



**United States  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Fiscal Year 2026**

**Justification of Appropriation  
Estimates for the  
Committee on Appropriations**

**Tab 07: Leaking Underground Storage Tanks**

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Environmental Protection Agency  
2026 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification

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**Environmental Protection Agency  
FY 2026 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification**

**APPROPRIATION: Leaking Underground Storage Tanks  
Resource Summary Table**

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b>Leaking Underground Storage Tanks</b>				
Budget Authority	\$95,778	\$89,214	\$47,922	-\$41,292
Total Workyears	43.2	43.4	41.0	-2.4

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

**Bill Language: Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund Program**

*For necessary expenses to carry out leaking underground storage tank cleanup activities authorized by subtitle I of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, \$47,922,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$38,840,000 shall be for carrying out leaking underground storage tank cleanup activities authorized by section 9003(h) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act; Provided, That the Administrator is authorized to use appropriations made available under this heading to implement section 9013 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to provide financial assistance to federally recognized Indian tribes for the development and implementation of programs to manage underground storage tanks.*

**Program Projects in LUST**

(Dollars in Thousands)

<b>Program Project</b>	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Enforcement				
Civil Enforcement	\$619	\$635	\$435	-\$200
Operations and Administration				
Acquisition Management	\$113	\$109	\$132	\$23
Central Planning, Budgeting, and Finance	\$580	\$537	\$450	-\$87
Facilities Infrastructure and Operations	\$597	\$686	\$612	-\$74
Subtotal, Operations and Administration	\$1,290	\$1,332	\$1,194	-\$138
Research: Sustainable Communities				
Research: Sustainable and Healthy Communities	\$354	\$327	\$304	-\$23
Underground Storage Tanks (LUST / UST)				
LUST / UST	\$11,474	\$9,591	\$7,149	-\$2,442

<b>Program Project</b>	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
LUST Cooperative Agreements	\$55,740	\$52,838	\$38,840	-\$13,998
LUST Prevention	\$26,301	\$24,491	\$0	-\$24,491
Subtotal, Underground Storage Tanks (LUST / UST)	\$93,515	\$86,920	\$45,989	-\$40,931
<b>TOTAL LUST</b>	<b>\$95,778</b>	<b>\$89,214</b>	<b>\$47,922</b>	<b>-\$41,292</b>

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

## **Enforcement**

**Civil Enforcement**  
Program Area: Enforcement

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Environmental Programs & Management	\$218,862	\$201,305	\$140,191	-\$61,114
<b><i>Leaking Underground Storage Tanks</i></b>	<b><i>\$619</i></b>	<b><i>\$635</i></b>	<b><i>\$435</i></b>	<b><i>-\$200</i></b>
Inland Oil Spill Programs	\$2,614	\$2,465	\$1,762	-\$703
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$45	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Budget Authority	\$222,140	\$204,405	\$142,388	-\$62,017
Total Workyears	959.1	971.0	789.3	-181.7

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 Civil Enforcement Program directly supports the five pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative to ensure compliance with the Nation's environmental laws so that all Americans have access to clean air, land, and water. The Program advances cooperative federalism and strengthens cross-agency partnerships through collaboration with the United States Department of Justice, states, local agencies, and tribal governments to ensure consistent and fair enforcement of environmental laws. The Civil Enforcement Program develops, litigates, and settles administrative and civil judicial cases against violators of environmental laws.

**FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

In FY 2026, the Program will provide civil enforcement inspections to support and align with *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. The Program will continue to work with state and tribal partners to ensure every UST system is inspected at least once every three years, as required by statute (over 200,000 systems nationwide). As appropriate, actions will be taken to ensure necessary compliance and cleanup measures are taken to prevent harm to human health and ensure clean water and land for all Americans.

**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):**

- (-\$308.0) 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.
- (+\$108.0 / +0.8 FTE) This program change aligns funding with core statutory requirements and five pillar work, recognizes needed efficiencies, and refocuses enforcement efforts.

