



U.S. EPA – KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS UNDER ADMINISTRATOR ANDREW WHEELER



CLEANING UP LEGACY POLLUTION—BROWNFIELDS & SUPERFUND SITES

- Established the first ever Administrator’s Emphasis List to focus on the sites most in need of cleaning up to bring them back into productive use.
- In cleaning up pollution, achieved in 4 years, what took the Obama-Biden Administration 8 years. The Trump EPA delisted 82 sites from the National Priorities List, with 27 deletions in FY2020, the most in nearly 20 years.
- Assisted vulnerable communities by providing \$295 million directly to impacted communities and nonprofits for cleanup and redevelopment, job creation, and economic development through brownfields grants.
- Promoted opportunity zones through brownfields grants—impacting hundreds of communities with over \$100 million in grants to assess or clean up brownfields sites.

CLEANEST AIR ON RECORD

- Since 2017, emissions of the 6 criteria air pollutants dropped 7% overall by the end of 2019 and pre-COVID and unhealthy days for sensitive groups dropped 34%—proving environmental stewardship and economic growth can go hand-in-hand.
- Finalized National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for both particulate matter and ozone—fulfilling a commitment to the 5-year timeframe for review and relying on the Agency’s science advisors and scientific evidence.
- Empowering states to promote clean air by improving the State Implementation Plan (SIP) process and reducing an inherited backlog of 700 plans. EPA acted on over 500 submissions, giving local communities input in air quality.
- Prioritized the conversion of 23 Federal Implementation Plans to SIPs, returning air quality control to the states.
- A key example of healthier air: EPA’s re-designation of 57 areas from non-attainment to attainment.

REDUCING WASTE—CHAMPIONING RECYCLING & COMBATING MARINE DEBRIS

- Hosted first-ever Recycling Summit on America Recycles Day in 2018 and annually since, bringing together a broad spectrum of stakeholders working together to improve domestic recycling.
- In 2020, announced an ambitious goal of increasing the national recycling rate to 50% by 2030.
- Built the Trash Free Waters initiative to provide critical support to protect and restore America’s bodies of water to capture marine litter and prevent it from reaching the ocean. Engaged foreign environmental ministers at the G-7 and G-20 on marine litter and plastic waste.

INVESTING IN AMERICA’S CLEAN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

- The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program provides financial support for water infrastructure to help improve our nation’s clean water infrastructure through long-term, low-cost supplemental loans.
- The WIFIA program closed 40 transactions for over \$5.2 billion in loans to help finance nearly \$10.8 billion for water infrastructure projects from 14 states, saving up to \$497 million and creating approximately 34,000 jobs.
- EPA has helped provide over \$180 billion in water infrastructure project financing, serving over 41,000 water quality infrastructure projects and 15,000 drinking water projects across the country. EPA estimates for every \$1 of federal contribution, communities have received over \$3 of water infrastructure investments in return.
- Updated the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR), providing a comprehensive approach for reducing lead in the drinking water, protecting families and children.

PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM CHEMICALS

- Implemented the new statutory chemical protections as passed by Congress—releasing 10 draft risk evaluations for high-priority chemicals for public comment and peer review.
- Driven by science and as mandated by Congress, issued rules addressing the chemical prioritization process, risk evaluation, TSCA inventory, and developed a new fees program.



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HONEST ACCOUNTING THROUGH COST BENEFIT REFORM

- EPA improved the Clean Air Act rulemaking process, establishing requirements and best practices ensuring consistent, high-quality analyses of benefits and costs are provided to the public for significant rules.

STRENGTHENING TRANSPARENCY IN REGULATORY SCIENCE

- Understanding that the American people have the right to know the science and data that the Agency uses to inform its decisions, EPA finalized the Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science rule, ensuring that all important studies underlying significant regulatory actions and influential science are available for a transparent review.

NAVIGABLE WATERS PROTECTION RULE (NWPR)

- EPA finalized the NWPR with a new definition of “waters of the U.S.” providing certainty and clarity to landowners, farmers, and ranchers in every part of the U.S. The rule accomplishes the goal of allowing any person to stand on their property and be able to tell for themselves if they have a body of water that is federally regulated.
- The new rule will protect navigable waters from pollution and foster economic growth by providing much needed certainty to the regulated community about where federal jurisdiction begins and ends.

EQUITABLE ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

- Over the last 4 years, EPA has recovered twice the amount of criminal and civil penalties for enforcement than the Obama-Biden Administration did in their first term. Since 2017, these actions have resulted in:
 - Over \$5.5 billion in combined civil penalties, criminal fines, and restitution collected.
 - Investment of \$32.27 billion in actions and equipment that achieve compliance with the law and control pollution.
 - 12 million pounds of emissions prevented from mobile sources.
 - 661 criminal cases opened and 486 criminal defendants charged.
 - \$2.9 billion for new site cleanup, over \$572 million in cost reimbursement, over \$399 million in oversight costs.

CLIMATE ACTIONS

- EPA finalized four regulations—the most in history during one Administration—that will reduce greenhouse gases.
- Implemented the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule, which will reduce emissions from coal-fired power plants and improve America’s energy sector.
- Finalized greenhouse gas emissions standards for commercial aircraft—aligning U.S. standards with those accepted internationally and ensuring domestically manufactured aircraft remain competitive in the global marketplace.
- Working with DOT, set corporate average fuel economy and carbon dioxide emissions standards for MY 2021-26 cars and trucks—significantly reducing technology costs over time and providing regulatory certainty.
- Finalized updates to the national standards for the oil and natural gas industry keeping in place important methane regulations on sources where necessary.

ADDRESSING PFAS THROUGH FIRST EVER ACTION PLAN

- EPA released a first of its kind *PFAS Action Plan*—a multi-media, multi-program, national research, management, and risk communication plan to address this class of chemicals of concern.
- The Agency has acted on the solutions presented in the plan to protect the American people by issuing a regulatory determination for PFOA and PFOS that will protect drinking water, announcing an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking to take comment on a potential designation as a hazardous substance, and implementing chemical protections that limits the import and production of certain types of PFAS chemicals.

PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM COVID-19

- EPA has aggressively worked to ensure that Americans are aware of and have access to effective surface disinfectant products to use against SARS-CoV-2.
- EPA reviewed newly registered products meeting the Agency’s criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2 and quickly expanded the list of effective products to include more than 500 products.