



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

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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.

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.

Between 2017 and 2019, Wisconsin experienced one flood and three severe storms. The damages of each event led to losses of at least [\\$1 billion](#).

Impacts of climate change

Extreme weather

- The severity of summer [droughts](#) in Wisconsin is expected to increase by [145 percent](#) by 2050.
- Nearly [200,000 people](#) in Wisconsin live in areas that are at an elevated risk of inland flooding.
- 2019 was the [wettest year](#) ever on record for Wisconsin. Additionally, [3 of the state's top 5 wettest years](#) have taken place in the past five years: 2019, 2018, and 2016. Climate change can mean a [warmer, wetter](#) climate.

Temperature

- Wisconsin currently experiences [10 days](#) of dangerous heat per year. Projections indicate that by 2050 that number will increase sixfold to [60](#) such days per year. This endangers the lives of the more than [130,000](#) Wisconsinites who are especially vulnerable to extreme heat.

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 Wisconsin more than [\\$400 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 Wisconsin’s economy relies heavily on agriculture and its outdoor recreation industry—both of which are highly dependent on climate and weather conditions.
 - **Agriculture:** Agriculture generates more than [\\$104 billion](#) annually and supplies [435,700 jobs](#), or [11.8 percent](#) of all jobs in the state.
 - **Outdoor recreation:** The outdoor recreation industry in Wisconsin generates [168,000 direct jobs](#) and nearly [\\$18 billion](#) in consumer spending.

Air quality

- Mercury emissions in Wisconsin decreased from 2011 to 2017 by [87 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 Wisconsin, which [relies heavily](#) on coal and has roughly [24 coal ash sites](#).