



# The Impacts of Climate Change and the Trump Administration's Anti-Environmental Agenda in Florida

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Just in the past three years, the Trump administration has attempted to roll back at least 95 environmental rules and regulations to the detriment of the environment and Americans' public health. Moreover, the administration refuses to act to mitigate the effects of climate change—instead loosening requirements for polluters emitting the greenhouse gases that fuel the climate crisis. This dangerous agenda is affecting the lives of Americans across all 50 states.

Between 2017 and 2019, Florida experienced three tropical cyclones, three severe storms, and one freeze. The damages of each event led to losses of at least \$1 billion.

To read the personal stories of Americans impacted by climate change and the effects of the Trump administration's anti-environmental policies in your state, visit [OurEnvironment.org](https://OurEnvironment.org).



For citations, please see the web version of this fact sheet.

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## Impacts of climate change

### Extreme weather

- Due to sea level rise and the risk of Atlantic hurricanes, Florida faces the highest risk for coastal flooding in the United States. Currently, 3.5 million Floridians are at risk of coastal flooding, and by 2050, an additional 1.1 million residents will be at risk.
- Hurricane Irma, which struck in September 2017, led to the evacuation of more than 6 million people in Florida—more than a quarter of residents. Parts of the state experienced up to 20 inches of rain and sustained Category 3 winds of 111 mph to 115 mph. The storm damaged half of Miami-Dade County's agricultural crops, leading to losses of \$245 million.
- Florida's sea level has risen 8 inches since 1950, and forecasts project that by 2032, the sea level will have risen another 6 inches. Florida is preparing to spend more than \$4 billion on solutions for sea level rise.

### Temperature

- Currently, Florida experiences roughly 25 days of dangerous heat per year. Projections indicate that by 2050 that number will increase more than fivefold to 130 such days each year, more than any other state. This is dangerous for the 620,000 Florida residents who are especially vulnerable to extreme heat.

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## Impacts of the Trump administration's anti-environmental policies

### Climate

- In March 2020, the Trump administration announced its [final rule](#) to overturn Obama-era fuel efficiency standards for cars. These weakened fuel standards will lead to [higher greenhouse gas](#) and particulate matter emissions and will cost Floridians [\\$1.8 billion](#) annually.
- The Trump administration is [attempting](#) to gut climate considerations from major infrastructure projects by [eliminating](#) the “cumulative impact” requirement of the National Environmental Policy Act. This is concerning because Florida’s economy relies heavily on its tourism, agriculture, and outdoor industries—all of which are highly dependent on climate and weather conditions.
  - **Tourism:** Florida’s tourism industry contributed [\\$85.9 billion](#) to the state’s economy and supported [1.5 million](#) jobs in 2017.
  - **Agriculture:** Florida is the [second-largest](#) supplier of vegetables in the United States. In 2014, the agricultural industry supplied nearly [14 percent](#) of all jobs in the state and contributed [\\$127.3 billion](#) to the state’s economy.
  - **Outdoor recreation:** The outdoor recreation industry in Florida generates [485,000 direct jobs](#) and more than [\\$58 billion](#) in consumer spending.

### Air quality

- Mercury emissions in Florida decreased by nearly [77 percent](#) from 2011 to 2017, yet the Trump administration [just undermined limits](#) on the amount of mercury and other toxic emissions that are allowed from power plants.