



STRATEGIC PLAN

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY

FY 2026-2030



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Administrator Zeldin's Message

At the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, we are proving every single day that Americans don't have to choose between a strong economy and a clean environment. We can grow the economy, bring down costs for American families, and protect human health and the environment, all at the same time. That is exactly what we are doing.

Under President Trump's leadership, EPA remains laser-focused on our core mission while delivering on the five pillars of our Powering the Great American Comeback initiative: providing clean air, land, and water for every American; restoring American energy dominance; advancing permitting reform, cooperative federalism, and cross-agency partnership; making America the super intelligence capital of the world; and bringing back and protecting American auto jobs. EPA's Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-2030 Strategic Plan is our roadmap for turning that vision into results.



This plan lays out how EPA will protect human health and the environment across our great nation through commonsense policies that deliver clean air, land, and water for all Americans while unleashing American energy, revitalizing domestic manufacturing, lowering the cost of living, and fueling American innovation and entrepreneurship. Its five strategic goals are supported by 14 strategic objectives, each with clear implementation strategies. Together, they define the historic work this agency will accomplish during the Trump Administration.

Alongside the Strategic Plan, EPA is releasing its FY 2027 Evidence Plan, as required by the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018. The Evidence Plan includes the agency's FY 2026-2030 Learning Agenda, which sets out the key questions we need to answer in priority areas across our mission, along with our plans for evidence-building and evaluation in the coming fiscal year. This work will focus on three areas: getting better results from EPA's grant programs, reforming and speeding up our permitting processes, and developing super intelligence capabilities that make the agency run more efficiently. The result will be stronger stewardship of taxpayer dollars, faster and more predictable permitting in partnership with our state, Tribal, and local co-regulators, and strategic decisions grounded in data that get the most out of every automation investment.

The FY 2026-2030 Strategic Plan fulfills EPA's statutory obligations under Section 3 of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993, as updated by Section 2 of the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010. The FY 2027 Evidence Plan fulfills our obligations under Title I, Section 312(a) and (b) of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (5 U.S.C. § 312). Together, these plans ensure that EPA's decisions are driven by data and evidence as we continue delivering environmental wins for the American people.

EPA will keep working every day to protect America's air, land, and water within the bounds of the laws Congress wrote. I am proud of the work this team is doing, and I look forward to continuing to partner with you as we Power the Great American Comeback.

FY 2026-2030 EPA Strategic Plan Introduction

The *FY 2026-2030 EPA Strategic Plan* communicates the agency's priorities and goals and lays out the approach to achieving those goals and its mission to protect human health and the environment.

This Strategic Plan is built around President Trump's Executive Orders, as well as the five pillars Administrator Zeldin identified as core components of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.¹ These five pillars have been translated into the strategic goals of this Plan:

1. *Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American;*
2. *Restore American Energy Dominance;*
3. *Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership;*
4. *Make the United States the Super Intelligence Capital of the World; and*
5. *Protecting and Bringing Back American Auto Jobs.*

The EPA Administrator established two-year Agency Priority Goals (APGs) to accelerate progress on select Administration and EPA priorities to *Power the Great American Comeback*. These APGs reflect the EPA leadership's commitment to improving performance, enhancing transparency, and delivering measurable results for the American people. The FY 2026-2027 APGs focus on two key priorities: (1) advancing investment into America and job creation through permitting reform; and (2) reducing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) risks to the public.

FY 2026-2027 APGs:

1. Advance Investment into America and Job Creation through Permitting Reform. By September 30, 2027, streamline the permitting process and improve efficiencies so the Nation can unleash economic growth while providing cost savings to hardworking Americans.
2. Reduce Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Risks to the Public. By September 30, 2027, strengthen the science, fulfill statutory obligations, enhance communication, and build partnerships.

The EPA considers external factors and risks in achieving its strategic goals and objectives. Economic conditions, legislative changes, and public opinion are examples of external factors that can hinder the agency's ability to meet objectives.

The *FY 2026-2030 EPA Strategic Plan* is complemented by the agency's Learning Agenda and Capacity Assessment. The Capacity Assessment will guide agency efforts to develop the skills, expertise, and infrastructure that support routine and rigorous use of data. The Learning Agenda identifies and will address key questions across priority areas for the agency through the identification, development, and analysis of high-quality data:

¹ [EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin Announces EPA's "Powering the Great American Comeback" Initiative](#)

1. To what extent are EPA grant programs most effectively advancing the agency mission of protecting human health and the environment, while being good stewards of tax dollars?
2. What innovative strategies, initiatives, partnerships, and reforms will be most effective in streamlining EPA's processes to reduce the (i) time, (ii), uncertainty, and (iii) costs involved in issuing a permit?
3. How can EPA leverage automation and super intelligence (SI) to enhance operational efficiencies and support the agency's mission?

The EPA values the perspective and input of its partners and stakeholders. The agency solicited feedback from Congress, Tribes, state agencies, and associations to inform the Strategic Plan. Through this engagement, the agency sought to gather input on the environmental and human health priorities of partners and stakeholders as it works to achieve the EPA mission and find ways to work together to accomplish agency goals. The EPA reviewed and considered the feedback received in refining the Strategic Plan.

Goal 1: Provide Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American

The EPA is committed to promoting cleaner air, land, and water for every American, which is central to the EPA's core mission to protect human health and the environment. By implementing cost-effective regulations and streamlining permitting processes, the EPA will show that protecting human health and the environment goes hand-in-hand with economic prosperity by fostering initiatives that support both a healthier environment and responsible use of taxpayer funds. The EPA will empower states and Tribes to tailor decisions to local priorities and conditions, creating more responsive and effective ways to care for the environment. The EPA will act consistently with its statutory authority, will not read statutory silence or ambiguity as a grant of agency power, and will avoid statutory interpretations that reach the periphery of the authority granted to the agency by Congress. And in all actions, the EPA will use funds responsibly and act as a good steward of taxpayer dollars.

To achieve these goals, the EPA will focus on reducing air pollution and continue to ensure compliance with national emission standards. Moreover, the EPA will offer technical assistance to help improve critical water challenges such as infrastructure upgrades, cybersecurity, and emergency preparedness. Additionally, the EPA will continue its commitment to providing clean and safe land for all Americans by expediting the cleanup of contaminated sites, promoting land revitalization, and supporting a system where materials are reclaimed, reused and recycled to reduce waste.

The EPA's responsibility extends to promoting the safety of chemicals and pesticides and reducing environmental risks while also effectively communicating risk information to the public. To uphold environmental laws, the agency will focus efforts on achieving compliance quickly and efficiently while taking enforcement actions to address clear and substantial violations, ultimately achieving more protections for clean air, land, and water. By empowering states and Tribes through cooperative federalism and strategic investments, the EPA will safeguard public health, strengthen national security, and drive the *Great American Comeback*.

As part of the EPA's FY 2026-2030 Learning Agenda – which sets out the agency's strategy and plans for evaluation and evidence-building activities – the agency will examine the extent to which grant programs achieve their intended environmental and human health outcomes while being good stewards of tax dollars. Findings will inform the agency's ability to monitor, report, and improve on those outcomes. The EPA will also examine innovative permitting strategies, initiatives, partnerships, and reforms as part of the Learning Agenda, to identify those most likely to be effective in reducing the time, uncertainty, and costs involved in issuing a permit. The results from this effort will enable the agency to advance the strategic objective of achieving operational efficiencies while upholding its mission to protect human health and the environment.

Objective 1.1 Healthy Air Quality: Reduce Air Pollutants, Enhance Ambient and Indoor Air Quality, Lower Radiation Exposure, and Respond to Air-Quality Emergencies

Cleaner air for every American is central to the EPA’s mission to protect human health and the environment. From 1970 to 2023, aggregate national emissions of the six criteria air pollutants dropped an average of 78 percent while U.S. economic indicators have remained strong.²

Despite this progress, millions of people live in counties with monitored air that do not meet the EPA’s ambient air quality standards. The agency works to promote access to cleaner air for all communities while also removing or reforming unnecessarily burdensome regulations that have increased costs for Americans. By focusing on the EPA’s statutory obligations, the agency will be able to better deliver on its responsibilities to the American public.

