



# FRAUD ALERT

## PHISHING SCHEME

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General is issuing this fraud alert to highlight the increasing use of a phishing scheme involving social media.

Fraudsters use social media to solicit sensitive personal information and money from victims by offering them a "tax-free environmental grant."

### How can you protect yourself?



Be wary of social media contacts from anyone claiming to represent the EPA or any other federal agency.



Contact the EPA immediately if you are asked to pay fees of any kind to apply for or receive an EPA grant.



Refuse to send payments to "the EPA" in the form of wires, gift cards, cryptocurrency, or other hard to trace payment methods.



Learn more about this scam and what to look for.

### LEARN MORE



### EPA OIG HOTLINE

If you believe you have been a victim of this scam or have knowledge of other potential fraud involving the EPA, report it to the EPA OIG Hotline by completing the online complaint form at [www.EPA.gov/OIG](http://www.EPA.gov/OIG), emailing [OIG.Hotline@epa.gov](mailto:OIG.Hotline@epa.gov), or calling 888-546-8740.

December 4, 2025