**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 authority); Subtitle I of the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

## **Operations and Administration**



## Acquisition Management

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	\$34,401	\$32,223	\$32,247	\$24
<b><i>Leaking Underground Storage Tanks</i></b>	<b><i>\$113</i></b>	<b><i>\$109</i></b>	<b><i>\$132</i></b>	<b><i>\$23</i></b>
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$23,620	\$25,588	\$23,752	-\$1,836
Total Budget Authority	\$58,134	\$57,920	\$56,131	-\$1,789
Total Workyears	275.6	278.8	292.7	13.9

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

### Program Project Description:

EPA's Acquisition Management Program supports the Agency's contract activities, which cover planning, awarding, and administering contracts for the Agency. Program efforts include issuing acquisition policy and interpreting acquisition regulations; administering training for contracting and program acquisition personnel; and providing advice and oversight to regional procurement offices.

### FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

The Acquisition Management Program plays a critical role in advancing the Agency's mission while aligning operations with Executive Orders (EO) 14240: *Eliminating Waste and Saving Taxpayer Dollars by Consolidating Procurement*<sup>1</sup> and EO 14222: *Implementing the President's Department of Government Efficiency Cost* initiative.<sup>2</sup> Operations will focus on improving the acquisition lifecycle management, promoting fiscal responsibility, and increasing operational efficiencies across all procurement activities. This program directly supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*, and *Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. Additionally, work through the Acquisition Management Program supports all five pillars of EPA's initiative through cost-efficient procurement activity to advance core Agency mission priorities.

In FY 2026, EPA will prioritize implementation of the President's Made in America agenda<sup>3</sup> and existing Made in America laws. EPA will use all tools available, consistent with law, to maximize the use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States, minimize the use of

<sup>1</sup> For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/03/25/2025-05197/eliminating-waste-and-saving-taxpayer-dollars-by-consolidating-procurement>.

<sup>2</sup> For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/03/03/2025-03527/implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency-cost-efficiency-initiative>.

<sup>3</sup> For more information, see <https://www.madeinamerica.gov/>.

waivers, and provide clear and consistent demand signals to industry on federal demand for critical items.

## **Acquisition Modernization Initiatives**

In FY 2026, EPA will leverage available expanded functionalities to the Agency's contract writing system to help develop requirements, streamline solicitations, manage vendor evaluation, conduct best value assessment, promote data integrity and reporting. Additionally, EPA will explore the adoption of artificial intelligence to strengthen the following initiatives:

### Policy Reformation and Simplification

In line with EO 14275: *"Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement,"*<sup>4</sup> EPA will reform acquisition policies to streamline internal procedures, eliminate outdated guidance and promote plain language usage through artificial intelligence. These policy reforms will help staff and stakeholders better understand acquisition requirements, ensure compliance with evolving federal procurement directives, and support the President's call for common sense to federal procurement.

### Strengthening Acquisition Planning

EPA will enhance acquisition planning, emphasizing early engagement with program offices using modern visualization tools. In addition, EPA will ensure procurement requirements align with mission critical priorities, are cost effective and reduce redundancy. Moreover, the Program will advance acquisition planning, resulting in reduced procurement lead-times, more competitive and compliant awards, and greater support of initiatives outlined in current Executive Orders.

### Contract Closeout Unliquidated Obligation Reduction Initiative

EPA will prioritize the timely closeout of expired contracts by centralizing contract closeout to support financial stewardship of taxpayer resources. Proper closeout procedures ensure that all obligations under the contract and relevant regulations have been met, minimizing the risk of legal disputes. EPA will implement quick closeout procedures for each contract period resulting in the release of unused funds prior to funds expiration allowing redistribution for other mission critical priorities.

Obtaining resources for these initiatives will allow EPA to efficiently and effectively act by streamlining and strengthening acquisition procedures.

## **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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<sup>4</sup> For more information, see: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/18/2025-06839/restoring-common-sense-to-federal-procurement>.