The EPA will continue to work towards reducing air pollution both indoors and outdoors, mitigating radiation exposure, and positioning the agency to be ready to respond to radiological and air quality emergencies. By enacting cost-effective and practical regulations that provide certainty to industry, the agency will demonstrate that healthy air does not need to come at the expense of jobs or economic growth. The EPA will work together with states and Tribal partners to empower local decision-making and strengthen cooperative federalism.

Key Strategies

Clean Outdoor Air: The EPA will focus on the core goal of improving air quality for all Americans, while supporting economic growth, advancing fiscal stewardship, and enhancing national security by setting standards for air quality and air toxics, addressing transboundary pollution at the border, and utilizing advice, recommendations, and review from independent experts, like the members of the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC). The Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs address air pollutants that are transported across state, regional, and international boundaries. The EPA will continue to operate the Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs and the systems to assess compliance with the programs’ regulatory requirements. The agency will continue to review alternatives for ozone-depleting substances (ODS) to find safer alternatives that pose less overall risk to human health and the environment and foster a smooth transition to these alternatives. The EPA will continue to ensure compliance with national emission standards for mobile sources through the agency’s vehicle and engine emissions certification program and compliance testing. Finally, air quality monitoring networks will allow the most up to date air quality data to drive decision-making.

Indoor Air and Radiation Protection: Through guidance and public outreach, the EPA will support improved air quality in homes, businesses, and schools throughout America. Programs such as Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools and Wildfire Preparedness Grants will help remediate and prepare buildings and communities that face air quality hazards. The EPA also will continue to focus on essential preparedness work across the agency’s radiological emergency response activities. By operating the national environmental radiation monitoring

² [Air Quality – National Summary](#)

system (RadNet), the EPA will assist officials with data to make the most informed decisions should a radiological incident occur.

Cooperative Federalism: The EPA will focus on reducing air pollutants and toxics that can cause or exacerbate health issues by working more effectively with states and Tribes and encouraging their participation in the EPA's CASAC advisory activities. This includes reviewing and taking action on State Implementation Plans (SIPs) and Tribal Implementation Plans (TIPs) for attaining air quality standards in a timely manner, redesignating areas for attainment of air quality standards, and streamlining air permitting. To further these efforts, the EPA established the Office of State Air Partnerships to improve coordination with state, local, and Tribal air permitting agencies in coordination with EPA regional offices.

By embracing a common-sense approach to clean air regulations, responding to air quality emergencies with speed and expertise, and working with state, Tribal, and industry partners across America, the EPA will promote clean air and economic growth that can support every American.

Objective 1.2 Clean and Safe Water: Protect Drinking Water and Source Water, Strengthen Water Infrastructure, Safeguard Waterbodies and Watersheds, and Respond to Water-Related Emergencies

Water is essential to the livelihood of the American public, businesses, and the environment. Americans rely on water to drink, bathe, fish, grow and harvest food, produce energy and goods, transport goods, recreate, support the environment, and so much more. As the agency sets its sights on the future, the EPA works to provide Americans with access to cleaner and safer water and enhance the security and availability of this vital resource. As an agency, our priorities reflect this crucial commitment, while adhering to environmental laws and legal standards, and setting an example of prudent stewardship of taxpayer funds. The EPA is safeguarding public health and the environment, while fostering economic growth through cooperative federalism, clear regulations, and strategic investments.

With many challenges facing our waters and water infrastructure, the EPA's mission is more important than ever. The EPA is committed to helping states, Tribes, and communities find ways to address critical water challenges, such as water infrastructure upgrades, cybersecurity preparedness and emergency response, as well as technical, managerial, and financial capabilities. The EPA is dedicated to providing appropriate support and assistance to address current, pressing water challenges. The EPA is also empowering states and Tribal partners through cooperative federalism to leverage their unique insights and expertise to understand and resolve the specific water challenges faced by their communities.

Key Strategies

Protecting Drinking Water and Source Water by Providing Technical Assistance to States, Tribes, U.S. Territories, and Communities: Clean and safe water is vital for the health and well-being of the over 300 million Americans who depend on tap water from public systems. Additionally, many Americans rely on wastewater treatment systems to process about 34 billion gallons of wastewater every day. These wastewater systems help protect surface waters, which are vital to providing safe and clean sources of drinking water, recreation, and habitats for many species. The EPA is committed to providing technical assistance to help states, Tribes, and communities find ways to access funding for their water quality and/or water system infrastructure challenges. The agency is also committed to helping states, Tribes, and communities address compliance concerns, enhance water, wastewater and stormwater system resilience and efficiency, strengthen technical, managerial, and financial capabilities, address cyber threats, and respond to water emergencies or natural disasters. To address drinking water contaminants such as certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), the EPA is proactively working with communities and water systems to reduce exposure in drinking water by providing information on resources, including funding and technical assistance to drinking water systems. The EPA will also consult with the Science Advisory Board on the draft Sixth Contaminant Candidate List (CCL)³ which is comprised of contaminants that are currently not subject to

³ [Contaminant Candidate List](#)

regulations but are known or anticipated to occur in public water systems. The final CCL6 is a critical tool that will inform research, funding, and future decisions on regulating emerging threats in our drinking water. In July 2026, the EPA proposed the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 6). The final UCMR 6 will gather nationwide data on unregulated contaminants that may be in drinking water so that the EPA and the public learn more about their occurrence, concentrations, and potential risk to public health. Through these actions, the EPA aims to keep America's water drinkable, safe, and secure for all.

Safeguard Waterbodies and Watersheds: The American continent has bountiful yet finite water resources. As our population and our economy grow, the EPA will strive to provide all Americans with access to cleaner and safer water, including our oceans. The EPA will ensure that permits, policies and regulations follow the law, reduce red tape, streamline processes, and lower business expenses. The EPA will contribute to economic growth by safeguarding waterbodies and watersheds for both recreational and commercial use well into the future. The EPA will also prioritize water efficiency and resilience, promoting innovative and strategic practices such as reusing treated wastewater and stormwater to maximize water availability. The EPA is empowering its implementing partners through cooperative federalism to manage their own water resources and unique water challenges, and by fostering innovation to safeguard their environment.

Enhance Water Sector Resilience, Preparedness, and Response to Emergencies: The EPA is dedicated to enhancing water infrastructure resilience, helping communities prepare for and respond to water emergencies (e.g., contamination incidents, massive infrastructure failures, power outages, cyber-attacks, physical attacks), and providing safe drinking water and effective wastewater management during crises. Threats such as natural hazards (e.g., droughts, earthquakes, extreme heat, flooding, hurricanes, snow and ice, tornados, tsunamis, volcanos, wildfires) and cyber-attacks can cause harm to water infrastructure, interrupt availability of water services, and directly threaten public health and safety. The EPA will provide a wide range of tools and resources to support utilities in becoming more resilient and prepared to respond to water emergencies and cybersecurity threats. The EPA will continue to provide direct technical assistance during water emergency response and recovery operations as needed. The EPA will continue to support water utilities' implementation of cybersecurity best practices and provide technical assistance tailored to the unique needs of water system operational and information technologies. The EPA's firm commitment to enhancing utility resilience and emergency preparedness will bolster confidence that all communities can rely on their water systems even in the face of unpredictable challenges.

The EPA's strategies focus on addressing current water challenges while maintaining a forward-looking approach that balances regulations with innovation, protecting water as a vital resource for generations to come. Through strategic investments and partnerships, the agency is paving the way for a sustainable and resilient water future, where every American can enjoy the benefits of clean and safe water. By prioritizing these initiatives, the EPA is responsibly managing taxpayer dollars while protecting the environment, fostering economic growth, and ensuring efficient emergency responses.

Objective 1.3 Revitalized Land and Contamination Prevention: Restore Contaminated Land and Ensure Proper Handling of Hazardous and Solid Waste, and Prepare for and Respond to Emergencies

The EPA endeavors to provide every American with access to clean and safe land. This commitment extends to leveraging economic opportunities through land revitalization, critical minerals reclamation, and the circular economy. The EPA will take steps to expedite the cleanup of contaminated sites, such as Superfund, brownfields, leaking underground storage tanks, and abandoned mining sites, while looking for opportunities to address contaminated sites using other mechanisms like cooperative federalism. A critical component of this plan is enhancing the agency's preparedness and response capabilities for environmental emergencies. By building a robust emergency response framework, the EPA will protect public health and the environment during incidents involving hazardous substances. Providing for the proper handling of hazardous and solid waste, as well as enhancing solid waste infrastructure will allow the EPA to reduce waste, manage materials efficiently, and achieve a circular economy, ultimately fostering cleaner, healthier, and more resilient communities.

