



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

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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, Pennsylvania experienced eight severe storms and two winter storms. 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.

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

Impacts of climate change

Extreme weather

- Superstorm Sandy pounded Pennsylvania in 2012 with wind gusts of more than [50 mph in most regions](#). The storm caused [14 deaths](#), left more than [1.3 million](#) Pennsylvania residents without electrical power, and led to more than [\\$16 billion](#) of damages in the state.

Temperature

- Pennsylvania currently experiences [five days](#) of dangerous heat per year, but projections indicate that number will increase threefold to [15 such days](#) per year by 2050. This endangers the lives of the more than [310,000](#) North Carolinians who are especially vulnerable to extreme heat.
- Philadelphia is the [17th](#)-fastest-warming city in the United States.

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 Pennsylvanians [\\$610 million](#) 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 Pennsylvania’s economy relies on agriculture and its outdoor recreation industry—which are both highly dependent on climate and weather conditions.
 - **Agriculture:** Agriculture produces almost [\\$27 billion](#) each year and supports more than [500,000 jobs](#), or [1 out of every 10 jobs](#) in the state.
 - **Outdoor recreation:** The outdoor recreation industry Pennsylvania generates [251,000 direct jobs](#) and more than [\\$29 billion](#) in consumer spending.

Air quality

- Mercury emissions in Pennsylvania decreased from 2011 to 2017 by [90 percent](#), yet the Trump administration [just undermined limits](#) on the amount of mercury and other toxic emissions that are allowed from power plants.

Water quality

- In 2019, the Trump administration released a [series of proposed changes](#) loosening regulations of [coal-powered plants and the disposal of coal ash](#), which can [threaten](#) drinking water quality. These deregulations are dangerous for Pennsylvania, which has [105 coal ash storage and disposal sites](#) and produces the [most coal ash](#) of any state in the country—[more than 15.4 million tons](#).