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

- (+\$23.0) This program change is an increase to acquisition operations in support of the Leaking Underground Storage Tanks Program.

**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).

## **Central Planning, Budgeting, and Finance**

Program Area: Operations and Administration

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026* President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Environmental Programs & Management	\$81,953	\$80,928	\$76,603	-\$4,325
<b><i>Leaking Underground Storage Tanks</i></b>	<b><i>\$580</i></b>	<b><i>\$537</i></b>	<b><i>\$450</i></b>	<b><i>-\$87</i></b>
Hazardous Substance Superfund	\$35,335	\$31,378	\$22,462	-\$8,916
Total Budget Authority	\$117,868	\$112,843	\$99,515	-\$13,328
Total Workyears	443.7	446.9	394.3	-52.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 0.0 FTE in Central Planning, Budgeting, and Finance working capital fund (WCF) services, a decrease of 42.4 FTE.

### **Program Project Description:**

This program is proposed for reduction to increase efficiency of Agency operations and to focus resources on EPA's core mission and statutory work. The Central Planning, Budgeting, and Finance Program supports integrated planning, budgeting, financial management, performance and accountability processes, and systems to ensure effective stewardship of LUST resources. This includes providing financial payment and support services for specialized fiscal and accounting services for the LUST Programs.

### **FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

Work in this program supports the five pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative to achieve EPA's mission of protecting human health and the environment while energizing the greatness of the American economy.

In FY 2026, the Program will ensure secure, efficient, and sound financial and budgetary management of the LUST Program using routine and ad hoc analysis, statistical sampling, and other evidence-based decision-making tools. EPA will continue to monitor and strengthen internal controls with a focus on sensitive payments and property. In addition, in an effort to provide taxpayer cost savings, the Agency is reviewing its financial systems for efficiencies and effectiveness and identifying gaps while providing taxpayer cost savings.

### **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):**

- (-\$121.0) 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.
- (+\$34.0 / +0.2 FTE) This program change increases the Agency's ability to manage and oversee LUST financial activities.

**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); Subtitle I of the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

## **Facilities Infrastructure and Operations**

Program Area: Operations and Administration

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026* President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
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
<b><i>Leaking Underground Storage Tanks</i></b>	<b>\$597</b>	<b>\$686</b>	<b>\$612</b>	<b>-\$74</b>
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. Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST) 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*,<sup>5</sup> as well as EO 14210: *Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Workforce Optimization Initiative*,<sup>6</sup> 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

<sup>5</sup> For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/18/2025-06838/restoring-common-sense-to-federal-office-space-management>.

<sup>6</sup> 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 \$0.5 million for rent in the LUST 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):**

- (-\$14.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the recalculation of transit subsidy.
- (-\$60.0) This program change is a net decrease due to a reduction in contracting resources to enhance transparency, oversight and public accountability by bringing critical facility management and operations activities back in-house. 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 federal 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).

## **Research: Sustainable Communities**



## **Research: Sustainable and Healthy Communities**

Program Area: Research: Sustainable Communities

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Science & Technology	\$134,581	\$132,205	\$58,597	-\$73,608
<b><i>Leaking Underground Storage Tanks</i></b>	<b><i>\$354</i></b>	<b><i>\$327</i></b>	<b><i>\$304</i></b>	<b><i>-\$23</i></b>
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 under the Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST) appropriation assists EPA's Office of Underground Storage Tanks, regions, tribes, and states to assess the degradation of Underground Storage Tanks (USTs). This assessment identifies vulnerable tanks before leaks occur and helps develop the tools to track and monitor the status of existing and abandoned USTs and their impact on the community.

### **FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

Work in this Program will aim to characterize sites and contaminants released from LUSTs identified under the LUST Trust Fund with an emphasis on assisting the Agency, tribes, and states in addressing the backlog of sites for remediation. SHC research will help remediate contaminated sites at an accelerated pace and lower costs, while reducing human health and ecological impacts. Resulting methodologies and tools will help localities, tribes, and states return properties to productive use, supporting the Agency's work to safeguard and revitalize communities.