Key Strategies

Accelerate Lead Cleanup at Superfund Sites: The EPA will prioritize the identification and remediation of lead contamination at Superfund sites. The EPA will implement advanced technologies and best practices to effectively reduce lead exposure risks and collaborate with local communities to ensure transparency and public health protection during cleanup efforts.

Enhance Emergency Preparedness and Response: The EPA will develop and implement comprehensive emergency response plans for incidents involving hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. The EPA will strengthen coordination with federal, state, Tribal, and local agencies to provide rapid and effective response to emergencies. The EPA will conduct regular training and simulations to enhance readiness and resilience in emergency situations.

Enhance Cooperative Federalism and Permitting Reform: The EPA will strengthen partnerships with states, Tribes, and local communities through established programs like Superfund, Brownfields, Underground Storage Tanks (UST), and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The EPA will support states as they seek primacy in running their own programs and foster collaborative efforts with states and Tribes to promote effective land cleanup and waste management. The EPA will support the American economy by streamlining permitting decision processes and collaborate with state, Tribal, and federal agencies to share lessons learned and improve efficiency in permitting decisions.

Strengthen U.S. Supply Chains by Enhancing Recycling and Materials Management Infrastructure and Supporting Reclamation of Critical Minerals: By enhancing recycling, food waste recovery, and materials management infrastructure and supporting the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Program, the EPA will optimize resource recovery, reduce contamination in the recycled materials stream, and promote environmentally sound

management of post-consumer materials. These efforts will strengthen supply chains for the U.S., bolstering manufacturing and supporting job creation and economic growth. Food waste recovery efforts will support Making America Healthy Again.

The reclamation of critical minerals from Superfund and Coal Combustion Residual sites and battery recycling is an emerging priority due to the increasing demand for these resources in the technology and energy sectors. Critical minerals, essential for manufacturing electronics, renewable energy technologies, and defense applications, can often be found in waste streams and legacy waste sites. The EPA will promote public-private partnerships to leverage resources and expertise in critical mineral recovery, while assessing environmental impacts to ensure reclamation activities contribute positively to site remediation. Pursuing these opportunities not only helps to address resource security but also aids in environmental remediation and economic revitalization.

Promote the Remediation of Abandoned Mining Sites by Implementing the Good Samaritan

Law: The EPA will promote the cleanup of abandoned mining sites by implementing the Good Samaritan Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act.⁴ The EPA will work with private and non-profit organizations to engage in remediation activities, reducing barriers to entry, and fostering environmental restoration. These efforts will support environmental protection and public health by mitigating risks associated with abandoned mining sites, improve water quality, and restore ecosystems. The EPA will foster partnerships between government agencies, non-profit organizations, and private entities to leverage resources and expertise for effective site cleanup and ensure projects comply with environmental standards.

The EPA is committed to advancing the goal of clean and safe land through strategic resource use and collaboration. By focusing on expedited cleanup, particularly of lead at Superfund sites, leveraging partnerships, and enhancing recycling infrastructure, the agency will promote a healthier environment for all Americans. Through strategic investments, including the implementation of the Good Samaritan law for abandoned mining site cleanup, the EPA is paving the way for a sustainable and resilient future, responsibly managing taxpayer dollars while protecting the environment and fostering economic growth.

⁴ [Good Samaritan Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act](#)

Objective 1.4 Chemicals in the Environment: Review and Assess Chemicals and Pesticides

The EPA is tasked with ensuring the safe use of chemicals and pesticides in the environment by focusing on assessing, reducing and, when necessary, preventing releases and exposures throughout their lifecycle—from manufacture to disposal. In addition to these efforts, the EPA supports the community’s right to know about chemical releases and potential exposure. To achieve its objectives, the agency facilitates public access to chemical and pesticide data, provides analytical tools, and offers diverse sources of information. Furthermore, the EPA continually updates its information technology (IT) systems to effectively implement its programs and strategies.

The EPA also endeavors to reduce the likelihood that its actions will jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitats consistent with the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), the EPA reviews existing chemicals to determine whether there is an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment. The agency is committed to providing the public with certainty that it will follow the law, using the best available science to conduct its reviews of critical chemistries, and putting in place any necessary restrictions that are protective but not overly burdensome. The EPA will apply state-of-the-science approaches to characterize the impacts on human and ecological systems, while exploring and innovating data science technologies and super intelligence to provide efficiency in chemical evaluation. The EPA will gather necessary data earlier in the process to meet the three-year risk evaluation deadlines for existing chemicals, facilitating robust TSCA Section 6 evaluations. Ongoing litigation may lead to challenges and refinements in approaches to risk evaluations.

Key Strategies

Pest Management: The EPA ensures the safe use of pesticides through gold-standard scientific review, regulatory oversight, and continuous monitoring throughout a product’s lifecycle. Generally, under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), every pesticide must be evaluated and registered before it can be sold or used in the United States. The EPA grants registration only when it determines, based on a thorough and highly transparent process that the pesticide can be used without causing “unreasonable adverse effects” on human health or the environment. As science evolves, FIFRA further requires the EPA to regularly reevaluate registered pesticides and to impose additional risk mitigation measures or cancel products when risks become unacceptable. The EPA also partners with states and Tribes to support training, certification, and enforcement programs that help ensure pesticide applicators use products safely and in compliance with federal requirements.

TSCA (Existing Chemicals): TSCA requires the EPA to complete existing chemical risk evaluations in 36 months (with the agency having the discretion to grant an extension of up to six months). To meet the statutory deadline for final risk evaluations, the EPA needs to begin the 36-month

period with sufficient data for each chemical to complete a risk evaluation that meets the requirements of TSCA and supports decision-making. The EPA also must facilitate the timely completion of intermediate products and activities, particularly the required scope document, draft risk evaluation, and any needed peer review. Currently, the EPA faces challenges: it is behind on its delivery of risk evaluations underway and on identifying data gaps for future risk evaluations; needs data for non-prioritized TSCA Work Plan chemicals; and is evolving the systematic review and test order process. Through cooperation between federal agencies, early and regular engagement with stakeholders and Tribes, timely risk evaluations, and IT modernization, the EPA will continue to promote the safety of the American public from chemicals without hindering innovation.

Both FIFRA and TSCA existing chemicals programs face emerging issues such as evolving data, rapid technological advancements, and policy shifts which present potential challenges to meeting statutory timeframes. The ability to adapt to new data requires investment in processes and technologies that are flexible and efficient and allow for incorporation of new information seamlessly. Adaptation to these emerging issues also requires effective communication and training within EPA as well as externally with industry, state, federal, Tribal, and other partners and stakeholders. Addressing these elements and communicating how the EPA addresses them to stakeholders improves responsiveness to dynamic challenges and supports sustainable growth.

Objective 1.5 Compliance and Enforcement: Increase Compliance and Efficiency; and Ensure Fairness Under the Law

Achieving compliance with environmental requirements lies at the heart of promoting cleaner air, land, and water for every American. The EPA will work cooperatively with states and Tribes to ensure compliance with the law, as well as to create consistency and certainty for the regulated community.

As appropriate, firm, timely, and consistent enforcement focused on achieving compliance is important for protection of human health and the environment for all Americans. Though Congress has established a framework of cooperative federalism for most federal environmental laws, federal enforcement remains indispensable. While states and local governments have primary responsibility for enforcement actions for authorized programs, only the federal government enforces federal environmental law where states or Tribes do not have authorization, including because Congress has not authorized delegation. Even when states have delegated authority, federal enforcement alongside states and Tribes can promote consistency across the country wherever federal interests are implicated. Federal enforcement also prevents inconsistent private-party enforcement while enabling states and approved Tribes to take the primary role when state or Tribal interests are primarily affected.

