water quality (*e.g.*, eutrophication, harmful algal blooms); and ecosystem effects (*e.g.*, reduction in biodiversity). The Agency utilizes data from these monitoring programs to support the development, evaluation, and validation of air quality models used to assess results under potential future emission scenarios. Used in conjunction with other ambient air quality networks, CASTNET's data products also are used to determine the

effectiveness of national and regional emission control programs, validate satellite measurements, and provide near-real time data to support AirNow and Air Quality Index (AQI) reporting tools.

EPA works closely with tribal governments to build tribal air monitoring capacity through partnerships with the CASTNET Program. Since 2002, CASTNET has added seven sites on tribal lands. By expanding tribal partnerships, CASTNET can fill important spatial gaps in air quality and atmospheric deposition monitoring while providing tribes with the equipment and technical training to collect and report local air quality data. Tribes benefit from dedicated monitoring sites that build technical skills, provide near-real time air quality data to the community, and provide environmental data that help tribes assess the impacts of air pollution on cultural or natural resources on tribal lands.

To support modernization efforts, CASTNET will use the existing network infrastructure to fill in gaps in continuous measurements necessary to evaluate changes in atmospheric chemistry and global impacts on air quality and deposition. The Program is well-situated as a platform to measure background or regional levels of air toxics (*e.g.*, ethylene oxide) and persistent chemicals of concern (*e.g.*, Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) compounds). Measuring speciated reactive nitrogen will provide valuable data that states can use to determine which precursors are driving PM formation and make more informed decisions on emission control strategies. Furthermore, continuing to expand capacity while modernizing the CASTNET infrastructure ensures data can be made available in near-real time to address short-term changes in air quality resulting from meteorological conditions, such as temperature inversions, or natural disasters, such as wildfires.

This Program also supports the Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs, which are nationwide and multi-state programs that address air pollutants that are transported across state, regional, and international boundaries. Programs designed to control sulfur dioxide (SO_2) and nitrogen oxide (NO_X) include Title IV (the Acid Rain Program) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR), the CSAPR Update, the Revised CSAPR Update, and the Good Neighbor Plan.[1] The infrastructure for the Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs also supports implementation of other state and federal programs.

This suite of statutorily required Programs requires states to limit their emissions of SO_2 and/or NO_x in order to reduce or eliminate the states' contributions to fine particulate matter and/or ground-level ozone pollution in other states. These programs set emissions limitations that are defined in terms of maximum statewide "budgets" for emissions of annual SO_2, annual NO_x, and/or ozone-season NO_x from each state's large electric generating units. EPA is supporting state efforts with respect to best available retrofit technology (BART), reasonable progress, and interstate visibility transport, as those obligations relate to SO_2 emissions from electricity generating units.[2] The air quality and other environmental information gathered through this Program support these Clean Air Allowance Trading Program-related rulemakings and other rulemakings associated with Regional Haze.

[1] On June 27, 2024, the Supreme Court of the United States granted emergency applications seeking a stay of the Good Neighbor Plan pending judicial review.
[2] Clean Air Act § 110 and § 169A; refer to 40 CFR 52.2312.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1*: *Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2026, EPA will:

- Continue to support air quality and environmental monitoring sites (*e.g.*, CASTNET NADP National Trends Network (NTN), and NADP Ammonia Monitoring Network (AMoN) sites. Monitoring data from these Programs are used to analyze and assess local and regional transport of air pollution, impacts on air quality and atmospheric deposition, and other indicators of air quality and ecosystem health.

- Provide support for independent audits and required performance evaluations to assure high-quality data to support the NAAQS and environmental assessments.

- Continue making progress toward increasing monitoring capacity by working to identify new tribal partners and rural communities across America that would benefit from joining a national air monitoring program.

- Informed by a recent scientific review of the Program, CASTNET will invest in new technology and small businesses by replacing aging equipment, repairing monitoring shelters more than 30 years old that have deteriorated due to weather, and deploying new equipment and monitoring sites in rural areas.

- Upgrade aging CASTNET equipment to expand the nation's rural multipollutant monitoring network. To modernize the Program, EPA will replace continuous ozone analyzers, and procure new $PM_{2.5}$ sensors that will support NAAQS assessments, emission control strategies, regulatory actions, and impacts on air quality and ecosystems in the future.

- Continue to modernize the data reporting tools and visualizations to improve user experiences and data access, particularly during emergencies (*e.g.,* wildfires). Strengthening front-end and back-end data management platforms will improve system reliability and allow state and local agencies to quickly make critical decisions.

- Ensure the continuation of ongoing SO_2 and NO_x emission reductions from power plants in the U.S. by implementing the suite of CSAPR Programs and the Acid Rain Program.

- Ensure accurate and consistent results for the Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs. Continue work on performance specifications and investigate monitoring alternatives and methods to improve the efficiency of monitor certification and emissions data reporting.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$423.0) This program change is a reduction to reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth reflecting the Administration's deregulatory agenda and focus on the Agency being more efficient.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Air Act.

Federal Support for Air Quality Management

Program Area: Clean Air

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$149,862	$151,225	$132,556	-$18,669
Science & Technology	***$15,762***	***$10,608***	***$10,727***	***$119***
Total Budget Authority	$165,625	$161,833	$143,283	-$18,550
Total Workyears	836.5	849.6	743.1	-106.5

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

Federal support for the criteria pollutant and air toxics programs includes a variety of tools to characterize ambient air quality and the level of risk to the public from air pollutants and to measure national progress toward improving air quality and reducing associated risks. The Federal Support for Air Quality Management Program supports development of State Implementation Plans (SIPs) through modeling and other tools, and assists states in implementing, attaining, maintaining, and implementing the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for criteria pollutants and the regional haze program. The Program also supports development and provision of information, training, and tools to assist state, tribal, and local agencies to reduce air toxics emissions and risk specific to their local areas. In addition, the Program supports activities related to the Clean Air Act (CAA) stationary source residual risk and technology review program. EPA is required to assess the level of risk remaining after promulgation of National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) that are based on Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) within eight years of that promulgation. In addition, the Agency is required to review all NESHAP at least every eight years to determine if revisions are needed to reflect developments in practices, processes, and control technologies. The CAA Section 129 Program further requires EPA to develop and periodically review standards of performance and emissions guidelines covering air emissions from waste combustion sources, including emissions of certain air toxics.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

During FY 2026, as part of implementing key activities in support of attainment of the NAAQS, EPA will provide states, tribes, and local air agencies with scientifically and technically sound assistance in developing SIPs/Tribal Implementation Plans (TIPs). This assistance includes providing models, modeling inputs and tools, and technical data and guidance and identifying emission control options consistent with applicable requirements of the CAA. EPA facilitates national consistency in how air quality modeling is conducted as part of regulatory decision-making, including federal and state permitting programs, SIP/TIP-related actions, as well as how conformity determinations are made across the U.S. The Agency will work with states, tribes, and local air agencies to ensure that particulate matter (PM) hot-spot analyses are conducted in a manner consistent with the transportation conformity regulation and guidance. In some instances,

EPA is obligated by a statutory or court-enforceable deadline to issue a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP). This work also supports state obligations.

One of EPA's priorities is to fulfill its statutory and court-enforceable obligations. In FY 2026, EPA will continue to conduct the periodically required "technology reviews," conduct required risk assessments for MACT-based NESHAP, and reconsider previous actions as necessary. In FY 2026, the Air Toxics program will prioritize conducting reviews and reconsiderations of NESHAP and CAA Section 129 rules that either are subject to court-enforceable deadlines or are Administration priority actions. EPA expects to propose or promulgate more than 25 air toxics rules in FY 2026. These actions also support *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 2*: *Restore American Energy Dominance* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

EPA will continue reporting the most current air toxics data each year in the annual Air Trends Report and in an online interactive tool (AirToxScreen). EPA will continue providing information annually on health risks from exposures to air toxics through AirToxScreen, so that state, tribal and local air agencies can identify existing and emerging air toxics exposure issues.

EPA works with other internal and external stakeholders on improving ambient air monitoring networks and measurement techniques to fill data gaps and to provide better input to estimation of population exposure to criteria and toxic air pollutants. To ensure data quality, EPA will continue to implement and manage independent quality assurance programs for national monitoring networks as well as for federal and commercial laboratories that produce ambient air monitoring data.

In FY 2026, EPA will work with partners to continue improving emissions factors and inventories, including the National Emissions Inventory (NEI). This effort includes gathering improved activity data from emissions monitoring and using geographic information systems and satellite remote sensing systems, where possible, for key point, area, mobile, and fugitive sources, and global emission events.

EPA will continue to operate and maintain the Emissions Inventory System (EIS), which collects, quality assures and stores current and historical emissions inventory data and supports the development of the NEI. EPA, states, and others use the NEI to aid in state and local air agency SIP development, serve as a vital input to air quality modeling, help analyze public health risks from air toxics, develop strategies to manage those risks, and support multi-pollutant analysis for air emissions.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$492.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefit costs.

- (+$611.0 / +2.3 FTE) This program change is an increase in the Federal Support for Air Quality Management Program to align funding with core statutory requirements and the goals of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative, while ensuring sufficient FTE levels to support the work on SIPs.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Air Act.

Federal Vehicle and Fuels Standards and Certification

Program Area: Clean Air

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Science & Technology	***$110,934***	***$113,454***	***$100,731***	***-$12,723***
Total Budget Authority	$110,934	$113,454	$100,731	-$12,723
Total Workyears	308.5	309.6	310.5	0.9

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work.

Under the Federal Vehicle and Fuels Standards and Certification Program, EPA develops, implements, and ensures compliance with national emission standards to reduce mobile source related air pollution from light-duty cars and trucks; heavy-duty trucks and buses; nonroad engines and vehicles; and from the fuels that power these engines.

National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory (NVFEL)
The NVFEL ensures air quality benefits and fair competition in the marketplace by conducting testing operations on motor vehicles, heavy-duty engines, nonroad engines, and fuels to certify that all vehicles, engines, and fuels that enter the U.S. market comply with all federal clean air, greenhouse gas, and fuel economy standards. The NVFEL conducts vehicle emission tests as part of pre-production tests, certification audits, in-use assessments, and recall programs to ensure compliance with mobile source programs. The NVFEL also produces critical test data on new and emerging vehicle and engine technologies to support the development of test methods used by regulated industry to comply with EPA standards.

Renewable Fuel Standard Program (RFS)
The RFS was created under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct), which amended the Clean Air Act (CAA), and was expanded under the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA). The RFS program requires a certain volume of renewable fuel to replace or reduce the quantity of petroleum-based transportation fuel, heating oil, or jet fuel. Producers of renewable fuel generate renewable fuel credits known as Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs) which are ultimately used by producers or importers of petroleum fuels to demonstrate compliance with the Program's renewable fuel volume requirements.

