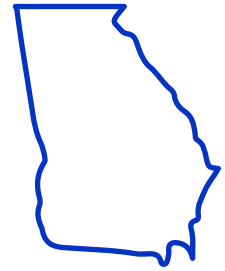


Analysis: Federal budget cuts would contaminate Georgia's air and water, leaving Georgians vulnerable to long-term health risks

The President's budget proposes eliminating core protections, putting Georgians' health at risk and letting polluters off the hook.



Everyone deserves clean air and water. These basic public health rights are why the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was created: to prevent pollution that triggers asthma attacks and heart disease, and to safeguard our drinking water from contamination.

President Trump's budget proposes decimating the EPA, giving polluters a free pass to pump toxic chemicals into Georgians' air and water. The proposal slashes EPA's overall budget by more than half, including gutting more than [87%](#) of funds to provide safe drinking water to Georgia communities.

EPA's investments keep Georgians' water drinkable and their air breathable, and it holds the polluters who threaten those basic rights accountable.

Water Contamination

Clean water isn't just a basic right—it's a requirement for survival.



**87% cut
to Georgia's Drinking
Water SRF (over \$25 mil)**



**90% cut
to Georgia's
Clean Water SRF**



**Over 965k Georgians
drinking problematic
level of toxic PFAS**

Georgia has an estimated [234,073 lead](#) service lines, and [EPA data](#) shows that more than 965,000 Georgians are served by a water utility releasing a problematic level of toxic per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), otherwise known as “forever chemicals,” into drinking water. President Trump's budget would hamper Georgia's ability to address these issues, as the administration proposes to eliminate most of the state's funding for ensuring clean and safe water.

Examples of What's at Stake:

Unsafe Drinking Water: President Trump's budget cuts mean Georgia's federal resources would be reduced by 87% (over \$25 million) for its Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF). While a [\\$20 million project](#) to identify and replace lead service lines is underway, future projects like it could be jeopardized, leaving Georgians at greater risk of lead-contaminated water and higher water bills.

Poor Water Quality and Flooding in Atlanta: President Trump's budget would cut more than 90% of funding to Georgia's Clean Water SRF, which has previously funded efforts to protect watersheds, such as [Peachtree Creek](#) in Brookhaven, GA, where the natural landscape acts as a filter for stormwater runoff in Atlanta and helps maintain water quality, prevent flooding and protect wildlife.

Air Pollution

Everyone deserves clean air, and breathing shouldn't make you sick



President Trump's budget would gut programs that support clean air and eliminate vital protections that Georgians depend on. More than [one million Georgians](#) (roughly 1 in 10), including more than 219,000 children, suffer from asthma, putting them at increased risk of attacks triggered by smog and soot from unchecked pollution.

Examples of What's at Stake:

Poor Air Quality: President Trump's proposed elimination of all federal funding for State & Local Air Quality Management Grants would have lasting effects in Georgia, which received nearly \$377,000 in funding from these grants in 2023. Without federal support, state agencies would be forced to reduce staff, curtail monitoring networks or potentially abandon certain projects altogether. This would lead to increased health risks for vulnerable populations and set back progress on meeting national air quality standards.

Increased Vehicle Emissions: President Trump's budget would eliminate the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Program, which provided \$600,000 to Georgia in 2024, undercutting the state's efforts to replace older polluting trucks and buses with newer, cleaner technologies that don't emit cancer-causing fumes, like it was able to do in the [Cobb County School District](#) in 2021.

Letting Polluters Off the Hook

Polluters shouldn't get a free pass to pollute, and no one is above the law.



EPA enforcement ensures that polluters are held accountable and that environmental protections are real—not just words on paper. Trump is proposing to cut EPA's enforcement budget by 45%, a move that would make air less breathable and water less drinkable. As of September 2025, Georgia has [more than 2,875 facilities](#) with current violations. Without enforcement resources, efforts to bring polluters into compliance—like those below—risk being abandoned, resulting in unchecked pollution in Georgia.

Examples of What's at Stake:

Pesticide Pollution: In 2019, EPA [finalized](#) a settlement of over \$4.4 million with Hercules, LLC, forcing the chemical and munitions manufacturing company to clean up toxaphene—a pesticide that was banned in the U.S. in 1990—at a former pesticide facility in Brunswick, GA. EPA's enforcement required the company to clean up the site and reimburse cleanup costs, while fostering community engagement activities to raise awareness on the [Superfund risk assessment](#) process and cleanup work.

Less Protection from Toxic Minerals and Lead: The EPA provided the Georgia Department of Natural Resources \$75,000 through its [Toxic Substances Compliance Monitoring Program](#) from 2019-2023, helping to protect Georgians from exposure to cancer-causing asbestos. In 2024, Georgia also [received](#) more than \$368,000 in Lead Categorical Grants, which ensure that communities have the workforce available to comply with rules on lead-based paint. Cutting off federal funding for the EPA's enforcement budget could limit Georgia's ability to monitor and address toxic substances in the future.

Bottom Line

EPA's air and water safeguards should give Georgians the freedom to breathe clean air and drink clean water without a second thought. But President Trump's budget request for EPA would severely weaken or outright eliminate the programs and enforcement actions protecting Georgians from polluters.

Visit our [website](#) and take action for Georgia.