To accomplish this goal, the EPA will focus efforts on achieving compliance quickly while taking enforcement actions to address clear and substantial violations. By focusing on correcting actions that violate the law under the best reading of the statute or regulation, pivoting away from expansive and uncertain injunctive relief, and creating a strong case that can be adjudicated, the EPA will increase case resolution efficiency. This focus will allow the EPA to inspect more facilities and bring more enforcement actions with any given level of resources, ultimately achieving greater compliance and more protection of human health and the environment. At the same time, repeat violators who will not conform their conduct to the law will face escalating sanctions based on a substantial record, which will further promote accountability. The EPA will work cooperatively with co-regulators to ensure compliance with the law through consistent enforcement of federal environmental laws and regulations.

Key Strategies

Addressing Noncompliance: EPA's compliance assurance program works with federal, state, and Tribal partners to monitor and ensure compliance with environmental laws to promote a level playing field for companies that comply with the law and to protect human health and the environment. To address noncompliance efficiently, EPA offers incentives to encourage regulated entities, including new owners, to voluntarily discover, promptly disclose, and expeditiously correct environmental problems.

Federal Enforcement Focused on Federal Interest: The EPA will focus its compliance monitoring and enforcement resources where there is a distinct federal interest, including direct implementation (where co-regulators do not have authority to act), where there are direct

effects on interstate or international commerce, or where the EPA has a unique role because the issue is of national significance—such as the National Enforcement and Compliance Initiatives.⁵ The EPA will also work collaboratively with federal agencies and departments to secure the federal government’s own environmental compliance, including investigating contractor noncompliance at Government-Owned/Contractor-Operated facilities to ensure the government receives the benefit of the bargain. The EPA, through the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), will ensure that potentially responsible parties pay to clean up contaminated sites so that the funds of the U.S. are not necessary. The EPA’s criminal program will address the most egregious violations of federal environmental laws and related criminal statutes.

Rule of Law: The EPA’s compliance monitoring and enforcement will focus on clear violations of the law. Transparent, accountable, and consistent enforcement across the country will ensure that violators do not place law-abiding entities at an economic disadvantage. The EPA will foster a level playing field by monitoring compliance and pursuing enforcement to correct violations and remove any economic benefit violators gained from noncompliance. Noncompliance with environmental laws limits national growth and prosperity and unfairly rewards those who skirt the law while placing the burden of pollution on surrounding communities and the public.

Protecting the United States: The EPA will work to prevent the pollution that is pervasive in developing countries from occurring in the U.S. as the U.S. economy is unleashed. The EPA will also vigilantly enforce regulations on imports and international commerce to prevent foreign entities from profiting by introducing contaminants, toxins, and other dangerous products to the United States.

Timely and Efficient Compliance and Enforcement: The EPA and its co-regulators monitor compliance with environmental laws and timely return facilities to compliance through activities such as inspections, investigations, compliance assistance, and offsite compliance monitoring activities, supported by use of advanced technologies and data analytics. The EPA commits to sending at least 75 percent of EPA inspection reports to facilities within 70 days of an inspection and will seek to timely transmit all reports. Providing timely notice encourages a faster return to compliance. The EPA will review consent decrees over five years old and take action to initiate termination or address noncompliance. The EPA will seek to efficiently achieve compliance by focusing administrative and judicial enforcement on clear violations of the law that can be concluded quickly. The EPA will also consider non-coercive tools to encourage compliance.

Identifying/Mitigating Noncompliance through Efficient Use of Data: The EPA will operate, develop, and make available its compliance assurance IT systems to efficiently and cost effectively enable the EPA, co-regulators, and the public to identify and address noncompliance. The EPA’s centralized development of IT systems saves the EPA and co-regulators significant resources. The EPA will work with co-regulators to leverage advances in IT, super intelligence,

⁵ [National Enforcement and Compliance Initiatives](#)

and advanced data analysis and prioritize the development of tools to make compliance monitoring more efficient.

By upholding the rule of law through appropriate enforcement of the environmental laws in conjunction with the states, the EPA will provide a fair and level playing field for industry, foster national growth and prosperity, and provide all Americans with clean air, land, and water.

Goal 2: Restore American Energy Dominance

The U.S. has an abundance of energy and natural resources that have fueled its economic success and supported American prosperity. Restoring American energy dominance and supporting American innovation will significantly decrease costs for everyday Americans.⁶

The lack of an adequate, diverse energy supply, and weak infrastructure has increased energy prices, which has impacted all Americans. The EPA's actions to support diverse energy sources and encourage innovation will lower costs for hardworking families, farmers, and small business owners, while protecting human health and the environment.

⁶ [Executive Order 14156: Declaring a National Energy Emergency](#)

Objective 2.1 Accessible Energy: Support Diverse Energy Sources, Reduce Emissions

While accomplishing the EPA's core mission of protecting human health and the environment, the EPA is committed to enabling the full potential of the United States' domestic energy industry, unleashing American energy. The EPA will reconsider regulations that may have limited the generation of reliable and affordable energy, reduced job creation, and increased costs.

Key Strategies

Protecting Human Health: By leveraging developments in energy production practices, processes, and emission control technologies, the EPA will work to ensure that American energy dominance and reduced emissions go hand-in-hand. Reliable and affordable energy supply is also critical to supporting the health and welfare of families across the country and promoting preparedness for national emergencies.

Common-Sense Regulation: The EPA will systematically review all its actions, including regulatory requirements, orders, guidance documents, policies, settlements, and consent orders, to identify opportunities to eliminate barriers to domestic energy production. This includes reconsidering greenhouse gas (GHG) regulations, Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS), and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP).

Increased Efficiency: The EPA will reconsider the mandatory GHG Reporting Program that imposes significant costs on the American energy supply. The Program requires over 8,000 facilities and suppliers in the U.S. to calculate and submit emissions reports annually, which costs industries resources that could be reallocated to improve and upgrade environmental controls or other items at these facilities to have a clear and noticeable positive impact on the environment.⁷

Working with regulated industries and American communities, the EPA will demonstrate that common-sense regulation can bring about an era of low-cost energy dominance, while continuing to safeguard the health and safety of all Americans.

⁷ [EPA Announcement of proposed rule to end the burdensome Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program \(GHGRP\)](#)

Objective 2.2 American Innovation: Encourage Innovation

Americans need abundant and efficient energy to maintain their quality of life. The EPA is committed to meeting this need by encouraging innovation that will provide savings to consumers and industry, including through energy efficiency gains and lower-cost substitutes. Developed to replace ozone-depleting substances (ODS), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are commonly used in a variety of applications such as refrigeration, air conditioning, aerosols, solvents, fire suppression, and foam blowing agents. The American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act authorizes the EPA to address HFCs by phasing down production and consumption, as well as maximizing reclamation and minimizing releases from equipment.⁸

Key Strategies

Enforcement and Compliance: To ensure compliance with the AIM Act, provide a level playing field for producers and importers, and deliver the intended clean air benefits, the EPA established a number of provisions as part of the HFC Allowance Allocation program. These include establishing administrative consequences (e.g., revocation or retirement of allowances) for noncompliance that would be in addition to any civil or criminal enforcement action; requiring third-party auditing of companies' recordkeeping and reporting; and providing transparency of HFC production and consumption data for the general public and participants in the market. The EPA will implement these strategies, and work with the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Customs and Border Protection to prevent the illegal import and trade of HFCs. These enforcement actions, in conjunction with requirements that bolster the available supply of reusable HFCs and decrease the need for newly produced HFCs, will ensure compliance with the AIM Act.

Innovation: American energy is tightly connected from its wide range of energy resources to its final use in homes, buildings, industry, and transportation. Scientists and engineers at the EPA have developed energy system modeling tools to analyze new energy technologies and fuels from the national to the community level. These tools are forward-looking and can be used to assess how innovation and new technologies move the energy system toward a cleaner and more efficient future, making the best use of domestic energy resources while protecting public health and the environment. Reducing HFC use will also stimulate innovation in the development of new technologies and systems that are both environmentally friendly and energy efficient.