Supporting Tribal, State and Local Governments
EPA works with tribal, state, and local governments to ensure the technical integrity of the mobile source control emission benefits, including State Implementation Plans (SIPs) and transportation

conformity determinations. EPA develops and provides information and tools to assist tribal, state, and local agencies, as well as communities, to reduce criteria pollutants and air toxics emissions and risks specific to their local areas.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

The Federal Vehicle and Fuels Standards and Certification Program supports the Agency's compliance programs by operating test cells that measure emissions, reviewing certification applications for light-duty vehicles and heavy-duty engines to approve applications, and examining potential violations.

In FY 2026, the Federal Vehicle and Fuels Standards and Certification Program will continue to focus its efforts on EPA's obligations under Section 206 of the CAA (Motor vehicle and motor vehicle engine compliance testing and certification). The Agency will continue to perform its compliance oversight functions on priority matters, conducting compliance oversight tests where evidence suggests noncompliance. EPA will continue to conduct pre-certification confirmatory testing activities for emissions and fuel economy for passenger cars. EPA also anticipates reviewing and approving about 4,900 vehicle and engine emissions certification requests. This work is consistent with *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 5: Protecting and Bringing Back American Auto Jobs* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to utilize in-use emissions data provided by light-duty vehicle manufacturers to measure compliance and determine if any follow-up evaluation or testing is necessary. EPA reviews the data and determines if there are any specific vehicles, models, or manufacturers that are failing in-use emissions standards.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue work begun in FY 2025 to reconsider and reevaluate three major on-road engine and vehicle regulations. Specifically, EPA announced on March 12, 2025, that the Agency would reconsider the 2024 light- and medium-duty vehicle multipollutant rule and the 2024 heavy-duty vehicle GHG "Phase 3" rule, and EPA will reevaluate the 2022 highway heavy-duty engine Low NO_x rule. This work is consistent with *Pillar 1*: *Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American*, *Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance*, and *Pillar 5*: *Protecting and Bringing Back American Auto Jobs*.

EPA will continue working on programs to reduce pollutant emissions from marine and aircraft engines. In FY 2026, the Agency will consider updates to existing oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) test cycles and emission limits for marine engines. In FY 2026, the Agency also will consider NO_x emissions from civil aviation, as well as the test procedure and measurement processes for measuring aircraft engine particulate matter (PM).

The Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator (MOVES) is the Agency's emission modeling system that estimates emissions for mobile sources at the national, county, and project levels for criteria air pollutants, greenhouse gases, and air toxics. In FY 2026, MOVES will continue to support the Agency's emission control programs, as well as provide critical assistance to states in their determination of program needs to meet air quality standards.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to provide state and local governments with assistance in developing SIPs and providing assistance with transportation conformity determinations. This work is consistent with *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*.

EPA will continue to provide assistance to state and local transportation and air quality agencies working on $PM_{2.5}$ hot-spot analyses. Additionally, EPA will continue partnering with states to support inspection and maintenance (I/M) programs that focus on in-use vehicles and engines.

In FY 2026, EPA will work with a broad range of stakeholders to reduce emissions from legacy diesel engines. EPA will work collaboratively to help facilitate and accelerate this transition to newer technologies while maintaining the functionality of this commercial equipment.

EPA will continue to implement the Renewable Fuel Standard program and carry out actions required by the CAA's RFS provisions, including operating and maintaining the credit trading systems that support the program. Section 211(o) of the CAA requires that EPA set annual volume standards for renewable fuels, and the Agency intends to establish by October 31, 2025, volume standards for future years as part of the "Set 2" Rulemaking. The RFS program is a key federal support for domestic renewable energy, and implementing the program is consistent with *Pillar 2: Restoring American Energy Dominance*.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to maintain oversight of the RFS program and continue to evaluate compliance with RFS provisions through its system, which is used to track the creation, trades, and use of billions of Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs) for compliance.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to implement its Fuel and Fuel Additive Registration program as required under Section 211 of the CAA and anticipates reviewing and issuing approximately 900 registration decisions.

In FY 2026, the National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory (NVFEL) enters into the fourth year of its 24-year energy savings performance contract (ESPC) that results in an infrastructure upgrade project with capital equipment costs of more than $59 million over the contract's lifetime. The ESPC replaces the mechanical, electrical, control, and building management systems for the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) equipment that is at or beyond the end of its useful life – work that supports the ability of NVFEL to carry-out its mission-critical work.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$1,780.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

- (-$1,249.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of lab utilities.

- (-$9,694.0 / + 0.9 FTE) This net program change aligns program funding with core statutory requirements. This change empowers EPA implementing partners through cooperative federalism, while retaining funding and FTE for EPA to regain and retain primacy for certification of vehicles.

Statutory Authority:

Title II of the Clean Air Act; Motor Vehicle Information Cost Savings Act; Alternative Motor Fuels Act of 1988; National Highway System Designation Act; Energy Policy Act of 1992; Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU); Energy Policy Act of 2005; Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

Congressional Priorities

Congressional Priorities

Program Area: Clean and Safe Water Technical Assistance Grants

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$30,700	$30,700	$0	-$30,700
Science & Technology	***$28,536***	***$17,500***	***$0***	***-$17,500***
Total Budget Authority	$59,236	$48,200	$0	-$48,200

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Congressional Priorities Program is proposed for elimination to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3*: *Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources are proposed for elimination for this program in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$17,500.0) The Congressional Priorities Program is proposed for elimination to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Air Act (CAA) 42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq. Title 1, Part A – Sec. 103 (a) and (d) and Sec. 104 (c); CAA 42 U.S.C. 7402(b) Section 102; CAA 42 U.S.C. 7403(b)(2) Section 103(b)(2); Clinger Cohen Act, 40 U.S.C. 11318; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) (Superfund, 1980) Section 209(a) of Public Law 99-499; Children's Health Act; Clean Water Act (CWA), Sec. 101 - 121; Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA); Coastal Zone Amendments Reauthorization Act (CZARA); Coastal

Zone Management Act (CZMA) 16 U.S.C. 1451 - Section 302; Economy Act, 31 U.S.C. 1535; Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA), Title II Subtitle B; Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act (ERDDAA), 33 U.S.C. 1251 – Section 2(a); Endangered Species Act (ESA), 16 U.S.C. 1531 - Section 2; Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), 21 U.S.C. Sec. 346; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) (7 U.S.C. s/s 136 et seq. (1996), as amended), Sec. 3(c)(2)(A); Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) PL 104-170; Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, 31 U.S.C. 6502; Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) Sec. 203, 33 U.S.C. 1443; North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA); NCPA; National Environmental Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 5503(b)(3) and (b)(11); National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) of 1969, Section 102; National Invasive Species Act (NISA); Ocean Dumping Ban Act of 1988 (ODBA) Title II; PPA, 42 U.S.C. 13103; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) (1996) 42 U.S.C. Section 300j-18; SDWA Part E, Sec. 1442 (a)(1); Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), Section 10, 15, 26, U.S.C. 2609; U.S. Global Change Research Act (USGCRA) 15 U.S.C. 2921; Water Resources Development Act (WRDA); Water Resources Research Act (WRRA); and Wet Weather Water Quality Act of 2000 (WWWQA).

Enforcement

Forensics Support

Program Area: Enforcement

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Science & Technology	***$14,668***	***$14,895***	***$10,095***	***-$4,800***
Hazardous Substance Superfund	$1,474	$1,286	$1,040	-$246
Total Budget Authority	$16,142	$16,181	$11,135	-$5,046
Total Workyears	60.7	69.0	61.0	-8.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances federal responsibilities in the most cost-efficient manner. The Forensics Support Program provides expert scientific and technical support for criminal and civil environmental enforcement cases, as well as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's compliance efforts. EPA's National Enforcement Investigations Center (NEIC) is an environmental forensic center accredited for both laboratory and field sampling operations that generate environmental data for law enforcement purposes.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the Program will directly support *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. The Forensics Support program provides expert scientific and technical support for EPA's criminal and civil enforcement efforts. In FY 2026, NEIC will continue to streamline its forensics work and identify enhancements to sampling and analytical methods by leveraging emerging technologies. The NEIC will continue to provide critical support to enforcement of the Safe Drinking Water Act and other regulations, including using cutting-edge laboratory techniques for lead and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

The Program will build on its progress to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations, produce timely and high-quality work products, continue to identify and implement further efficiencies in laboratory operations, and develop new capabilities that align with EPA's Comeback Initiatives.

NEIC supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* by continuing to provide field and laboratory services to state and federal partners, including on-the-job training on how to conduct process-based inspections, effectively review environmental regulations, and conduct an engineering review of a permit. NEIC also will continue to support civil and criminal programs through laboratory analysis and method development. This

includes toxicology (*i.e.*, expert reports) and statistical support (*i.e.*, site sampling plan development).

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$3,119.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base payroll costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

- (-$1,681.0 / -8.1 FTE) This program change aligns resources with core statutory requirements, five pillar work, and recognizes needed efficiencies. Resources in this program are proposed for reduction to decrease unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community, unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute); Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Annex VI); Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act; Clean Air Act; Clean Water Act; Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act; Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act; Mercury-Containing and Rechargeable Battery Management Act; Noise Control Act; Oil Pollution Act; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; Rivers and Harbors Act; Safe Drinking Water Act; Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act; Toxic Substances Control Act; American Innovation and Manufacturing Act.

Ensure Safe Water

Drinking Water Programs

Program Area: Ensure Safe Water

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$123,122	$115,429	$124,181	$8,752
Science & Technology	***$4,111***	***$4,700***	***$4,700***	***$0***
Total Budget Authority	$127,233	$120,129	$128,881	$8,752
Total Workyears	499.2	492.5	539.4	46.9

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Drinking Water Program is responsible for a range of activities to address drinking water contamination. The Program:

- Leads the collection of national occurrence data for unregulated contaminants in drinking water;
- Develops, evaluates, and approves analytical methods that are used to monitor drinking water contaminants accurately and reliably;
- Leads the national program under which laboratories are certified to conduct the analyses of drinking water contaminants with approved analytical methods; and
- Collaborates with states, tribes, and public water systems to implement tools that optimize treatment and improve water quality by helping systems achieve compliance and maximize technical capacity while reducing operational costs.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this Program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2026, EPA's Drinking Water Program will continue to carry out the activities listed below:

- Lead development and implementation activities for the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR), a federal direct implementation program coordinated by EPA, as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).[3]

[3] For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/learn-about-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule

- The data collected pursuant to this rule support the Agency's determination of whether to establish health-based standards for unregulated drinking water contaminants to protect public health.

- In December 2021, the Agency published the final rule for the UCMR's fifth cycle (UCMR 5). EPA is managing UCMR 5 sampling through December 2025 and leading the data collection through 2026.