In FY 2026, EPA research will continue to develop models, metrics, and spatial tools for EPA regions, tribes, and states to evaluate the vulnerability of groundwater to LUSTs. SHC will continue to focus on developing national datasets in partnership with the states to better understand the potential vulnerabilities to LUSTs, such as flooding and drought, and vulnerabilities from LUSTs (e.g., on groundwater) to inform decisions to manage tanks. SHC will assist EPA's Underground Storage Tanks Program, tribes, and states by updating technical guidance manuals and evaluations of risk to underground storage tank systems.

SHC will continue to build on its FY 2024 accomplishments to advance partnerships with state, territorial, and tribal partners related to the National Database on Underground Storage Tank

Infrastructure (UST Finder).<sup>7</sup> This includes continued training on the UST Finder capabilities and functions with federal and state partners (and their identified industries and communities). This training provides geospatial data on facilities and tanks in association with drinking water sources, critical data on the aging infrastructure, and facilities that may be impacted by flooding and wildfires. The training also helps EPA partners assess facility risk and triage sites for cleanup and protection of drinking water sources. Building on UST Finder 1.0, released in FY 2020, which provides partners with both spatial and attribute information of USTs, UST Finder 2.0 and 3.0 will be developed to incorporate dynamic data entry of state data as it becomes available. This information is critical to identifying vulnerabilities and mitigating risks related to USTs and supports decision-making on-site cleanups and program management.

### **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<sup>8</sup> 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 agencies. Key partners at the state level include: the Environmental Council of the States, with its Environmental Research Institute of the States and Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council; the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials; as well as state media associations, such as the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials.

### **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):**

- (-\$110.0) 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.
- (+\$87.0 / +0.6 FTE) This reflects a program change for the Sustainable and Healthy Communities program to continue statutorily required work.

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<sup>7</sup> For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/ust/ust-finder>.

<sup>8</sup> For more information on EPA's engagement with states, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/research/epa-research-solutions-states>.

**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); Subtitle I of the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

## **Underground Storage Tanks (LUST/UST)**

## LUST / UST

Program Area: Underground Storage Tanks (LUST / UST)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Environmental Programs & Management	\$12,333	\$11,500	\$6,863	-\$4,637
<b><i>Leaking Underground Storage Tanks</i></b>	<b><i>\$11,474</i></b>	<b><i>\$9,591</i></b>	<b><i>\$7,149</i></b>	<b><i>-\$2,442</i></b>
Total Budget Authority	\$23,807	\$21,091	\$14,012	-\$7,079
Total Workyears	88.1	88.5	68.8	-19.7

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

### **Program Project Description:**

The Leaking Underground Storage Tanks / Underground Storage Tanks (LUST / UST) 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.

LUST resources in the LUST / UST Program ensure that petroleum contamination is properly assessed and cleaned up. Under this Program, EPA issues, monitors, and oversees LUST cleanup cooperative agreements to states.<sup>9</sup> EPA also provides technical assistance and training to states and tribes on how to conduct cleanups and improve the efficiency of state programs, as well as direct implementation of UST programs in Indian Country.

### **FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

In FY 2026, EPA will:

- Work with states and tribes within available resources to implement strategies to reduce the number of sites that have not reached cleanup completion and to address new releases as they continue to be confirmed, in support of *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.
- Provide targeted training, such as remediation process optimization and rapid site assessment techniques, to states and tribes.
- Provide support in Indian Country for site assessments, investigations, and remediation of high priority sites; enforcement against responsible parties; cleanup of soil and groundwater; alternate water supplies; oversight of responsible party-led cleanups; and technical expertise and assistance to tribal governments.