⁸ [The American Innovation and Manufacturing \(AIM\) Act](#)

Goal 3: Advance Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership

The EPA will strengthen its capacity to protect human health and the environment by streamlining regulatory processes, leveraging innovative technologies, and enhancing coordination with partners at all levels of government. To bolster America's economic growth and attract essential investments, it is imperative to create an environment where businesses can prosper without being hindered by complex and lengthy permitting processes. The agency will modernize major public-facing operations, such as permitting, chemical reviews, and pesticide registrations, to reduce delays, improve transparency, and enable faster delivery of environmental and economic benefits. The EPA will leverage digital transformation, information technology (IT) modernization, super intelligence (SI), and standardized procedures to increase operational efficiency, reduce backlogs, and make America a more attractive destination for both domestic and international investments.

The EPA will also deepen its partnerships with state, Tribal, and local governments, and federal, congressional, and international stakeholders through early engagement and consistent, transparent two-way communication to achieve shared environmental goals. Through cooperative federalism, the agency will provide technical assistance, training, and collaborative tools to strengthen co-regulator capacity, align objectives, and foster information exchange.

These efforts will extend to protecting children's environmental health, supporting agency direct implementation programs in Indian Country, and addressing transboundary environmental issues such as those along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Effective interagency coordination is vital for aligning objectives and streamlining regulatory requirements. By engaging with businesses, the EPA and other agencies will ensure compliance with environmental standards, facilitating investment and economic growth while safeguarding the environment.

Internally, the EPA will achieve organizational excellence by optimizing real estate, streamlining hiring, modernizing financial systems, and improving grants and acquisitions management. These actions will maximize taxpayer value, enhance service delivery, and build a high-performing, accountable workforce prepared to meet emerging environmental and operational challenges. Together, these initiatives will improve the EPA's effectiveness, responsiveness, and readiness to deliver results for the American people while upholding the agency's core mission.

Objective 3.1 Incentivized Investment: Use Innovative Strategies to Reform and Streamline Permitting and other Public-Facing Operations

The EPA will advance its permit streamlining activities with the overall goal to automate and modernize processes to become paperless. The automation of permitting programs will reduce processing time on issuing permits, decrease the time between receiving monitoring data and engaging in enforcement actions, and foster transparency by allowing the public to search, track, and access permitting actions easily. Maintaining the stability of current IT systems is a consistent challenge for the permitting programs. The development of a modern IT system will allow for changes in approaches to permitting that will provide opportunities to identify further efficiencies in the permitting process to help meet statutory timeframes.

The EPA will carry out similar streamlining efforts in other specific programs. For example, the agency will implement improvements to the processes used to review and register new pesticides and new uses for existing pesticides, and other covered applications under the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA), the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA). These approvals for use are critical for the innovation pipeline in the agricultural sector while carrying out EPA's statutory function of ensuring these pesticide uses do not pose unreasonable risk to American families and the environment.

In addition, the EPA will improve the processes through which it approves new chemicals for use in commerce under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), approving safe uses to boost economic investment while protecting human health and the environment. Chemical manufacturers and importers submit approximately 200 premanufacture notices (PMNs) to the EPA each year. Companies cannot manufacture, import or process a new chemical for U.S. commerce until the agency has completed its review of the chemical. Completing reviews of PMNs in a timely manner will support economic decisions that impact the full value chain for that new chemical. The EPA is required to perform risk assessment, risk determination, and risk mitigation, if necessary, for each PMN within 90 days of notice receipt. The EPA has accumulated a large number of PMNs whose review period is longer than 90 days, meaning that PMNs wait in the queue for a significant period before the milestone case discussion meeting. The EPA will conduct timely PMN reviews, reducing delays in new chemical innovation that can result in submitters missing out on market opportunities.

As part of the EPA's FY 2026-2030 Learning Agenda – which sets out the agency's strategy and plans for evaluation and evidence-building activities – the EPA will examine innovative permitting strategies, initiatives, partnerships, and reforms to identify those most likely to be effective in reducing the time, uncertainty, and costs involved in issuing a permit, as well as the implementation and outcomes of various automation and SI initiatives and projects, including those related to permitting. The results from this effort will enable the agency to advance the strategic objective of achieving operational efficiencies while upholding its mission to protect human health and the environment, and the extent to which automation and SI is being strategically leveraged to improve EPA permitting processes and capabilities.

Key Strategies

Permit Streamlining: The EPA will streamline permitting processes as a crucial step for facilitating investment and promoting economic growth. The agency will modernize IT infrastructure to enhance data management and leverage SI to automate tasks and improve decision-making, thus reducing bottlenecks. The EPA will update standard operating procedures to promote consistency, while engaging with governments and businesses to align objectives and streamline processes. This effort to simplify regulations will remove redundancies and reduce delays, while providing clear guidelines to aid businesses in navigating requirements efficiently. Continuous adaptation to new technologies requires investment and training. Balancing expedited processes with environmental protection is vital for maintaining public trust. Data security during IT modernization is crucial to prevent breaches. Policy shifts demand strategic adjustments. Addressing these elements will improve responsiveness to dynamic challenges and support sustainable growth.

Pesticides Registration: The EPA is focused on enhancing process efficiencies to expedite the review and registration of new pesticides and new uses for existing pesticides. Improvements stem from ongoing and future projects, including digital transformation efforts that refine IT systems for pesticide registration under PRIA. These upgrades boost internal workflow efficiencies and provide transparent access to data for industry registrants. A third-party assessment is underway to offer recommendations for process improvements. The agency will continue addressing workflow bottlenecks through structured improvement projects, aiming to reduce the backlog of PRIA actions. This will accelerate the availability of new pesticide products and support American farmers and other users in producing top-quality agricultural goods and protecting important resources and infrastructure from damaging pests.

TSCA (New Chemicals): The EPA will significantly reduce the time for a newly submitted PMN to be brought to a case discussion meeting. These case discussion meetings are a major milestone toward the end of the risk assessment process and holding this meeting within 30 calendar days of receipt of a PMN sets the New Chemicals Program up to complete the entire TSCA review process, including risk management, within the statutorily required 90 days. Challenges include outdated IT systems undergoing modernization and the need to develop or update standard operating procedures for science disciplines, such as human health risk assessment. Additionally, when companies do not provide detailed engineering information, the EPA often has to contact the submitter or rework the case once the risk assessment is completed. The agency has initiated and expanded an internal engineering checklist to aid the EPA in identifying missing or unclear information earlier in the process to reduce delays and rework cases.

Both pesticides registration and TSCA new chemicals programs face emerging issues such as evolving data, rapid technological advancements, and policy shifts that present potential challenges to meeting statutory timeframes. The ability to adapt to new data requires investment in processes and technologies that are flexible and efficient and allow for incorporation of new information seamlessly. Adaptation to these emerging issues also requires effective communication and training within the agency as well as externally with industry,

state, federal, and other stakeholders. Addressing these elements and communicating how the EPA addresses them to stakeholders ensures responsiveness to dynamic challenges and supports sustainable growth.

Objective 3.2 Cooperative Federalism: Work Effectively with State, Tribal, Local, Federal, Congressional, and International Partners

The EPA's commitment to cooperative federalism centers around collaboration with state, Tribal, and local partners to protect human health and the environment. The EPA will work cooperatively with co-regulators and other federal agencies to exercise efficient use of resources and ensure compliance with the law through issuance of inspector credentials and provision of training, guidance, technology, tools, and IT systems to collect and display data.

The agency's cooperative federalism efforts include working with elected and appointed state officials on shared accountability to provide positive environmental results. This includes working together to clear backlogs of State Implementation Plans (SIPs), supporting states and territories in reviewing, revising, and implementing water quality standards, and implementing permitting reform. The EPA will defer to state discretion to address local issues as permitted by statute.

One mechanism the EPA uses to support cooperative federalism is through the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC), a federal advisory committee, and the LGAC's Small Community Advisory Subcommittee (SCAS). Chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1993, LGAC and SCAS are composed of elected and appointed officials from local, state, and Tribal, and territorial governments across the United States. The LGAC and SCAS provide policy advice and recommendations to the EPA Administrator on critical environmental issues impacting local governments. The EPA will continue to pursue opportunities to work cooperatively with states and Tribes, and take actions based on EPA's statutory authority.