- UCMR 5 is the first cycle of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitor Rule to implement the monitoring provisions of America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (AWIA), which requires, subject to the availability of appropriations and adequate laboratory capacity, sampling at all small public water systems (PWSs) serving between 3,300 and 10 thousand persons. AWIA also requires monitoring at a representative sample of small PWSs serving fewer than 3,300 persons. For UCMR5, EPA implementation responsibilities significantly expanded to address a 7.5-fold increase in the number of small-system samples as a result of AWIA and associated Congressional appropriations.

- EPA is responsible for managing UCMR 5 implementation at all large PWSs serving more than 10 thousand persons, all small PWSs serving between 3,300 and 10 thousand, and a representative sample of PWS serving fewer than 3,300 persons. EPA is additionally responsible for funding the required monitoring at small PWSs. Key activities for EPA include ensuring laboratories are available to perform the required analyses, managing the field sample collection and sample analysis for small systems, and managing data reporting and transparency.

- Concurrent with managing the implementation of UCMR 5 in FY 2026, EPA will publish the proposed rule and preparing the final rule to support the sixth cycle of UCMR (UCMR 6) monitoring.

- Lead the development, revision, evaluation, and approval of analytical methods for unregulated and regulated contaminants in drinking water to assess and ensure protection of public health.

- Implement EPA's Drinking Water Laboratory Certification Program, which sets direction for oversight of state, municipal, and commercial laboratories that analyze drinking water samples.[4] EPA will conduct regional laboratory certification program reviews and deliver laboratory certification officer training courses (chemistry and microbiology) for state and regional representatives. The FY 2026 certification program oversight activities and trainings will help ensure the quality of drinking water compliance monitoring analyses.

Partner with states and water systems to optimize their treatment technology and distribution systems under the drinking water Area Wide Optimization Program (AWOP).[5] AWOP is a highly successful technical/compliance assistance and training program that enhances the ability of public

[4] For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/dwlabcert.
[5] For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/optimization-program-drinking-water-systems.

water systems to comply with existing microbial, disinfectant, and disinfection byproduct standards, and to address distribution system integrity and water quality issues caused by the source, aging infrastructure, or other concerns. During FY 2026, EPA will work with states, tribes, and technical assistance providers to train and directly assist systems. This effort includes identifying performance limiting factors at public water systems and developing and applying tailored tools to help them overcome operational challenges, achieve performance and optimization levels, and address health-based compliance challenges. The technical assistance provided by AWOP is instrumental for public water systems with limited capacity to effectively address drinking water quality issues.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$890.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

- (+$890.0 / +3.0 FTE) This program change will advance water emergency preparedness and response efforts through building internal capacity and the external capacity of state and local governments, as well as water and wastewater systems, to respond to water emergencies. This investment includes $590.0 thousand in associated payroll.

Statutory Authority:

Safe Drinking Water Act.

Homeland Security

Homeland Security: Critical Infrastructure Protection

Program Area: Homeland Security

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$987	$914	$1,361	$447
Science & Technology	***$11,253***	***$10,427***	***$10,214***	***-$213***
Total Budget Authority	$12,240	$11,341	$11,575	$234
Total Workyears	27.0	25.5	28.8	3.3

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA is the Sector Risk Management Agency (SRMA) for the water and wastewater systems sector and consequently must fulfill specific national security functions in support of the water sector. EPA's Water Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Resiliency Center serves as the primary lead for this mission by virtue of its expertise with water and wastewater systems. This Center engages federal, state, and local entities in defining annual objectives and identifying high priorities for immediate action.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

This program provides essential resources to coordinate and support the protection of the Nation's critical water infrastructure from terrorist threats and high-risk incidents. In FY 2026, EPA will continue to provide exercises and technical support to approximately 5,000 water utilities, state officials, and federal emergency responders to become more resilient to any natural or manmade incident that could endanger drinking water and wastewater services with an emphasis on natural disasters and cybersecurity threats. Pursuant to Executive Order 14239, EPA will adopt a risk informed approach to its national security mission by providing tools, exercises, and technical assistance which will address the highest physical and cyber risks confronting the water sector. In providing this assistance, EPA will provide direct technical assistance and will seek to build the security and resilience capacity of state and local governments and of water and wastewater systems as consistent with the policy objective of Executive Order 14239.

Natural Disasters and General Preparedness.
Droughts, floods, hurricanes, and other natural disasters represent a high risk to the water sector due to their frequency of occurrence and their enormous potential for destruction. As evident from several recent natural disasters, the level of preparedness within the water sector varies significantly—with many utilities lacking adequate preparedness capabilities. In FY 2026, EPA

will continue to build capacity of the water sector by providing nationwide exercises and technical support to address natural disasters and general preparedness.

In FY 2026, EPA will provide tools and exercises to help train relevant groups on how to respond to water emergencies based on lessons learned from previous emergencies. EPA will enhance its internal emergency preparedness and field response capabilities and collaborate with other federal response partners, such as FEMA and USACE, for situations in which EPA is designated as the Lead Federal Agency under Presidential Policy Directive-44 (PPD-44): Enhancing Domestic Incident Management.

Water Quality Surveillance and Response (WQ-SRS).
The WQ-SRS Program, formerly known as the Water Security Initiative (WSI), addresses the risk of contamination of drinking water distribution systems. It has designed and developed an effective system for timely detection and appropriate response to drinking water contamination threats and incidents through a pilot program that has broad application to the Nation's drinking water utilities in high-threat cities. In FY 2026, EPA will continue necessary WQ-SRS activities including: refining technical assistance products, implementing a monitoring and response program for water utilities focused on source water chemical spills, and providing direct technical assistance to water utilities.[6]

Water Laboratory Alliance (WLA).
EPA's WLA ensures that if a contamination event threatens to overwhelm the capacity or capability of a single laboratory, the vital work of analyses is still able to be completed. In FY 2026, EPA will continue to promote, through exercises, expert workshops, and association partnerships, the WLA Plan, which coordinates laboratory responses to a surge of analytical needs.[7] In FY 2026, under the WLA, EPA plans to train approximately 50 laboratories to improve their ability to handle potential problems associated with surge capacity and analytical method capabilities during an emergency. In FY 2026, EPA will collaborate with regional and state environmental laboratories to conduct exercises and continue efforts to automate the exercises and expand the membership of the WLA to eventually achieve nationwide coverage.

Cybersecurity.
Cybersecurity represents a substantial concern for the water sector, given that automated process controls are used to operate most facets of a modern water utility and that many water utilities have not implemented basic cybersecurity practices. Recent attacks by both inside and outside actors and their clear potential to disrupt essential lifeline services, such as drinking water supplies, are prompting a growing recognition that the federal government should adopt a more aggressive posture towards cybersecurity. EPA will sustain and enhance our existing cybersecurity program, such as the Cybersecurity Evaluation Program, where utilities voluntarily work with a cybersecurity professional to complete a vulnerability assessment and generate a risk mitigation plan. EPA will provide tabletop exercises, promote the Water Cybersecurity Assessment Tool, identify common vulnerabilities, and share best practices. The EPA produced alerts for the water sector, such as the China state threat (Volt and Salt Typhoon), the Iranian state threat

[6] For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/climate-change-water-sector/water-quality-surveillance-and-response-system-program.
[7] For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/waterlabnetwork.

(CyberAv3ngers), the widespread CrowdStrike IT disruption, among others, and will continue this critical national security practice in FY 2026.[8]

In FY 2026, EPA is requesting resources and FTE to implement recommendations from the FY 2025 Water Cybersecurity Task Force report, provide technical support to help water systems develop their own cybersecurity capacity, and evaluate cybersecurity practices at public water systems.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$846.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

- (+$633.0 / +1.0 FTE) This program change supports the Administration's priorities of protecting the United States from foreign, domestic, and other national security and public safety threats by mitigating the risks of cyberattacks in the water sector and enhancing the Agency's ability to respond to such incidents. This investment includes $198.0 thousand in payroll and workforce support costs.

Statutory Authority:

Safe Drinking Water Act, §§ 1431-1435; Clean Water Act; Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Emergency and Response Act of 2002; Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, §§ 301-305.

[8] For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/epa-cybersecurity-water-sector.

Homeland Security: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

Program Area: Homeland Security

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Science & Technology	***$25,348***	***$23,598***	***$25,542***	***$1,944***
Hazardous Substance Superfund	$35,472	$34,588	$35,192	$604
Total Budget Authority	$60,820	$58,186	$60,734	$2,548
Total Workyears	120.9	112.4	128.8	16.4

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

Exposure to chemical agents, pathogens, and radiological materials released into the environment can pose catastrophic consequences to the health of responders and American citizens. Under statutory law and presidential directives, EPA has the responsibility to remediate contaminated environments created by terrorist attacks, industrial accidents, or natural disasters. EPA's emergency response research, under the Homeland Security Research Program (HSRP), informs and advances response capabilities for contaminant characterization and consequence assessment, environmental cleanup and infrastructure remediation, and community engagement and systems-based tools supporting resilience.

In support of *Powering the Great American Comeback*, HSRP research supports EPA in carrying out its primary mission essential function to help communities prepare for, endure, and recover from disasters – safeguarding their health and economic, environmental, and social well-being. HSRP researchers collaborate with states, local communities, tribes, private sector organizations, and other federal departments/agencies[9] to deliver effective tools, methods, information, and guidance that address critical terrorism-related issues and natural or human-caused disasters. These efforts underline EPA's commitment to safeguard clean air, land, and water for every American, making great advances through cooperative federalism and cross-agency partnerships, and adopting and adapting AI to enhance response and recovery capabilities.

EPA also is responsible for operating and maintaining the network of near real-time radiation monitors, known as RadNet, a key resource necessary for responding to certain incidents as noted within the Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex to the National Response Framework. This network is critical in responding to large-scale incidents, such as the accident at the Fukushima nuclear facility and potential incidents in Ukraine. It is an EPA Critical Infrastructure/Key Resource asset. This monitoring network is supported by the IT system known as ARaDS, the Analytical Radiation Data System. The maintenance, update, and modernization of RadNet, the only nationwide environmental radiation monitoring system that monitors the nation's air, ambient radiation exposure rates,

[9] Partners include: Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Department of Defense (DOD), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), National Science Foundation (NSF), Department of Energy (DOE), and Department of Agriculture (USDA).

precipitation and drinking water for radiation, is in direct support of *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Water, and Land for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in the HSRP directly supports the Administrator's priorities. The Program's subject matter experts and products support efficient and effective clean-up after contamination incidents, enabling recovery and growth. The Program engages across the federal, state, tribal, and local enterprise and in public-private partnerships. The Program is pioneering AI innovation, positioning the U.S. as a global leader in environmental protection. The Program prioritizes efforts based on capability needs of the end-users. In FY 2026, the HSRP will advance capabilities to respond to and recover from contamination incidents in alignment with the Administrator's pillars.

Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American

- Develop methods for clean-up of hazardous chemicals, such as chemical warfare agents, pesticides, and opioids (*e.g.*, fentanyl) from various surfaces and materials.
- Enhance capabilities for biological threats, focusing on the development of methods for sample collection and processing and advancing decontamination capabilities using off-the-shelf devices and electrostatic spray technologies.
- Determine capabilities for response to wide-area radiological/nuclear contamination including sample collection from critical infrastructure, maintaining safe living conditions during remediation, stabilizing debris in hot zones, compiling clean-up guidance from various governmental and nongovernmental organizations, and ensuring commercially available equipment for clean-up and waste minimization.
- Advance capabilities for water contamination response, including remotely operated flood water samplers for contaminant detection, development of flocculants for pathogen recovery from contaminated water, testing of mobile treatment systems, and developing alternative disinfection processes for water recovery and purification.

Pillar 3: *Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*

- Support pesticide registration improvement by developing standard testing criteria and methods for aerosol pathogen treatment technologies through collaborative efforts with private and interagency partners.
- Leverage collaboration with federal, state, tribal, and community partners to enhance preparedness to respond to chemical, biological, and radiological threat incidents. This includes the completion of an effort with the U.S. Coast Guard and the Department of Homeland Security to demonstrate capabilities to respond to and recover from biological incidents, including conducting responder training of the U.S. Coast Guard Strike Teams.
- Develop an AI-based system for accurate indoor navigation using video and sensor data with private partner(s) via Small Business Innovation Research. This is advancing capabilities for responding during emergency response activities such as planning and site characterization.

Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World

- Evaluate the use of AI tools to enhance clean-up strategy development by optimizing sampling, decontamination, and waste management outcomes. This AI effort aims to develop utilities for identifying the most impactful decision points and making recommendations for next steps during remediation.
- Improve water infrastructure security by developing an AI supported cyber security application aiding the identification of weaknesses and new attack vectors in water system networks and implementing necessary measures to mitigate the impacts.

Radiation Monitoring

The RadNet fixed monitoring network provides near real-time radiation monitoring coverage near each of the 100 most populous U.S. cities as well as expanded geographic coverage for a total of 140 monitoring sites. The RadNet air monitoring network provides the Agency, first responders, and the public with greater access to data. RadNet improves officials' ability to make decisions about protecting public health and the environment during and after the incident. Additionally, RadNet data is used by scientists to better characterize the effect of a radiological incident.

In FY 2026, the Agency will continue to operate and maintain the RadNet air monitoring network, continue to add exposure rate meter capability to the network, and provide essential maintenance to the network. To best maximize resources, exposure rate meter capability will be added to monitors when needed repairs are called for. This expansion will enhance the federal government's ability to effectively communicate radiation measurement information to the public and to non-technical decision makers after a radiological release. In addition to aiding in explaining data to the public and decision makers, the addition of exposure rate meters aligns EPA's monitoring system with that of the international community. In FY 2026, EPA is requesting resources to update the aging equipment that monitors the nation's air for radiation. As a part of this, EPA also will modernize IT infrastructure for the ARaDS and support enhanced lab and field office facility operations and maintenance.

Research Planning:

The Agency assesses its research performance through the distribution of research evaluation surveys to key users of its research products. This provides evidence for how research products are being used, by whom, and the degree of satisfaction product users have with research product quality, usability, and timeliness of delivery. Through the evaluation process, the Agency identifies its strengths and finds targeted areas for improvement to its research programs. EPA's state engagement program[10] is designed to inform states about their role within EPA and EPA's research programs and to better understand the science needs of state environmental and health agencies.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

[10] For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/research/epa-research-solutions-states.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$555.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

- (+$2,006.0 / +3.5 FTE) This program change supports Administration Homeland Security research priorities of protecting the United States from foreign terrorists and other national security and public safety threats. This investment includes $669.0 thousand for payroll and workforce support costs.

- (+$493.0 / +0.7 FTE) This program change is an increase in resources and FTE for updating the aging equipment that monitors the nation's air for radiation. Should there be a radiological emergency, RadNet improves officials' ability to make decisions about protecting public health and the environment during and after an incident. This increase also will modernize IT infrastructure for ARaDS and support enhanced lab and field office facility operations and maintenance. This investment includes $135.0 thousand for payroll and workforce support costs.

Statutory Authority:

Atomic Energy Act of 1954; Clean Air Act, §§ 102, 103; Safe Drinking Water Act, §§ 1431-1435, 1442; Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act; National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997, §§ 1411-1412; Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002; Toxic Substances Control Act, § 10; Oil Pollution Act; Pollution Prevention Act; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act; Clean Water Act; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act; Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act; Food Quality Protection Act; Food Safety Modernization Act, §§ 203, 208.

Homeland Security: Protection of EPA Personnel and Infrastructure

Program Area: Homeland Security

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$4,973	$4,665	$4,986	$321
Science & Technology	***$625***	***$625***	***$500***	***-$125***
Building and Facilities	$6,225	$6,676	$6,176	-$500
Hazardous Substance Superfund	$1,257	$1,102	$915	-$187
Total Budget Authority	$13,081	$13,068	$12,577	-$491
Total Workyears	14.0	13.3	13.3	0.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 13.3 FTE to support Homeland Security working capital fund (WCF) services.

Program Project Description:

This program supports activities to ensure that EPA's physical structures and assets are secure and operational and that physical security measures are in place to help safeguard staff in the event of an emergency. These efforts also protect the capability of EPA's vital laboratory infrastructure assets. Specifically, funds within this appropriation support security needs for the National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory (NVFEL).

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports the protection of Agency personnel and property to deliver on *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 5: Protecting and Bringing Back American Auto Jobs* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2026, the Agency will continue to provide enhanced physical security for the NVFEL, its employees, visitors, and test articles, which include prototype vehicles and engines. This funding supports the cost of security enhancements required as part of an Agency security assessment review.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$125.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the recalculation of lab fixed costs.

Statutory Authority:

Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004; Homeland Security Act of 2002; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute).

Indoor Air and Radiation

Indoor Air: Radon Program

Program Area: Indoor Air and Radiation

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$2,627	$3,123	$0	-$3,123
Science & Technology	***$169***	***$22***	***$0***	***-$22***
Total Budget Authority	$2,796	$3,145	$0	-$3,145
Total Workyears	8.0	7.9	0.0	-7.9

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Indoor Air: Radon Program is proposed for elimination in FY 2026 and all applicable statutory work (*e.g.,* Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, Toxic Substances Control Act, Clean Air Act) will be accomplished in other programs within the Indoor Air and Radiation Program Area. This change focuses on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources and FTE are proposed for elimination for this program in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$22.0) This funding change proposes to eliminate the Indoor Air: Radon Program, in the S&T account, in alignment with Administration priorities to advance cooperative federalism by returning the responsibility for funding local indoor radon reduction programs to state and local entities.

Statutory Authority:

Title IV of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA); Title III Toxic Substances Control Act; Clean Air Act.

Radiation: Protection

Program Area: Indoor Air and Radiation

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$8,791	$9,520	$2,470	-$7,050
Science & Technology	***$2,295***	***$1,740***	***$1,047***	***-$693***
Hazardous Substance Superfund	$3,823	$2,472	$2,122	-$350
Total Budget Authority	$14,909	$13,732	$5,639	-$8,093
Total Workyears	53.5	50.9	25.0	-25.9

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances the five pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

EPA supports waste site characterization and cleanup by providing field and fixed laboratory radioanalytical data, expert technical support, and radioanalytical training to state and federal partners; and developing new and improved radioanalytical methods and field measurement technologies. In the event of a radiological accident or incident, the National Analytical Radiation Environmental Laboratory (NAREL) in Montgomery, Alabama, and the National Center for Radiation Field Operations (NCRFO) in Las Vegas, Nevada, provide critical radioanalytical and field operation support for testing, quality assurance, analysis of various environmental samples, and field measurement systems and equipment to support site assessment, protective action recommendations, cleanup, and response activities. NAREL is the only EPA laboratory with in-house world-class radioanalytical capability. NCRFO is the only EPA asset that focuses solely on radiological emergency response field work and maintains a wide range of response assets and readiness to deploy to any type of radiological accident or incident. Together, they support three pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. In support of *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American*, this program provides quality data and expert analysis to inform Agency decisions regarding contaminated soil, water, and air environments. In support of *Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance*, the Program ensures readiness to support the use of advanced and emerging nuclear technologies while safeguarding public health and the environment. Furthermore, a demonstrated track record of cross agency partnerships, collaborative preparedness activities, technical exchanges, and readiness exercises with other federal agencies, state, local, and tribal partners are in direct alignment of *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the Program continues to support EPA RadNet, the only nationwide environmental radiation monitoring system that monitors the nation's air, ambient radiation exposure rates, precipitation, and drinking water for radiation. The Program, in cooperation with states, tribes, and other federal agencies, will provide site characterization and analytical support for site assessment activities, remediation technologies, and measurement and information systems as requested. EPA also will provide essential training and direct site assistance, including field surveys and monitoring, laboratory analyses, health and safety, and risk assessment support at sites with radioactive contamination.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+$35.0) This change to fixed and other costs is an increase due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

- (-$728.0 / -3.6 FTE) This program change reflects a reduction in support activities at the National Analytical Radiation Environmental Laboratory (NAREL) in Montgomery, Alabama and the National Center for Radiation Field Operations (NCRFO) in Las Vegas, Nevada and focuses the Agency to be more efficient in providing analytical and field operation support in the event of a radiological incident. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Atomic Energy Act of 1954; Clean Air Act; Energy Policy Act of 1992; Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982; Public Health Service Act; Safe Drinking Water Act; Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA) of 1978; Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Land Withdrawal Act of 1992; Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act; Clean Water Act.

Radiation: Response Preparedness

Program Area: Indoor Air and Radiation

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$2,044	$2,262	$2,350	$88
Science & Technology	***$3,174***	***$3,400***	***$3,096***	***-$304***
Total Budget Authority	$5,218	$5,662	$5,446	-$216
Total Workyears	26.8	26.2	32.2	6.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The National Analytical Radiation Environmental Laboratory (NAREL) in Montgomery, Alabama, and the National Center for Radiation Field Operations (NCRFO) in Las Vegas, Nevada, provide field sampling and laboratory analyses to respond to radiological and nuclear incidents. This work includes measuring and monitoring radioactive materials and assessing radioactive contamination in the environment. This program comprises direct scientific field and laboratory activities to support preparedness, planning, training, and procedure development. In addition, program personnel are members of EPA's Radiological Emergency Response Team (RERT), a component of the Agency's emergency response program, and are trained to provide direct expert scientific and technical assistance. EPA's RERT is part of the Nuclear Incident Response Team under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, EPA's RERT will provide critical support for federal radiological emergency response and recovery operations under the National Response Framework and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan. When necessary, EPA's RERT will complement routine operations (*e.g.*, on-site technical support/consultation and laboratory analyses) and provide for the rapid collection of field measurements/samples and accurate radionuclide analyses of environmental samples.[11]

In FY 2026, NAREL and NCRFO will build capacity in core levels of readiness for radiological emergency responses; participate in critical emergency exercises; and respond, as required, to radiological incidents. NAREL and NCRFO will prioritize rapid deployment capabilities to ensure that field teams and laboratory personnel are ready to provide scientific data, field measurement capabilities, analyses, and updated analytical techniques for radiation emergency response programs across the Agency.