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<sup>9</sup> States as referenced here also include the District of Columbia and five territories as described in the definition of state in the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

- EPA will continue to monitor the soundness of financial mechanisms. This includes insurance and state cleanup funds that serve as financial assurance for LUST releases, ensuring that money is available to pay for cleanups. In addition, EPA will continue to provide analysis and technical assistance to states to help them improve the environmental and financial performance of their cleanup funds, supporting the Administration's goals of cooperative federalism and cross-agency partnerships.

**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):**

- (-\$1,180.0) 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.
- (-\$1,262.0 / -4.0 FTE) This program change reflects a focus on cleaning up the highest priority LUST sites in Indian Country and making more efficient use of resources that provide subject matter and technical expertise to states and tribes. Additionally, this program change aligns program funding with core statutory requirements and five pillar work and empowers EPA's partners at the state, tribal, and local level through cooperative federalism. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its federal responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

**Statutory Authority:**

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act §§ 8001, 9001-9014.

## **LUST Cooperative Agreements**

Program Area: Underground Storage Tanks (LUST / UST)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Leaking Underground Storage Tanks</i></b>	<b>\$55,740</b>	<b>\$52,838</b>	<b>\$38,840</b>	<b>-\$13,998</b>
Total Budget Authority	\$55,740	\$52,838	\$38,840	-\$13,998

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

### **Program Project Description:**

The LUST Cooperative Agreements 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 LUST Program ensures that petroleum contamination is properly assessed and cleaned up by providing states with funding to address releases, including in groundwater. LUST funding supports states in managing, overseeing, and enforcing cleanups at LUST sites through the provision of cooperative agreements.

### **FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

In FY 2026, EPA will work with states to pursue strategies to maximize effectiveness or efficiency in proactively completing cleanups and reducing their backlogs.

The Energy Policy Act (EPAct) of 2005 requires that states receiving LUST Cooperative Agreements funding meet certain release prevention requirements, such as inspecting every facility at least once every three years. In FY 2026, EPA will continue to factor state compliance with EPAct requirements into LUST Cleanup Cooperative Agreement decisions.

In FY 2026, EPA will:

- Collaborate with states to develop and implement flexible, state-driven strategies to reduce the number of remaining LUST sites that have not reached cleanup completion in support of *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. Through the cooperative efforts between EPA and states, the backlog was reduced by approximately 46 percent between the end of 2008 and the end of 2024 (from 102,798 to 55,334).<sup>10</sup>
- Continue to leverage funding by developing best practices and supporting management, guidance, and enforcement activities through LUST Cleanup Cooperative Agreements. LUST Cleanup Cooperative Agreements will help achieve nearly 5,000 cleanups annually.

<sup>10</sup> Please see EPA website: <http://www.epa.gov/ust/ust-performance-measures>.

**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):**

- (-\$13,998.0) This program change reflects a focus on cleaning up the highest priority LUST sites, recognizes needed efficiencies, and promotes cooperative federalism by empowering states to run their own LUST cleanup programs. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its federal responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

**Statutory Authority:**

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act § 9003(h)(7).



## **LUST Prevention**

Program Area: Underground Storage Tanks (LUST / UST)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Leaking Underground Storage Tanks</i></b>	<b><i>\$26,301</i></b>	<b><i>\$24,491</i></b>	<b><i>\$0</i></b>	<b><i>-\$24,491</i></b>
Total Budget Authority	\$26,301	\$24,491	\$0	-\$24,491

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

### **Program Project Description:**

The Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Prevention Program is proposed for elimination 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.

### **FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

In FY 2026, the LUST Prevention Program is proposed for elimination, empowering states and tribes to fund their own programs.

### **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):**

- (-\$24,491.0) This funding change proposes to eliminate the LUST Prevention Program in alignment with the Administration's priorities, including promoting cooperative federalism by empowering states and tribes to take full ownership of their LUST prevention programs.

### **Statutory Authority:**

Solid Waste Disposal Act of 1976, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, § 2007(f); Energy Policy Act, § 9011.