The EPA will work with federally recognized Tribes on a government-to-government basis in carrying out its responsibilities to protect human health and the environment in Indian Country, consistent with federal law, the federal trust responsibility, and Tribal sovereignty. EPA is committed to consulting with Tribes to understand the potential impacts of EPA actions on Tribal treaty rights and considering those rights within the scope of the Agency's statutory authority. The EPA will continue to offer consultation, capacity building resources, technical assistance, support of Tribal assumption of federal programs, and engagement opportunities to Tribes. In the absence of an EPA-approved state, territorial, or Tribal program, the EPA will exercise its direct implementation authority to administer such programs. Together, the EPA Policy for the Administration of Environmental Programs on Indian Reservations (EPA Indian Policy⁹) and environmental statutory authorities recognize Tribal authority and the agency's support to protect human health and the environment in Indian Country. Health and environmental issues, such as pollution, cross state, Tribal, and international boundaries, presenting opportunities and responsibilities for engagement to advance American interests abroad. The EPA will continue to work with state, Tribal and international partners to align global standards with U.S. benchmarks and drive American energy independence and industrial competitiveness while protecting health and the environment for all Americans.

⁹ [EPA Indian Policy](#)

As part of the EPA's FY 2026-2030 Learning Agenda – which sets out the agency's strategy and plans for evaluation and evidence-building activities – the agency will examine the extent to which grant programs, which often rely on collaboration with state, Tribal, and local partners, achieve their intended environmental and human health outcomes while being good stewards of tax dollars. Findings will inform the agency's ability to monitor, report, and improve on those outcomes.

Key Strategies

Direct Implementation Program Assessments: There are over 30 programs across the agency that implement environmental protection programs for the benefit of Tribes in support of the federal trust responsibility. The EPA will implement statutory requirements in Indian Country where applicable, applying universal elements of successful programs and continuous improvement processes in alignment with the EPA's commitment to the EPA Indian Policy and cooperative federalism.

Tribal-Administered Environmental Programs achieved by leveraging the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP): The EPA will support federally recognized Tribes in building the capacity to administer environmental programs consistent with agency authorities, including assumption of federal programs. Consistent with the EPA Indian Policy, the agency will work in coordination with other federal agencies to bolster Tribal capacity and will encourage early communication and cooperation among Tribes, states, and local governments to address mutual environmental concerns. The benefits of increased cooperative partnership with Tribes and other entities include reduced administrative burdens, greater flexibility in program approaches, and ability to address a wider set of environmental challenges.

Tribal Consultation: The EPA consults on a government-to-government basis with federally recognized Tribes when EPA actions or decisions may affect them. Consistent with the EPA Indian Policy and the EPA Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes, the EPA will continue to offer consultation opportunities to Tribal governments to receive their input for consideration in fulfilling our responsibilities to protect human health and the environment in Indian Country and across the nation.

U.S.-Mexico Border Program: The EPA champions cooperative federalism by working with local and state governments, federally recognized Tribes, and border communities to support projects in reflecting local priorities and delivering measurable results. Border Program projects leverage partnerships, jobs, and infrastructure that benefit American communities first to keep our side of the border safe, clean, and healthy.

Protecting Children Through Partnerships: The EPA will leverage key activities to allow all children to live, learn, and play free from environmental exposures that contribute to harmful health effects. The agency will co-lead the President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks

and Safety Risks to Children¹⁰ in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services; receive and respond to expert advice from the Children’s Health Protection Advisory Committee; support Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units through an interagency agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry; enhance the EPA’s ability to monitor children’s health trends by expanding America’s Children and the Environment report and aligning it with the agency’s statutory authorities; and strengthen external communications and engagement to provide families, schools, pediatricians, and others who care for children the science-based information they need to reduce children’s exposure to harmful contaminants and impacts to their health. To ensure consideration of the unique vulnerabilities and impact on children before, during, and after public health emergencies, such as natural disasters, the EPA will develop a strategy to improve outcomes for children at risk of or who have experienced a disaster.

The EPA’s ability to improve protections for children at the federal, state, Tribal, and local levels depends on the availability of robust science and information to inform decision-making and the extent to which these entities require protection of children and sensitive populations.

Federalism Consultations with State and Local Government Partners on Significant Agency

Actions: The EPA will partner with state and local officials on developing and implementing major agency actions and programs through: 1) formal consultations for actions that meet the requirements of Executive Order 13132;¹¹ and 2) provision of EPA charges to the Local Government Advisory Committee.

Leveraging Relevant Programs, Collaborative Tools, and Resources: The EPA will continue to leverage the advice from multiple federal advisory committees such as the Science Advisory Board (SAB), the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC), and the National Drinking Water Advisory Council. Independent scientists, engineers, economists, and other social science experts, including both state and Tribal scientists, are appointed to the SAB and CASAC annually. The National Drinking Water Advisory Council includes individuals from the general public, state and local agencies, and private groups who provide advice, information, and recommendations on matters related to activities, functions, policies, and regulations of EPA under the Safe Drinking Water Act. These scientists and technical advisors participate in the review of agency rules, regulations, methodologies, and technology relevant to their stakeholders. Through the review process the scientists are afforded the opportunity to provide feedback and advice to the agency on the science, as well as the relevance of the rule, regulation, and/or technology to states and Tribes. The EPA will increase the number of state and Tribal scientists appointed to the SAB and CASAC to further support the agency’s effort in cooperative federalism. The EPA will focus on outreach and recruitment efforts on individual state and Tribal environmental regulatory agencies. The agency’s use of technology to provide technical assistance will enable consistent practices and further educate and support small businesses. The EPA supports

¹⁰ [President’s Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children](#)

¹¹ [Executive Order 13132 - Federalism](#)

compliance assistance and training across states and Tribes, reinforcing federal, state, and Tribal partnerships in environmental stewardship.

The EPA will continue to partner with environmental leaders from states and Tribes through E-Enterprise for the Environment to streamline processes and optimize technologies to accomplish shared objectives for environmental program implementation. By working together, the EPA, states, and Tribes will identify opportunities to modernize permitting, automate and augment processes with SI, and share project analyses across jurisdictions to reduce duplication.

Objective 3.3 Organizational Excellence: Improve Performance and Effectiveness of Internal Operations

The EPA is committed to improving the performance and effectiveness of its internal operations. The agency will streamline core processes, modernize systems, and enhance workforce efficiency to maximize the value of taxpayer dollars while supporting the EPA in fulfilling its mission to protect human health and the environment.

To accomplish these goals, the EPA will undertake a multi-faceted approach that modernizes financial systems and improves data and information availability achieved through innovative approaches and technologies to optimize real estate, transform the workforce for greater effectiveness, and improve the efficiency of grants and acquisitions.

Key Strategies

The EPA's Continuous Improvement (CI) program will engage directly with organizations to leverage continuous improvement tools and practices to improve agency functions. This work will be centered on advancing the Administration's priorities, focused on increasing operational process efficiency with an emphasis on added business value, identified areas of risk, cost savings, and/or time savings. The CI program will partner with a community of CI Program Managers, Champions, and trained Problem Solvers to identify and resolve issues as they arise.

Modernizing Financial Systems and Improving Data and Information Availability: The EPA will modernize and improve efficiency of its financial systems to continue to meet the agency's current needs while supporting future innovations such as SI, machine learning, and process automation. To support this, the agency will continue to leverage the federally designated Financial Management Quality Service Management Office (QSMO) to access systems and services focused on innovation, compliance with federal policies, standardization, and automation. The agency will focus on automating financial transaction processing, record keeping, and reporting functions to increase speed, accuracy, and transparency. Integration of SI, machine learning, and other automation tools will further improve data delivery, enable flexibility, and enhance user experience—advancing operational efficiency to meet agency priorities. By meeting all federal financial system modernization directives, the EPA will provide timely, cost-effective systems that ensure fiscal integrity.

Collaboration with federal partners will enable the EPA to streamline and integrate processes such as requisitions and asset management with the agency's financial management system. The agency will work closely with agencies such as the Department of Treasury, General Services Administration (GSA), Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and other financial systems' stakeholder agencies to share insights, strategies, and standards on improving operational efficiency.