[11] For additional information, please visit: https://www.epa.gov/radiation/radiological-emergency-response.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$825.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

- (+$521.0 / +2.3 FTE) This program change is an increase in the Radiation: Response Preparedness Program to return to the Agency's core mission of legal requirements, while ensuring sufficient FTE levels to remain ready to respond to radiological emergencies.

Statutory Authority:

Homeland Security Act of 2002; Atomic Energy Act of 1954; Clean Air Act; Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (PKEMRA); Public Health Service Act (PHSA); Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act; Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

Reduce Risks from Indoor Air

Program Area: Indoor Air and Radiation

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$14,343	$12,495	$11,642	-$853
Science & Technology	***$100***	***$88***	***$0***	***-$88***
Total Budget Authority	$14,443	$12,583	$11,642	-$941
Total Workyears	33.6	32.3	35.8	3.5

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Reduce Risks from Indoor Air Program is proposed for elimination in FY 2026 and all applicable statutory work (*e.g.,* Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, Toxic Substances Control Act, Clean Air Act) will be accomplished in other programs within the Indoor Air and Radiation Program Area. This change focuses on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Resources and FTE are proposed for elimination for this program in FY 2026.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$88.0 / -0.5 FTE) This funding change proposes to eliminate the Reduce Risks from Indoor Air Program, in the S&T account, in alignment with Administration priorities to advance cooperative federalism by returning the responsibility for funding local indoor air quality efforts to state and local entities.

Statutory Authority:

Title IV Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA); Title III Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); Clean Air Act.

IT/ Data Management/ Security

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$89,592	$88,112	$79,164	-$8,948
Science & Technology	***$2,484***	***$3,079***	***$2,890***	***-$189***
Hazardous Substance Superfund	$19,372	$19,786	$13,874	-$5,912
Total Budget Authority	$111,448	$110,977	$95,928	-$15,049
Total Workyears	448.1	466.7	469.9	3.2

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 172.0 FTE to support IT/Data Management working capital fund (WCF) services, a decrease of 12.7 FTE.

Program Project Description:

The work performed under the Information Technology/Data Management (IT/DM) Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. This program supports human health and the environment by providing critical IT infrastructure and data management. Science and Technology (S&T) resources for EPA's IT/DM Program fund the Quality Program,[12] EPA National Library Network, and Web Infrastructure Management.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

The Quality Program will continue to provide technical support to all EPA offices and laboratories in implementing EPA quality policies, procedures, and standards. In FY 2026, the Quality Program will conduct one Quality Management Plan review and one Quality System Assessment for selected EPA programs. These oversight activities help ensure the quality of EPA's data for intended uses, including environmental decision-making. This program directly supports *Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artifical Intelligence Capital of the World* of EPA's *Powering the Great American* Comeback initiative by supporting the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology and supporting infrastructure.

EPA's Quality Program provides implementation support to all EPA organizations that have environmental information operations described in an approved Quality Management Plan (QMP). In FY 2026, the Quality Program will:

- Assess organizations that have an approved QMP and identify findings requiring corrective action, areas needing improvement, and opportunities to leverage best practices;
- Focus on promoting sound science and ensure scientific integrity by promoting better planning to produce improved environmental information;

[12] For more information about EPA's Quality Program, please see: https://www.epa.gov/quality.

- Manage and provide oversight for the IQGs to ensure that information disseminated by or for EPA conforms with the *Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility and Integrity of Information Disseminated by the Environmental Protection Agency* criteria;[13] and
- Engage as a resource with EPA's state and tribal partners to ensure QA processes and procedures are in place to protect human health and the environment.

In FY 2026, the IT/Data Management Program will continue to support the hosting of EPA's websites and web pages through EPA's 'One EPA Web' which will continue to manage content and support internal and external users with information on EPA work, support employees with internal information, and provide a clearinghouse for the Agency to communicate initiatives and successes. Additionally, in FY 2026, EPA will continue to transform the Agency's libraries to meet the needs of the 21st Century in a cost-efficient manner. This involves reducing the physical footprint of Agency libraries; providing online services and resources at the customer's point of need, and centralizing core services.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$237.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

- (+$48.0 / +0.9 FTE) This program change is a net increase due to a reduction in contracting resources offset by an increase in Federal FTE to enhance transparency, oversight and public accountability by bringing critical quality assurance expertise back in-house. These adjustments are necessary to reduce unnecessary spending, to refocus EPA on its mission, and to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute); Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act; Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA); Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA); Government Management Reform Act (GMRA); Clinger-Cohen Act (CCA); Rehabilitation Act of 1973 § 508.

[13] For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/quality/guidelines-ensuring-and-maximizing-quality-objectivity-utility-and-integrity-information.

Operations and Administration

Facilities Infrastructure and Operations

Program Area: Operations and Administration

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$274,208	$275,909	$234,599	-$41,310
Science & Technology	***$67,394***	***$64,733***	***$55,023***	***-$9,710***
Building and Facilities	$26,604	$34,000	$28,900	-$5,100
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	$597	$686	$612	-$74
Inland Oil Spill Programs	$625	$637	$541	-$96
Hazardous Substance Superfund	$74,984	$67,080	$57,373	-$9,707
Total Budget Authority	$444,412	$443,045	$377,048	-$65,997
Total Workyears	328.2	300.4	319.8	19.4

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 3.1 FTE in Facilities Infrastructure and Operations working capital fund (WCF) services, an increase of 0.7 FTE.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction as EPA anticipates improvements in workforce efficiency and facilities consolidation will allow EPA to reduce resources needed to maintain Agency facilities. Science and Technology (S&T) resources in the Facilities Infrastructure and Operations Program fund the Agency's rent, utilities, and security.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to invest in the reconfiguration of EPA's workspaces, enabling the Agency to release office space and avoid long-term rent costs, consistent with HR 4465, the *Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016*. In compliance with Executive Order (EO) 14274: *Restoring Common Sense to Federal Office Space Management,*[14] as well as EO 14210: *Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Workforce Optimization Initiative,*[15] EPA is implementing an ambitious space consolidation plan that will reduce the number of occupied facilities, consolidate space within remaining facilities, and reduce square footage. This program directly supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

EPA is working to reduce office, laboratory and warehouse space. This has the potential to provide a cumulative annual rent avoidance of approximately $28 million across all appropriations. This will help offset EPA's escalating rent and security costs and reduce taxpayer burden. By the end

[14] For more information, see https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/18/2025-06838/restoring-common-sense-to-federal-office-space-management.
[15] For more information, see https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/14/2025-02762/implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency-workforce-optimization-initiative.

of FY 2025, EPA will have consolidated employees out of the Ronald Reagan Building and into existing space within the Federal Triangle in Washington, D.C. The consolidation will reduce the Agency's leased-space footprint by approximately 323,000 square feet and lower annual lease costs by $18 million. In addition to the Ronald Reagan Building, the Agency is vacating the Human Studies Facility located in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. This consolidation will reduce the Agency's leased-space footprint by approximately 155,000 square feet and lower annual lease costs by $3.7 million. The Agency also is vacating its Houston regional laboratory and consolidating into the Ada, OK, facility for a rent savings of $2.2 million and space reduction of 41,126 square feet. For FY 2026, the Agency is requesting $26.2 million for rent, $16.3 million for utilities, and $11.1 million for security in the S&T appropriation. EPA uses a standard methodology to ensure that rent charging appropriately reflects planned and enacted resources at the appropriation level.

In FY 2026, the Agency will take action to reconfigure EPA's workplaces with the goal of reducing long-term rent costs. Space consolidation and reconfiguration enables EPA to reduce its footprint to create a more efficient, collaborative, and technologically sophisticated workplace.

EPA will continue to manage lease agreements with GSA and private landlords, and maintain EPA facilities, fleet, equipment, and fund costs associated with utilities and building security needs. EPA also will meet regulatory Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) obligations and provide health and safety training to field staff (*e.g.*, inspections, monitoring, On-Scene Coordinators), and track capital equipment.

In addition, the Agency will continue to utilize GSA's Managed Service Office, *USAccess*, and Enterprise Physical Access Control System (ePACS) programs. *USAccess* provides standardized HSPD-12 approved Personal Identity Verification (PIV) card enrollment and issuance and ePACS provides centralized access control of EPA facilities, including restricted and secure areas.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$5,047.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the recalculation of transit subsidy, rent, utilities, and security.

- (-$4,663.0) This program change is due to a reduction in contracting resources to reflect efficiencies across facility management and operations activities. This program is proposed for reduction in alignment with Administration priorities to use taxpayer dollars efficiently and to shrink the federal real estate footprint by eliminating unused office space

Statutory Authority:

Federal Property and Administration Services Act; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute).

Workforce Reshaping

Program Area: Operations and Administration

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$0	$0	$8,000	$8,000
Science & Technology	***$0***	***$0***	***$2,000***	***$2,000***
Total Budget Authority	$0	$0	$10,000	$10,000

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program provides resources to support organizational restructuring efforts throughout the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. To help achieve its mission, EPA will develop, review and analyze mission requirements and implement options to effectively align and redistribute the Agency's workforce based on program priorities, resource reallocation, and technological advances.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, EPA will examine its statutory functions and processes to eliminate inefficiencies and streamline the Agency's processes. Primary criteria will include effectiveness and accountability, as EPA is focused on greater value and real results. These analyses will likely create a need to reshape the workforce. The Agency anticipates the need to offer voluntary early out retirement authority (VERA), and potentially relocation expenses, as part of the workforce reshaping effort. This program will directly support efforts directed by Executive Order (EO) 14210: *Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Workforce Optimization Initiative*[16] and supports all five pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. In FY 2025, EPA will have completed implementation of E.O. 14151: *Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing* by terminating organizations and positions focused on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) and environmental justice and will continue Agency restructuring efforts to align with Administration priorities.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

[16] For more information, see https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/02/implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency-workforce-optimization-initiative/.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (+$2,000.0) This program change implements the Workforce Reshaping Program to align the Agency's organizational structure with the Administrator's five pillars and Powering the Great American Comeback.

Statutory Authority:

Title 5 of the U.S.C.; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute).

Pesticides Licensing

Pesticides: Protect Human Health from Pesticide Risk

Program Area: Pesticides Licensing

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$62,897	$61,704	$60,224	-$1,480
Science & Technology	***$2,996***	***$2,889***	***$2,442***	***-$447***
Total Budget Authority	$65,892	$64,593	$62,666	-$1,927
Total Workyears	389.1	373.1	416.5	43.4

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work.

Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) § 408 statutory authorities, EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) screens new pesticides before they reach the market and ensure pesticides already in commerce are safe. As directed by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), as amended by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA), and the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2022 (PRIA 5),[17] EPA is responsible for registering and re-evaluating pesticides to protect consumers, pesticide users, workers who may be exposed to pesticides.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

This FY 2026 request includes an increase of $1.725 million to invest in several areas across the Environmental Science Center (ESC) in Fort Meade, Maryland. In addition to the Region 3 laboratories, the ESC also is comprised of the Microbiology Laboratory Branch (MLB) and the Analytical Chemistry Branch (ACB). ACB will continue to develop and validate methods for multi-residue pesticide analyses, including furthering test protocols, providing technical review of data and reports. The laboratory also will provide technical analyses and support to states, EPA Regions, and the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) in enforcement cases related to the potential misuse of or illegal pesticides. Additionally, this lab maintains EPA's National Pesticide Standard Repository (40 CFR, Part 158) and distributes more than five thousand

[17] On December 29,2022, the Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act of 2022 (PRIA 5), which reauthorizes PRIA for 5 years through fiscal year 2027 and updates the fee collection provisions of the FIFRA, was signed into law.

standards yearly to states and regions to validate test results, identifying and quantifying pesticide residues. In addition, the laboratory will provide technical support to OPP to develop test protocols relating to the performance of portable monitoring devices measuring post-application levels of sulfuryl fluoride, an extremely toxic pesticide. Finally, work continues on the development and release of additional testing methods related to identifying and quantifying contaminant residues in pesticide formulations and packaging materials.

MLB will continue to protect human health by ensuring the availability of scientifically sound antimicrobial pesticide efficacy test methods. The development, validation and use of new quantitative methodologies for testing the effectiveness of antimicrobial products are necessary to meet the regulatory challenges associated with novel product claims, new infection control practices, and the emergence of new clinical pathogens. These efforts will continue to benefit the public by ensuring an efficient path for the registration of public health pesticides (40 CFR Part 158W) and allow for marketplace penetration of these products.

Specifically, in FY 2026, the Microbiology Laboratory will:

- Expand use of a quantitative method for bactericidal claims for regulatory purposes;
- Continue to work on the data collection, analysis, and development of new regulatory guidance and implementation materials for fungicidal claims to support adoption of a quantitative method for regulatory purposes;
- Initiate process for generation of a new ASTM standard method for *Legionella* in recirculating water for cooling tower remediation;
- Initiate process for generation of a new ASTM standard method for continuously active sanitizers and disinfectants;
- Expand the existing regulatory guidance document and implementation strategy for evaluating the efficacy of antimicrobial towelettes for additional microbes (*e.g.*, *C. difficile* and *C. auris*);
- Continue to develop Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) laboratory capacity for conducting antimicrobial efficacy testing and collaborating with the Office of Research and Development's Center for Environmental Solutions and Emergency Response. EPA's Pesticide Program has the only two EPA laboratories with the physical containment to manage BSL-3 microbes, including EPA's only lab registered under the Federal Select Agent Program;
- Continue to expand viral testing and method development to respond to emerging viral pathogens.

In FY 2026, the Analytical Chemistry Laboratory will continue to protect human health by ensuring the availability of appropriate analytical methods for analyzing pesticide residues in food and feed and ensuring their suitability for monitoring pesticide residues and enforcing tolerances. In addition, the Laboratory will:

- Develop improved analytical methods and protocols using state of the art instruments (high resolution mass scanning gas and liquid chromatography) to replace outdated ones (liquid chromatography with tandem mass spectroscopy), thus increasing laboratory efficiency;

- Continue to develop new methods to support EPA's overall efforts on identifying per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances and potential routes of exposure. PFAS residues in pesticide formulations of varying chemistries (*i.e.,* those containing surfactants).

- Continue testing of pesticide products, as requested, to ensure contaminants free products

- Provide analytical support to fill in data gaps for OPP's Section 18 emergency exemption applications, and to perform studies for use in risk assessments and risk mitigation decisions;

- Provide analytical assistance and technical advice to OECA and to all regional offices in the enforcement of pesticide product integrity of domestic products and products imported to the US, protecting American consumers and product manufacturers;

- Verify that pesticide products are properly formulated; and

- Operate EPA's National Pesticide Standard Repository[18].

Funding is requested to replace aging critical lab equipment and modernize the lab's capabilities to be responsive to federal and state enforcement, emergency requests, and other emerging issues.

Preventing Disease through Public Health Pesticides: Antimicrobial Testing

Manufacturers of antimicrobial pesticides bearing public health claims are required to submit efficacy data to EPA to substantiate the product's effectiveness (40 CFR Part 158W). In 1990, the Government Accountability Office issued a report indicating EPA lacked assurance in the efficacy of antimicrobial products registered by the Agency; thereby initiating a program to conduct post-registration testing of antimicrobial pesticides. In response to the Agency's 2016 Office of Inspector General report, EPA suspended the post-registration testing program and supported development of a new strategy for selecting and testing antimicrobial pesticides to ensure these products continue to be effective after they enter the marketplace. The new Antimicrobial Performance Evaluation Program (APEP) draft strategy further ensures the efficacy of antimicrobial products by laying out a risk-based approach for confirming hospital disinfectants remain effective and are used properly after they are registered. EPA expects to finalize the APEP strategy in FY 2026 and continue to seek public input on workplans.

The Microbiology Laboratory will continue to develop efficacy methods to support EPA's antimicrobial pesticide regulatory programs. The results of these efforts will help ensure products are available to control various bacteria, viruses, fungi, and biofilms and to inform EPA's method development activities in FY 2026 and beyond.

[18] For additional information, please visit: https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-analytical-methods/national-pesticide-standard-repository.

Funding is requested to replace aging critical lab equipment and modernize the lab's capabilities to be responsive to homeland security and other emerging issues. The additional funding will support the following critical lab purchases:

- Update and/or purchase equipment (*e.g.*, autoclave, pass-through ports) to meet more current laboratory specifications for EPA's only two BSL-3 laboratories, including the EPA's only laboratory registered under the Federal Select Agent Program;

- Replace existing environmental monitoring system equipment and contract shared by both Pesticide Program laboratories with more current technology.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$208.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

- (-$174.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the recalculation of laboratory fixed costs.

- (-$65.0 / +0.5 FTE) This program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), §408.

Pesticides: Protect the Environment from Pesticide Risk

Program Area: Pesticides Licensing

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$46,586	$45,511	$45,832	$321
Science & Technology	***$2,151***	***$2,143***	***$2,616***	***$473***
Total Budget Authority	$48,737	$47,654	$48,448	$794
Total Workyears	301.0	248.0	268.4	20.4

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Pesticide Program screens new pesticides before they reach the market and ensures that pesticides already in commerce are safe. As directed by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), as amended by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA), and the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2022 (PRIA 5),[1] EPA is responsible for registering and re-evaluating pesticides to protect humans, plants, animals, and ecosystems that are not targets of the pesticide.

Under FIFRA, the Agency must balance the risks and benefits of other pesticide uses. For antimicrobial pesticides with public health claims, EPA requires that manufacturers perform tests to ensure the efficacy (*i.e.*, performance) of products per the labelling.

In addition to FIFRA responsibilities, the Agency has responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).[2] Under ESA, EPA must ensure that pesticide regulatory decisions will not destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat or result in jeopardy to the continued existence of species listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Where risks are identified, EPA must work with FWS and NMFS in a consultation process to ensure these pesticide registrations also will meet the ESA standard.

Under the Science and Technology appropriation, EPA's Pesticide Program operates two laboratories, the Microbiology Laboratory[3] and the Analytical Chemistry Laboratory,[4] that support the goal of protecting human health and the environment through diverse analytical testing and analytical method development and validation efforts. These laboratories provide a variety of technical services to EPA, other federal and state agencies, tribal nations, and other organizations to ensure the protection of the environment from pesticide risk.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback initiative*.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$13.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

- (+$486.0) This program change supports balancing the risks and benefits of other pesticide uses and community initiatives.

Statutory Authority:

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Pesticides: Realize the Value of Pesticide Availability

Program Area: Pesticides Licensing

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	$8,047	$6,781	$6,014	-$767
Science & Technology	***$823***	***$868***	***$684***	***-$184***
Total Budget Authority	$8,870	$7,649	$6,698	-$951
Total Workyears	32.8	29.8	46.3	16.5

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total program workyears in FY 2026 include 10.5 FTE funded by the Reregistration and Expedited Processing Revolving Fund.

Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work.

Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) § 408 statutory authorities, EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) laboratories provide significant contributions to help the Agency realize the value of pesticides. They consist of the Microbiology Laboratory[19] and the Analytical Chemistry Laboratory,[20] both of which support the goal of protecting human health and the environment through diverse analytical testing, analytical method development, and validation efforts.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Work in this program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

In FY 2026, EPA will realize the benefits of pesticides by ensuring the continued operation of the National Pesticide Standard Repository. The Microbiology Laboratory and the Analytical Chemistry Laboratory will continue to conduct efficacy and chemistry evaluations for antimicrobial pesticides. As the recognized source for expertise in pesticide analytical method development, OPP's laboratories will continue to provide quality assurance review, technical support, and training to EPA's regional offices, state laboratories, and other federal agencies that implement the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Additionally, the laboratories assist in making safety findings under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA).

[19] For additional information, please visit: https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-microbiology-laboratory.
[20] For additional information, please visit: https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-analytical-chemistry-laboratory-acl.

The Analytical Chemistry Laboratory will continue to maintain the National Pesticide Standard Repository (NPSR) which collects and maintains an inventory of approximately 1600 analytical standards of registered pesticides in the United States. EPA provides these pesticide standards (approximately five thousand annually) to qualified federal, state, territorial, and tribal laboratories for food and product testing, environmental monitoring, and enforcement purposes. Several changes in the operation of the NPSR have been implemented to increase its efficiency and to better serve regulatory laboratories. Changes include instituting an inventory control system and electronic request mechanism, requesting registrants to package pesticide standards in ready-to-be-shipped aliquots, and installing a chemist as lead staff to ensure adherence to new protocols. These changes resulted in improvements in the operation of the NPSR including a decrease in the turnaround time for shipping repository samples from 15 to 10 days. These changes also helped federal, state, and tribal entities expedite enforcement efforts. Further process enhancements will continue in FY 2026, specifically in minimizing the number of non-usable expired standards that are shipped as chemical waste.

In FY 2026, the Analytical Chemistry Laboratory also will continue its work in: developing and validating multiresidue methods using state-of-the-art methodology and instrumentation; developing unique analytical methods for detection and measurement (in parts per trillion when appropriate) of contaminants (including PFAS); providing chemical analysis for assessing risk to human health and to the environment from agricultural use of pesticides; providing technical support to EPA regional offices to ensure that pesticide products are formulated according to approved labels.

