



BOLD PROMISES REAL RESULTS

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN · INVESTING IN AMERICA



Under the Biden-Harris Administration, EPA has restored scientific integrity to its rightful place as the North Star of the agency's work. To realize the benefits of our nation's environmental laws, EPA is committed to following science and the law.

As a demonstration of this commitment, EPA has enhanced the independent scientific expertise of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) and the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) by returning to appropriate member appointment processes, forming committees and panels, and bolstering the role of the SAB to advise on science that informs all agency decisions subject to interagency review.

In accordance with President Biden's directive to restore trust in government through scientific integrity, we are committed to leading the federal government as we finalize revisions to our Scientific Integrity Policy.

Chemical Safety

The Biden-Harris Administration has put EPA's chemical safety work back on track and breathed new life into our nation's premier chemical safety law, the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

TSCA was first passed in 1976, around the same time that Congress was passing other major environmental laws like the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act. But TSCA was too weak to effectively protect human health and the environment. When EPA initially tried to use it to ban asbestos, a court overturned the ban in 1991, rendering TSCA almost powerless. In 2016, President Obama signed amendments to TSCA that finally gave EPA the authority to keep people safe from chemicals.

EPA has since followed the science and stopped the use of dangerous chemicals by banning all ongoing uses of asbestos, a substance which has contributed to an estimated 40,000 deaths in the U.S. each year. EPA has also banned most uses of methylene chloride, a chemical used in paint and coating removal, which can cause neurotoxicity, liver toxicity, liver cancer, and lung cancer—protecting people from serious health problems. EPA's four proposed and two final risk management rules under the amended TSCA would protect over a million workers and 15 million consumers from toxic chemicals.

PFAS

PFAS are widely used "forever" chemicals, and the science is clear: exposure to certain PFAS is linked to significant harmful health impacts.

In April 2024, EPA issued the first-ever nationwide, legally enforceable drinking water standards that will reduce PFAS exposure for 100 million people and save thousands of lives. This action will prevent tens of thousands of serious illnesses, including cancers, liver disease, heart attacks and strokes, immune impacts, and developmental impacts to pregnant people and babies.

Also in April, EPA announced a final rule to designate two widely used PFAS chemicals, PFOA and PFOS, as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, also known as Superfund, to help ensure that polluters pay to clean up their contamination.

This final action will address PFOA and PFOS contamination by enabling investigation and cleanup of these harmful chemicals and ensuring that leaks, spills, and other releases are reported. This action is the latest step the Biden-Harris Administration is taking to protect public health and the environment under EPA's PFAS Strategic Roadmap and to prevent cancer before it starts through the Biden Cancer Moonshot.

Clean Water

EPA's proposed Lead and Copper Rule Improvements follow the science and EPA's authority under the Safe Drinking Water Act to strengthen regulatory requirements to address lead in drinking water. The proposed Lead and Copper Rule Improvements would require most water systems to replace lead service lines within 10 years. This is achievable. Cities like Newark, NJ, Benton Harbor, MI, and Green Bay, WI replaced their lead service lines in less than 10 years and other systems have committed to a 10-year or less replacement timeline.

Hiring Additional Experts and Stepping up Enforcement to Protect Our Health

EPA has ramped up training and hiring, including for new inspectors, attorneys, enforcement officials, lab technicians, chemists, and other personnel, adding 5200 new employees since 2021, as well as making significant investments in new field and laboratory equipment.

EPA got inspectors back in the field across communities and conducted more on-site inspections than in any year since before the COVID-19 pandemic. The results of these investments are materializing already, with more cases concluded last fiscal year than any year since 2018 and civil case conclusions eliminating an estimated 1.21 billion pounds of pollutants.

Enforcing our Environmental Laws

Since President Biden took office, EPA's enforcement actions to bring polluters to justice, increase efforts to address 21st century environmental challenges, and to strengthen civil and criminal enforcement programs have resulted in investments of over \$16.58 billion to achieve compliance with environmental laws and control pollution and over \$1.380 billion in penalties.

EPA's 2024 enforcement actions will result in a higher amount for commitments to achieve compliance, control pollution, and clean up the land and water, and our 2024 penalties and fines will be higher than over the past three years. In 2024, EPA reached a settlement with Cummins, Inc. for Clean Air Act vehicle emission control violations. The \$1.675 billion penalty is the largest civil penalty in the history of the Clean Air Act and the second largest environmental penalty ever. Cummins will fund federal and California emission mitigation projects and the recall program for the nearly 1 million affected vehicles at an estimated cost of over \$326 million. Cummins must repair at least 85% of the vehicles within three years or face additional penalties.

EPA's enforcement work sends an unmistakable message that the agency, working with its partners, will ensure that polluters are held accountable and that everyone living in the United States can breathe clean air and drink safe water.