The EPA will increase transparency and data availability through continued implementation of the OPEN Government Data Act,¹² compliance with the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (“DATA Act”)¹³ and by providing timely response to requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The DATA Act is supported through regular and transparent dissemination of annual financial information on the agency website. The EPA Open Data Plan¹⁴ provides the framework for implementation of the OPEN Government Data Act and focuses on the agencies’ commitment and future strategy to providing easy access to the data assets the agency collects on behalf of the American public, making them broadly available to all thus empowering a diverse array of stakeholders. Through application of CI techniques and methods and by applying new technologies, including SI as appropriate, the EPA will improve FOIA processing efficiency. The EPA will continue to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, the backlog of overdue FOIA requests that had built up over the years due to the increased complexity and volume of electronic records required to be searched, collected, and reviewed.

Optimizing Real Estate: The EPA will look for opportunities to optimize its real estate portfolio to enhance space utilization and reduce fixed costs. The agency will evaluate utilization of its facilities and look for ways to strategically rebalance underused real estate assets. Any savings from these efforts will be redirected toward high-impact modernization projects, thereby ensuring responsible resource use and operational sustainability. This initiative also ensures the EPA maintains alignment with the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016¹⁵ and the Utilizing Space Efficiently and Improving Technologies (USE IT) Act of 2023.¹⁶

Transforming the Workforce for Greater Effectiveness: Improving and streamlining the hiring process and strengthening the federal workforce are top priorities. In accordance with Executive Orders,^{17,18,19} the EPA will implement workforce restructuring to boost efficiency, enhance accountability, and promote a high-performance, merit-based culture. These initiatives will involve eliminating non-essential functions, evaluating policy-influencing positions, enforcing hiring restrictions, and reshaping organizational structure to better align with the Administrator’s priorities. The EPA will enhance workforce accountability by increasing suitability standards, decreasing time to hire, and moving away from applicant self-assessment. The agency will strengthen performance standards to drive a high-performance, high-accountability culture in the federal workforce, thus improving services to the American taxpayer. Additionally, the EPA will focus on developing strategic staffing plans and engaging in proactive workforce planning to address workforce gaps and striving for continuity in achieving its mission.

¹² [OPEN Government Data Act](#)

¹³ [Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014](#)

¹⁴ [EPA Open Data Plan](#)

¹⁵ [Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016](#)

¹⁶ [Utilizing Space Efficiently and Improving Technologies \(USE IT\) Act of 2023](#)

¹⁷ [Executive Order 14217: Continuing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy](#)

¹⁸ [Executive Order 14171: Restoring Accountability to Policy-Influencing Positions Within the Federal Workforce](#)

¹⁹ [Executive Order 14170: Reforming the Federal Hiring Process and Restoring Merit to Government Service](#)

Improving the Efficiency of Grants and Acquisitions: The EPA will improve interoperability in grants and contracts oversight data by implementing OMB's indirect cost policy outlined in "Uniform Grants Guidance"²⁰ to streamline processes, capping recoverable costs, and advancing the President's Made in America agenda to maximize the use of domestic goods and reduce Build America, Buy America Act waivers. The agency will also partner with the GSA on appropriate contract and procurement consolidation where the EPA can reduce costs, increase efficiency, and reduce administrative burdens. By implementing risk-based monitoring policies, the EPA will demonstrate responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars and ensure effective grants management and compliance with federal regulations. This effort will include bolstering post-award monitoring, increasing the rate of grants closeouts, and closing out corrective actions from audits.

The EPA will partner with GSA on contract and procurement consolidation to prioritize reducing costs and administrative burdens.

²⁰ [Uniform Grants Guidance](#)

Goal 4: Make America the Super Intelligence (SI) Capital of the World

As the EPA charts its course towards becoming a leader in super intelligence (SI), the agency is setting the foundation for a future where SI not only enhances the agency's operations but also contributes to the nation's technological capabilities and economic strength. In line with America's SI Action Plan and recent Executive Orders the agency will support the development of robust SI capabilities that propel the U.S. to the forefront of global SI leadership, while promoting the environmental sustainability and operational efficiency of data centers and their infrastructure.

The growth of SI technologies must be aligned with environmental stewardship. In conjunction with Executive Order 14318,²¹ the agency seeks to manage environmental issues while building out the necessary compute capacity within the next few years. The EPA's approach pairs stewardship with innovation as the agency refines its regulatory programs and works to streamline the permitting process. Echoing other elements of this Strategic Plan, the EPA will also catalyze the redevelopment of formerly contaminated sites, drive water reuse and efficiency, ensure prompt TSCA chemical reviews, and support circular economy practices that recover critical minerals. As the Water Reuse Action Plan 2.0 highlights in detail, the EPA will advance water reuse and water-efficient technologies by working with data center developers and operators to implement effective water consumption practices while maintaining operational efficiency. The result will be responsible data center growth and smarter resource use. The agency's program and regional offices will work with states and other federal agencies to implement their regulatory and programmatic roles associated with data center infrastructure projects. The commitment to sustainable energy and resource use underscores the EPA's dedication to fostering innovation that is both cutting-edge and environmentally responsible.

In parallel, the EPA will leverage SI to improve the agency's internal operations. By integrating SI into the agency's workflows and training its workforce on SI capabilities, the EPA will enhance productivity, reduce costs, and streamline processes. Transitioning from traditional, paper-based systems to digital and SI-enabled solutions will not only expedite administrative tasks but also strengthen data analysis capabilities, enabling staff to make more informed decisions and allocate resources more effectively. This modernization effort will create a more agile and responsive agency, capable of addressing environmental challenges with greater precision and speed. By leveraging SI where it will support the agency's needs, the EPA is poised to enhance the agency's operational efficacy to fulfill its mission effectively and efficiently. The EPA will ensure that SI tools will not compromise the agency's statutory responsibilities or efforts to meet the agency's goals of human health and environmental protection but rather will increase efficiency.

²¹[Executive Order 14318: Accelerating Federal Permitting of Data Center Infrastructure](#)

Objective 4.1 Powering SI: Managing Air, Land, and Water Impacts of Data Center Infrastructure

As the SI industry rapidly expands, data centers face environmental challenges including those related to their high energy and water consumption needs. The EPA is committed to collaborating with industry, state, and Tribal partners, as well as state and Tribal monitoring and enforcement offices, to promote the growth of this critical industry while safeguarding human health and the environment. In line with promoting common-sense regulations and Executive Orders, the EPA will work to facilitate the responsible siting, development and operation of SI data center infrastructure through its program offices, regions, and external engagement activities. EPA actions present significant opportunities to promote successful siting, streamlined permitting, operational efficiency, and enhanced environmental sustainability of data centers throughout the life of these facilities.

Key Strategies

Common-sense Regulation: To provide greater flexibility to support the development of data centers in the United States while protecting human health and the environment, the EPA will complete reviews or provide updates as necessary under Clean Air Act (CAA) sections 111 and 112, and the NSR permitting program. The EPA will pursue appropriate regulatory updates while maintaining internal awareness across program offices of the relevant touchpoints to data center infrastructure.

State Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement: Through collaboration with states and Tribes and engagement with SI industry and other stakeholders, the EPA can better understand and respond to the environmental and resource challenges, and emerging technology and operational trends associated with data centers, and can better communicate EPA roles and responsibilities. The EPA will ensure that the agency's environmental resources and tools are effectively utilized to define and assist in implementing the sound and efficient development and operation of data centers and related technologies, thereby protecting human health and the environment.

Water Reuse and Efficiency: The EPA will promote water reuse and water-efficient technologies by working with data center developers and operators to implement effective water consumption while maintaining operational efficiency. Additionally, the EPA will support local efforts to expand and upgrade the nation's water infrastructure, thus attracting and sustainably supporting innovative businesses such as data centers and related facilities.

Safe and Efficient Use of Chemicals and Waste Management Practices: Strengthen chemical safety across data centers by prioritizing Toxic Substances Control Act reviews for new substances used in data center projects or for the manufacturing of covered components as defined by Executive Order 14318. EPA programs can identify relevant touchpoints and update guidance on storage tanks, leak detection, and spill prevention to reduce chemical releases and protect workers and communities. The EPA will also support a circular IT economy for data centers by partnering with industry to extend equipment life through reuse and modular

upgrades, standardize decommissioning and asset-management practices, and report on reuse/recycling and critical mineral recovery.

