

# MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY SHIFTS UNDER TRUMP 2.0

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In his second term, President Trump is focusing on deregulation and other environmental policies that he believes will accelerate innovation, create jobs, and bolster the American economy and national security. To that end, new [EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin](#) announced in February that the Trump administration's environmental policy priorities will be guided by five pillars "to achieve the agency's mission while energizing the greatness of the American economy." Specifically, the agency's [Powering the Great American Comeback Initiative](#) will focus on the following:

1. Clean air, land, and water.
2. Restoring American energy dominance.
3. Permitting reform, cooperative federalism, and cross-agency partnership.
4. Making the U.S. the AI capital of the world.
5. Protecting and bringing back American auto jobs.

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“...the Trump administration's environmental policy priorities will be guided by five pillars...”

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## Energy Production In, Environmental Justice Out

On his first day in office, President Trump signed [Executive Order \(EO\) 14154](#), "Unleashing American Energy," to expand America's energy supply, lower costs, and create jobs. It aims to limit regulations that Trump believes have impeded the development of American energy and natural resources. To that end, EO 14154 revokes many of the Biden administration's environmental policies, including programs



that [prioritized environmental justice](#) (EO 14096), required [disclosure of climate-related financial risk](#) (EO 14030), created the [Justice40 initiative](#) (EO 14008), and [recommitted the U.S. to the Paris Agreement](#) (EO 14008).

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In tandem, EPA has [realigned](#) its enforcement priorities in adherence to EO 14154, which includes deemphasizing climate change and EJ in the agency's FY 2024–2027 National Enforcement and Compliance Initiatives (NECIs) and ensuring that enforcement activities don't impede energy production unless there's an imminent and substantial threat to human health.

EPA has also [removed](#) the EJScreen and Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool from its website, in line with the Trump administration's [goal to eradicate "DEI" programs \(EO 14151\)](#). These mapping tools were used to identify EJ communities and determine eligibility for certain grants and other programs.

Another [Trump EO](#) (EO 14173) rescinded a long-standing directive from President Clinton ([EO 12898](#)) that required agencies to incorporate EJ into their missions "to the greatest extent practicable," called for consistent enforcement of all health and environmental statutes, and mandated improved research of the well-being of "minority and low-income populations."

## Deregulatory Changes, Funding Freezes

Administrator Zeldin has promised other sweeping changes to the EPA, [including substantial cuts to the agency's total spending](#). Additionally, in March, Zeldin announced a series of [deregulatory actions](#) that the EPA administrator says will cut costs for businesses and American families. These include reconsideration of the greenhouse gas reporting program and national emission

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standards for hazardous air pollutants, among other Obama- and Biden-era regulations. The administrator has also [pledged to revise](#) the long-litigated waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule.

He also [announced the termination](#) of the [Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund](#) (GGRF) grants awarded to recipients under the National Clean Investment Fund and Clean Communities Investment Accelerator programs, citing allegations of fraud and waste. However, a [federal judge temporarily blocked](#) EPA from ending the program, ruling that the government “gave no legal justification for the termination” of the contracts. The ruling prevents EPA from reclaiming money it has already deposited to Citibank (the steward of the funds). Still, it is unclear whether the “green bank” grant recipients will be able to access the funds while litigation is pending. The GGRF program was created under the Inflation Reduction Act.

To stay up to date with changes to environmental and energy policy, see the sources on regulatory activity listed below.

### Tracking Federal Environmental and Energy Policy Changes Under Trump II

The second Trump administration has already brought significant regulatory activity, with more expected in the coming months. ERIS will continue to keep clients informed as new developments unfold. In the meantime, we've selected a few helpful resources that provide insights into the evolving landscape of environmental and energy policy. These include updates from legal and policy experts and tools for tracking federal datasets and regulatory actions.

- American Bar Association, [Administration Trackers](#)
- Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, [Trump Executive Order Tracker](#)
- Beveridge & Diamond, [Tracking Trump Administration Executive Orders Relating to Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources](#)
- Brookings Institute, [Tracking Regulatory Changes in the Second Trump Administration](#)
- Harvard Law, Environmental and Energy Law Program, [Regulatory Tracker](#)
- Public Environmental Data Partners, [Environmental Justice Data Tracker](#)

*Disclaimer: The information in this article was current as of April 4, 2025. Additions and changes to policy directives are ongoing and could impact the accuracy of the content presented. To stay up to date with changes to environmental and energy policy, please refer to the tracking sources listed; and consult a legal professional for specific and intended courses of action.*

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