In FY 2026, the Microbiology Laboratory will continue to evaluate FIFRA Section 18 emergency exemptions, and novel protocol requests for new uses and novel pathogens. The Laboratory also will continue the development of data and methods to support Section 18 for high consequence animal pathogens (*e.g.,* African swine fever, Newcastle disease virus, etc.). In addition, the continued work to develop new methods for emerging pathogens (*e.g.,* viruses, fungi*,* etc.) and novel claims (*e.g.*, residential porous materials, continuously active antimicrobials) provides a pathway for registrants to add new claims to existing antimicrobial pesticides. In some cases, the methods will lead to the development of new products when currently registered formulations are not effective against emerging pathogens.

The Microbiology Laboratory also will continue to refine and develop methods to support EPA's Section 3 and Section 18 regulatory programs (40 CFR Part 158W), continuing to develop testing methods for evaluating effectiveness of disinfectant products against emerging pathogens. The Laboratory will continue to collaborate with the Antimicrobials Division to develop guidance for registrants seeking to make air treatment claims and explore other novel control and application options for disinfectant products. The Laboratory will continue to expand the existing quantitative efficacy test method to provide a pathway for evaluating disinfectant claims for surfaces beyond hard, non-porous materials and soft surface materials located in institutional settings (vinyl, room divider curtains, etc.).

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$115.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

- (-$69.0 / + 0.2 FTE) This program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) § 408.

Research: Air and Energy

Research: Air and Energy

Program Area: Research: Air and Energy

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Science & Technology	***$94,764***	***$96,000***	***$33,543***	***-$62,457***
Total Budget Authority	$94,764	$96,000	$33,543	-$62,457
Total Workyears	264.8	235.0	152.8	-82.2

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

The Air and Energy (AE) Research Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. The AE Research Program supports assessments of air quality impacts and informs strategies for maintaining and achieving clean air across the U.S.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

The AE Program prioritizes key activities to meet statutory requirements under the CAA, including supporting attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and implementation of stationary and mobile source regulations, as well as national and multi-state programs. The AE Program continues to develop, evaluate, and apply methods and models to support air quality management programs and provides foundational information and analyses to support decision-making at the national, state, and local levels. AE also will continue to address emerging air pollution challenges related to wildfire smoke and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) air emissions. The AE Program will leverage its interagency partnerships to work more effectively and efficiently across the federal government.

In FY 2026, the AE Research Program would potentially include the following research areas:

- Delivering state-of-the-art tools for states and tribes to identify effective emission reduction strategies to meet the NAAQS and enhancing air quality measurement methods to ascertain NAAQS compliance. (*Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative, CAA §103). In FY 2025, EPA developed an improved modeling platform for Fairbanks, Alaska, to help the state address PM2.5 nonattainment, resulting in reduced errors for predictions of wintertime sulfate in Alaska and improving model performance for other regions of the US.[2]
[1]

[21] For more information, please see https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-25-3287-2025.

- Applying advanced energy modeling tools to identify energy production portfolios that meet growing energy demands most cost-effective ways possible, while supporting expanded powering of AI data centers (*Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American*, *Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance*, and *Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World*, CAA §103). In FY 2024, EPA released the latest version of the GLIMPSE energy system decision support tool, which allows users to model energy technology scenarios and identify low-cost energy solutions.[22]

- Assessing human and ecosystem exposures and effects associated with air pollutants on individual, community, regional, national, and global scales, including how those effects will be impacted by heat, drought, and other extreme events such as wildfires (*Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American*, CAA §103). In FY 2024, EPA studied air quality health risks in individuals with heart disease, finding that individuals with heart failure had the highest risk of mortality from exposure to traffic related air pollution.[23]

- Providing human exposure and environmental modeling, monitoring, metrics, and information needed to inform air quality decision making at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels, which includes supporting accelerated permitting reviews (*Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*, CAA §103). In FY 2024, EPA analyzed PM2.5 and its components in Kansas City to understand impacts on PM2.5 from local emissions sources such as railyards and major roadways, finding the highest PM2.5 concentrations within 20-50 meters from a railyard.[24]

- Addressing emerging areas of concern to EPA and state policymakers, including toxics such as PFAS and ethylene oxide (*Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American,* CAA §103 and §112). In FY 2024, EPA measured PFAS in Central New Jersey air using chemical ionization mass spectrometry (CIMS), demonstrating the potential of online CIMS instrumentation for measuring PFAS in ambient outdoor air in real time.[4]

- Advancing science-based approaches to improving wildfire readiness by developing and evaluating effective approaches to monitoring outdoor air quality, creating clean indoor air, and communicating actionable public health messaging (*Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American*, CAA §103).

- Measuring progress toward environmental health goals and translating research results to inform communities and individuals about measures that can be taken to reduce the impacts of air pollution (*Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American*, CAA §103 and §112).

Research Planning:

[22] For more information, please see https://www.epa.gov/air-research/glimpse-computational-framework-supporting-state-level-environmental-and-energy.
[23] For more information, please see https://doi.org/10.1097/EE9.0000000000000351.
[24] For more information, please see https://doi.org/10.1080/10962247.2024.2365708.

The Agency assesses its research performance through the distribution of research evaluation surveys to key users of its research products. This provides evidence for how research products are being used, by whom, and the degree of satisfaction product users have with research product quality, usability, and timeliness of delivery. Through the evaluation process, the Agency identifies its strengths and finds targeted areas for improvement in its research programs.

EPA's state engagement[25] is designed to inform states about their role within EPA and EPA's research programs and to better understand the science needs of state environmental and health agencies by engaging key partners.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$7,539.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

- (-$54,918.0 / -82.2 FTE) This change aligns program funding with core statutory requirements, legal requirements, and Agency priorities and recognizes needed efficiencies. This program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Air Act; Title II of Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007; Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act (ERDDAA); National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) § 102; Pollution Prevention Act (PPA); Global Change Research Act of 1990.

[25] For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/research/epa-research-solutions-states.

Research: Chemical Safety and Sustainability

Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability

Program Area: Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Science & Technology	***$93,399***	***$88,305***	***$66,952***	***-$21,353***
Hazardous Substance Superfund	$8,457	$7,723	$0	-$7,723
Total Budget Authority	$101,856	$96,028	$66,952	-$29,076
Total Workyears	273.6	259.0	241.4	-17.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Chemical Safety for Sustainability (CSS) Research Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. This Program conducts rigorous research to assess and manage chemical risks, to help EPA partners and stakeholders make timely decisions on chemical safety.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, CSS will continue to leverage its expertise to accelerate the pace of chemical assessment and decision-making, streamlining the chemical review process and enabling safer chemical design. CSS will place particular emphasis on 'chemicals of immediate and emerging concern,' such as PFAS and 6PPD-quinone. Areas of CSS research will include:

Developing faster, cheaper New Approach Methods for toxicity testing: In FY 2026, CSS will continue collaborating with the Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention Program to implement the June 2018 TSCA Strategic Plan[26] to create more efficient approaches that reduce the use of mammals for toxicity testing.

Using High-Throughput Toxicity (HTT)[27] Testing to accelerate decisions: CSS will use HTT to evaluate chemical hazards, with an emphasis on developmental neurotoxicology, inhalation toxicology, and thyroid disruption, greatly increasing the Agency's portfolio of chemical assessment products by developing the recently released ETAP.

Increased understanding of how chemicals affect developmental and reproductive biology: CSS uses HTT and Virtual and Complex Tissue Modeling[28] to observe complex chemical information

[26] This Strategic Plan can be found at: www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2018-06/documents/epa_alt_strat_plan_6-20-18_clean_final.pdf.

[27] CSS has extraordinary expertise in HTT. For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/high-throughput-toxicology.

[28] For more information on this fascinating research tool, please visit: https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/virtual-and-complex-tissue-modeling.

within biological and toxicological contexts. In FY 2026, CSS will use this data to study adverse outcome pathways[29] (AOPs), which links events at the cellular level to atypical outcomes expressed at the whole animal level.

Delivery and translation of information on data-poor chemicals: In FY 2026, CSS will continue to support the collaborative efforts underway in the Agency to build scientifically robust, program-specific applications, such as RapidTox, that facilitate access and use of relevant information to support different decision contexts.

Research Planning:

The Agency assesses its research performance through the distribution of research evaluation surveys to key users of its research products. This provides evidence for how research products are being used, by whom, and the degree of satisfaction product users have with research product quality, usability, and timeliness of delivery. Through the evaluation process, the Agency identifies its strengths and finds targeted areas for improvement in its research programs.

EPA's state engagement program[30] is designed to inform states about their role within EPA and EPA's research programs, and to better understand the science needs of state environmental and health agencies by engaging key partners.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$5,865.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

- (-$15,488.0 / -18.6 FTE) This change aligns program funding with core statutory requirements, legal requirements, and Agency priorities and recognizes needed efficiencies. This program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

[29] CSS develops AOPs for health outcomes relevant to risk assessment or regulatory decision making. For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/adverse-outcome-pathways.
[30] For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/research/epa-research-solutions-states.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Air Act §§ 103, 104; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA); Children's Health Act; 21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act; Clean Water Act; Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA); Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA); Pollution Prevention Act (PPA); Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA); Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

Health and Environmental Risk Assessment

Program Area: Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Science & Technology	***$42,055***	***$38,732***	***$24,694***	***-$14,038***
Hazardous Substance Superfund	$5,208	$5,238	$5,714	$476
Total Budget Authority	$47,263	$43,970	$30,408	-$13,562
Total Workyears	160.9	148.9	109.9	-39.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Health and Environmental Risk Assessment (HERA) Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. This Program is focused on advancing assessment science and generating health assessments that provide the scientific basis for decisions made by EPA and others, including states and tribes, under an array of environmental laws, including: the Clean Air Act; the Clean Water Act; the Safe Drinking Water Act; the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, HERA will leverage existing tools and innovative research to deliver targeted, decision-ready data that supports EPA's efforts under the five pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. In FY 2026, HERA will:

Advance Chemical Assessments: HERA will continue developing priority chemical assessments that leverage modernized methodologies and state-of-the-art tools to inform decisions while maintaining rigorous scientific approaches. Fit-for-purpose assessments will deliver PFAS toxicity values to address contamination, prioritizing data-driven strategies that support state and tribal decisions without stifling industry. HERA will apply modernized models and database infrastructure, including to streamline assessment development and program management. These tools will enhance data accessibility and decision-making speed, aligning with Agency priorities for efficient program execution.

Accelerate TSCA Decisions with Efficient Methodologies and Program Collaboration: In cooperation with the Chemical Safety for Sustainability (CSS) Research Program, HERA will apply new and alternative approaches, methods, and data to risk assessment products and technical support to better respond to the needs of states, tribes, and EPA's program and regional offices. Continued modernization of AI-enhanced tools, models, and databases will drive HERA's ability to be nimble and responsive to the needs of environmental decision makers. These advanced

methodologies and cross-program collaboration will help mitigate potential delays in chemical evaluation resulting in faster decisions under TSCA.