Redeveloping Formerly Contaminated Sites: The EPA will identify Brownfields, RCRA and Superfund sites with the potential for redevelopment, develop guidance to expedite environmental reviews for qualified reuse, and assist state governments and private parties to return such contaminated sites to productive use such as data centers or other uses as expeditiously as possible. This effort will not only enhance resource security but will also support environmental remediation and economic revitalization.

Through these comprehensive efforts the EPA is dedicated to powering SI with clean energy and efficient resource solutions, promoting a sustainable future for both technology and the environment.

Objective 4.2 Efficient Systems: Leverage SI to Improve EPA Processes and Capabilities

The EPA will modernize the agency's workflows, transitioning from outdated, paper-based systems to more agile, digital solutions by embracing SI, and transforming the EPA's internal operations through automation. This shift not only allows the U.S. to keep pace with global technological advancements, but also fundamentally enhances the agency's ability to fulfill its mission. SI will enable the EPA to automate routine tasks, streamline administrative processes, predict environmental problems, and improve data analysis, resulting in faster decision-making and more efficient resource allocation.

The EPA is also exploring how the use of SI tools may be deployed to support rulemaking and permitting processes, such as categorizing tens of thousands of public comments, developing communication products, and other programmatic uses. By exploring the incorporation of SI across programmatic areas, the EPA will increase operational efficiencies and enhance protection of human health and the environment. This modernization effort will significantly boost productivity and emergency response capabilities, allowing the agency to respond more swiftly and effectively to environmental challenges.

In addition to enhancing operational efficiencies, leveraging SI will improve the quality and precision of the EPA's environmental assessments. SI technologies have the potential to analyze vast amounts of data quickly and accurately, providing insights that were previously unattainable with traditional computing methods. This capability will enable the EPA to conduct more comprehensive evaluations of environmental conditions and impacts, leading to better-informed regulatory decisions and policymaking. By improving the precision of the agency's assessments, the EPA can allocate resources more effectively for the agency's efforts to have the greatest possible impact on environmental protection and public health.

Key Strategies

SI Use in Data Management: The EPA and its co-regulators will increase the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of compliance assurance efforts by leveraging information technology (IT). SI enhanced capabilities include data analytics to identify facilities more likely to be in noncompliance and improve shared data quality and useability. The EPA will increase use of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Model for Large Quantity Generators, which utilizes machine learning to predict where inspectors are most likely to find severe violations, and pilot similar machine learning models for other statutory programs, including the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and Clean Air Act.

Moreover, the integration of SI into EPA processes will foster a culture of innovation. The agency will continue integrating SI into daily operations to improve efficiencies by establishing a governance framework for responsible use of data and SI, as well as developing training plans to upskill staff data, SI, and automation capabilities. As SI tools and platforms become more widespread, the EPA will develop additional practical use cases where reliable data and automation can have the greatest impact on the agency's mission. Staff will continue to develop

machine learning algorithms to analyze large data sets and produce reliable analysis and predictions, saving staff time to focus on other value-added activities.

As part of the EPA's FY 2026-2030 Learning Agenda – which sets out the agency's strategy and plans for evaluation and evidence-building activities – the EPA will evaluate the implementation and outcomes of various automation and SI initiatives and projects. Results will enable the agency to monitor and report on the extent to which automation and SI is being strategically leveraged to improve EPA processes and capabilities. This focus on innovation will not only enhance the agency's capabilities but also position the EPA as a leader in the application of SI for environmental governance. By embracing new technologies, the EPA will be better equipped to tackle future challenges and continue to advance protection of human health and the environment.

Goal 5: Bring Back and Protect American Auto Jobs

The American auto industry, a symbol of innovation and economic strength, faces challenges from regulations and global competition. The EPA will support revitalization of this crucial sector by reducing regulations and fostering domestic manufacturing. The EPA will use its statutory and discretionary authority to create less burdensome regulations, adapt to evolving technological landscapes, and prioritize the well-being and prosperity of American workers. By focusing on these key areas, the EPA will support job growth in the American auto industry while providing more fuel efficient, reliable, and affordable vehicles for every American.

Excessive and outmoded regulations can hinder growth and innovation. The EPA will seek to streamline these regulations by identifying and proposing necessary reforms. By implementing smart regulations that promote both safety and efficiency, the EPA will create an environment where American auto manufacturers can thrive and compete globally.

Investing in domestic manufacturing is essential for the industry's resurgence. The EPA will enhance infrastructure and provide incentives to encourage companies to increase production within the United States. This approach will strengthen the economy, reduce reliance on imports, and support American craftsmanship as a hallmark of automotive excellence. A secondary outcome is the enabling of access to affordable, practical, and reliable vehicle options that meet a range of driving needs and lifestyles.

Central to this plan is job creation, offering American auto workers opportunities for growth. The EPA will partner with industry trade associations and leaders to identify all cost variables that contribute to the overall costs associated with the purchase and ownership of an automobile in America. By identifying these costs, the EPA will strive to ensure regulations are not negatively impacting the cost to own an American-made vehicle. This analysis will include policies and rulemaking that affect the price of gas, aluminum and steel production, emissions, plastics, leather and textiles, and the production of tires. Keeping overall auto ownership costs down will enable the American auto industry to see a resurgence in the decade to come.

Objective 5.1 Vehicle Choice: Support Options for Safer, Reliable, and Affordable Vehicles for Every American

The EPA is focused on promoting consumer choice by removing regulatory barriers to motor vehicle access. The EPA will support revitalization of the American auto industry by streamlining regulations and reducing regulatory burdens. These actions will also energize the U.S. economy by enabling access to affordable, practical, and reliable vehicle options that meet a range of driving needs and lifestyles.

Key Strategies

Regulatory Reconsideration: The EPA will identify opportunities to eliminate costly and inflexible compliance burdens for vehicle manufacturers, to increase consumer choice for affordable, practical vehicles to meet their driving needs and lifestyles. The EPA will issue regulations and administrative actions that reduce barriers to safer, reliable, and affordable vehicles and engines, while also ensuring a level playing field for consumer choice in vehicles.

Compliance: The EPA will perform its vehicle and engine certification and compliance oversight functions, conducting compliance oversight tests where evidence suggests noncompliance. The EPA will conduct emissions testing at the National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory (NVFEL) and review data provided by manufacturers to ensure compliance. The EPA will maintain oversight of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program and continue to evaluate compliance with RFS provisions through the agency's credit trading system, which is used to track the creation, trades, and use of billions of Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs) for compliance.

Objective 5.2 Smart Regulations: Update Regulations to Support American Workers

The EPA will develop smart regulations that reduce regulatory burden, foster innovation, encourage job growth, and support the economic resilience of American workers and their communities. The agency will engage with stakeholders and leverage robust analyses to support evidence-based decision-making to protect human health and the environment while eliminating unnecessary regulatory burden. The EPA will also improve coordination with state, Tribal, and local partners to identify and eliminate overlapping and potentially duplicative regulatory requirements and pursue opportunities for common-sense compliance flexibilities.

Key Strategies

Regulatory Analysis: Regulatory burdens impacting the auto sector and its workers can be direct or indirect through related markets. The EPA will identify the variables that impact the costs associated with vehicles and other products addressed by the agency's regulations. Consistent with law, the EPA will strive to ensure that its regulations are not unnecessarily increasing the cost to own an American vehicle by considering policies and rulemaking that impact the cost of vehicle ownership and the cost of inputs into vehicle production (e.g., aluminum, steel, and tires), where permissible. By reducing overall costs, the EPA can support the American auto industry and encourage a resurgence in the years to come.

Iterative Approaches Through Enhanced Engagement with Stakeholders: The EPA will encourage engagement with stakeholders throughout the rulemaking process. The agency will also look for opportunities to leverage practical feedback into the rulemaking process to update or avoid unnecessarily costly or burdensome regulations and promote innovation.

Reducing Barriers to Conducting High-Quality Analysis: The EPA will support high quality economic analysis of the implications of the agency's regulatory actions for American auto workers using the best available data. To provide analysts and decision-makers the knowledge to accomplish this goal, the agency will develop analytic tools, approaches, data, and/or training to lower the barriers to high quality analyses of how EPA actions affect American workers.