Enhance Superfund and RCRA Implementation: HERA will deliver high-priority Provisional Peer-Reviewed Toxicity Values (PPRTVs) on human health to support the Land and Emergency Management Program's CERCLA and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) mandates. Streamlined workflows will facilitate faster site remediation and reduce compliance costs for industry while upholding environmental stewardship.

Strengthen Technical Support Infrastructure: HERA will continue to emphasize technical support to the Agency and states on human and ecological risk assessment science, including supporting two Superfund Technical Support Centers (TSCs)[31] to provide tailored, rapid-response technical assistance and scientific expertise, without imposing additional regulatory burdens.

Streamline workflow processes: HERA will provide training to staff, partners, and stakeholders on risk assessment science and practice and assessment tool literacy, enhancing user proficiency and supporting efficient program implementation.

Research Planning:

The Agency assesses its research performance through the distribution of research evaluation surveys to key users of its research products. This provides evidence for how research products are being used, by whom, and the degree of satisfaction product users have with research product quality, usability, and timeliness of delivery. Through the evaluation process, the Agency identifies its strengths and finds targeted areas for improvement in its research programs.

EPA's state engagement[32] is designed to inform states about their role within EPA and EPA's research programs and to better understand the science needs of state environmental and health agencies by engaging key partners.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$1,541.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

- (-$12,497.0 / -53.0 FTE) This program change will align funding with core statutory requirements and Agency priorities and recognizes needed efficiencies. This program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on

[31] For more information on EPA's five TSCs, please see: https://www.epa.gov/land-research/epas-technical-support-centers.
[32] For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/research/epa-research-solutions-states.

EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Clean Air Act §§ 103, 108, 109, and 112; Clean Water Act §§ 101(a)(6), 104, 105; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) § 3(c)(2)(A); Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) § 1458; Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); CERCLA; RCRA.

Research: Safe and Sustainable Water Resources

Research: Safe and Sustainable Water Resources

Program Area: Research: Safe and Sustainable Water Resources

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Science & Technology	***$111,275***	***$111,500***	***$78,948***	***-$32,552***
Total Budget Authority	$111,275	$111,500	$78,948	-$32,552
Total Workyears	361.4	337.2	268.9	-68.3

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Safe and Sustainable Water Resources (SSWR) National Research Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. This Program addresses current, immediate, and emerging water resource challenges, and additionally identifies and builds capacity for future preparedness to protect America's water resources.

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, research efforts will continue to leverage SSWR expertise and will place particular emphasis on 'chemicals of immediate and emerging concern,' such as PFAS, and lead exposure from drinking water. Areas of research will include:

- **PFAS.** Continue PFAS work that focuses on drinking water treatment analytical methods, destruction, and disposal.

- **Water Reuse**. Expand the integrated assessment of cost and risk assessment of fit-for-purpose use of alternative water sources for potable end uses, industrial reuse, beneficial use of produced water from oil and gas operations, managed aquifer recharge, and artificial intelligence data centers.

- **HABs/Hypoxia/Excess Nutrients.** Expand the ability of the Cyanobacterial Harmful Algal Bloom model to detect blooms in 99 percent of lakes (>270,000) and almost all estuaries across the lower 48 states. Work also will include continuing research on the health effects and toxicity of HABs (anatoxin, saxitoxin, cylindrospermopsin, and other emerging cyanotoxins) and benthic blooms. Support the development of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) and numeric nutrient criteria.

- **Biosolids.** Focus on biological and chemical contaminants and health effects by investigating the occurrence of antimicrobial-resistant *E. coli* during the treatment of Class B biosolids; assessing the human health risks of biosolids using molecular tools;

developing a Voluntary Consensus Standard analytical method for the analysis of PFAS precursors in biosolids; evaluating anaerobic biotreatment of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)/PFAS in wastewater biosolids; and determining the applicability of molecular techniques in treatment performance evaluation.

- **Water Infrastructure.** Evaluate and provide technical support to assess the distribution, composition, and potential health risks of known and emerging chemical and biological contaminants. Assist states, communities, and utilities with stormwater and wastewater infrastructure needs through models and technical assistance.

- **Recreational Waters and Public Health Protection**. Develop rapid fecal indicators and bacteriophage and microbial source tracking for monitoring recreational waters and response times to quickly close and reopen impacted areas. Use an applied economic benefits analysis to evaluate the financial impacts of beach closures based on different water quality monitoring technologies. Develop human health risk and water quality predictive modeling tools to support recreational water quality criteria. Conduct an assessment of new recreational water quality assessment tools in sub-tropical and tropical marine waters.

- **Antimicrobial Resistance**. Finalize analysis of a multi-year, interagency study of antimicrobial-resistant bacteria and associated resistance genes in surface waters to determine the utility of including environmental data within the FDA's One Health-focused National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System. Data also will inform the development of risk models by leveraging an unprecedented national map of the occurrence of antimicrobial resistance in rivers and streams. Apply similar techniques in wastewater systems to define the best approaches for mitigating risks from discharges of wastewater effluents.

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**. Apply AI to enhance already developed tools such as, EPANET[33], Multi Species Extension (MSX)[34], Storm Water Management Model (SWWM)[35], and Water Network Tool for Resilience (WNTR)[36].

Research Planning:

The Agency assesses its research performance through the distribution of research evaluation surveys to key users of its research products. This provides evidence for how research products are being used, by whom, and the degree of satisfaction product users have with research product quality, usability, and timeliness of delivery. Through the evaluation process, the Agency identifies its strengths and finds targeted areas for improvement in its research programs.

[33] For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/water-research/epanet
[34] For more information, please see: https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_report.cfm?Lab=CESER&dirEntryId=359844
[35] For more information, please see: https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_report.cfm?Lab=NRMRL&dirEntryId=158255
[36] For more information, please see: https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_report.cfm?Lab=NRMRL&dirEntryId=337888

EPA's state engagement program[37] is designed to inform states about their role within EPA and EPA's research programs and to better understand the science needs of state environmental and health agencies by engaging key partners.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$5,635.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

- (-$26,917.0 / -68.3 FTE) This change aligns program funding with core statutory requirements, legal requirements, and Agency priorities and recognizes needed efficiencies. This program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) § 1442(a)(1); Clean Water Act §§ 101(a)(6), 102, 104, 105, 320; Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act (ERDDAA); Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) § 203; Title II of Ocean Dumping Ban Act of 1988 (ODBA); Water Resources Development Act (WRDA); Wet Weather Water Quality Act of 2000; ; Clean Air Act § 103(e), Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act, National Invasive Species Act; Coastal Zone Amendments Reauthorization Act (CZARA); Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act; Endangered Species Act (ESA); North American Wetlands Conservation Act; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 (HABHRCA); National Defense Authorization Act FY 2020 EC. 7362.

[37] For more information, please see: https://www.epa.gov/research/epa-research-solutions-states.

Research: Sustainable Communities

Research: Sustainable and Healthy Communities

Program Area: Research: Sustainable Communities

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Science & Technology	***$134,581***	***$132,205***	***$58,597***	***-$73,608***
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	$354	$327	$304	-$23
Inland Oil Spill Programs	$681	$670	$522	-$148
Hazardous Substance Superfund	$20,147	$16,937	$11,448	-$5,489
Total Budget Authority	$155,764	$150,139	$70,871	-$79,268
Total Workyears	436.8	397.2	294.6	-102.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

Program Project Description:

EPA's Sustainable and Healthy Communities (SHC) Research Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. This Program supports EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management, regions, states, and tribes to advance the cost-effective clean-up of contaminated sites, develop data and tools to effectively manage waste, and ensure that communities are protected from harmful chemicals such as lead and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

Under SHC, EPA will provide technical support at federal-, tribal-, and state-managed cleanup sites, while ensuring sustainable, healthy, and economically vibrant communities. Research will focus on addressing priority scientific needs and providing innovative solutions on three topic areas: 1) Contaminated Sites, 2) Waste and Sustainable Materials Management, and 3) Healthy, Resilient, and Economically Vibrant Communities.

The SHC Research Program provides state-of-the-science methods, models, tools, and technologies that the Land and Emergency Management Program uses in programmatic guidance and that EPA decision-makers use in the site cleanup process. Within the given resource levels for this program, research will be internally driven only, and external partnerships, grants, and research agreements will not continue.

In FY 2026, SHC work would potentially include the following areas:

- **Critical Minerals and Life Cycle Assessment:** Building on existing efforts to review recovery methods and technologies,[38] SHC researchers will continue to evaluate the feasibility of recovery of critical minerals from contaminated sites (*e.g.*, mine waste, coal ash) to help establish a sustainable domestic supply of critical minerals that is necessary for expanding AI infrastructure, supporting automobile manufacturing, and American energy dominance. Similarly, SHC will continue to develop life cycle analysis tools[39] to help decision-makers understand the impacts of decisions and identify more environmentally friendly alternatives. Scientific journal articles, reports, datasets, models, and tools will be published and used by decision makers.

- **PFAS Research:** EPA researchers will support the needs of EPA partners, states, tribes, and local communities by developing methods to evaluate PFAS in waste, soil, sediment, groundwater, and homes and investigate PFAS fate and transport in the environment as well as its disposal and destruction. Researchers also will identify locations and source contributors to potentially high PFAS exposure in children and other populations by evaluating multimedia PFAS sources and pathways for human exposure.[40] This research supports the implementation of the *PFAS Strategic Roadmap*[41] and EPA guidance on PFAS destruction and disposal required by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020.[42]

Research Planning*:*

The Agency assesses its research performance through the distribution of research evaluation surveys to key users of its research products. This provides evidence for how research products are being used, by whom, and the degree of satisfaction product users have with research product quality, usability, and timeliness of delivery. Through the evaluation process, the Agency identifies its strengths and finds targeted areas for improvement in its research programs.

EPA's state engagement[43] is designed to inform states about their role within EPA and EPA's research programs, and to better understand the science needs of state environmental and health agencies by engaging key partners.

Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

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[38] For more information, please see, for example: https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_report.cfm?dirEntryId=360468&Lab=CESER.
[39] For more information, please see for example: https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_Report.cfm?dirEntryId=360453&Lab=CESER.
[40] For more information, please see, for example: https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39526893/, https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11874334/.
[41] See EPA's PFAS Strategic Roadmap at: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-10/pfas-roadmap_final-508.pdf.
[42] https://www.epa.gov/pfas/interim-guidance-destruction-and-disposal-pfas-and-materials-containing-pfas.
[43] For more information on EPA's work with States, please see: https://www.epa.gov/research/epa-research-solutions-states.

FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-$6,004.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

- (-$67,604.0 / -112.7 FTE) This change aligns program funding with core statutory requirements, legal requirements, and Agency priorities and recognizes needed efficiencies. This Program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Statutory Authority:

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified as Title 5 App.) (EPA's organic statute).