



SPECIAL REPORT

TRUMP'S

FIRST

50

DAYS



# INTRODUCTION

**A**fter President Donald Trump's first 50 days in office, we have created a comprehensive report explaining the actions the administration has taken so far. We start with his promises during the campaign and the actions taken by the administration from its first day to now.

This project will cover Trump's actions on the economy, the environment, as well as immigration and foreign policy, analyzing both their immediate impact and potential long-term consequences.

We intend to have this guide act as a concise and digestible breakdown of the major decisions that have been taken by the administration so far and provide context for policy changes and their effects on different communities.

During this unprecedented time, Americans have been affected on a personal and national level, and we want this report to connect what is happening in Washington to homes across the country. From executive orders to legislative efforts, Trump's decisions have sparked debate, shaped public discourse and influenced the direction of the country. Trump's executive orders have an impact on Americans across the country, and we believe it is important to stay informed about the decisions and intricacies of this administration as it unfolds.

## CREATED BY:

Paige Collazo

Nicholas Corral

Natalia Deson

Benjamin Gamson

Isa Greiff

Sydney McClain

Salome Nebiyu

Alyssa Peccatiello

Caitlin Roehmholdt

David Rendon

# President Trump's sweeping tariffs could harm consumer costs

By Alyssa Peccatiello

Trump has gone back and forth on enacting steep tariffs on America's major trading partners, announcing and then revoking them within days, causing uncertainty for the future of consumer costs.

The administration imposed tariffs on China in February and on Mexican and Canadian goods on March 4. By March 6, Trump announced tariffs on Mexican and Canadian imports covered under the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement would be delayed for another month.

Trump vowed to quickly end the "inflation nightmare" during his campaign. In a December 2024 Time Magazine interview, Trump said "it's very hard" to lower grocery costs.

Egg prices soared this spring due to rising cases of bird flu. The average price of a dozen eggs nationwide as of January was \$4.95, as reported by recent Federal Reserve data. In June 2024, the nationwide average was \$2.72. As of March, the USC Village Target prices a dozen eggs at \$10.49 or more.

Brian Peck, a professor at the USC Gould School of Law, said tariffs can ultimately hurt consumers.

"I think the threat to impose tariffs on our three largest trading partners — Canada, Mexico and China — is a mistake," Peck said in February. "It will have a negative impact on our economy both in terms of prices and spurring inflation."

Consumers may see the effect of Trump's new 25% tariffs on steel and aluminum imports reflected in more expensive soft drinks, canned soups and beer.

Trump campaigned on 60% to 100% tariffs on China as ABC News reported, but on February 4, tariffs were set at 10% on all Chinese goods. The BBC reported that China retaliated with 10% to 15% tariffs on some American goods just hours after Trump's tariffs went into effect. On February 27, Trump announced in a Truth Social post that tariffs on China would increase by another 10% on March 4.

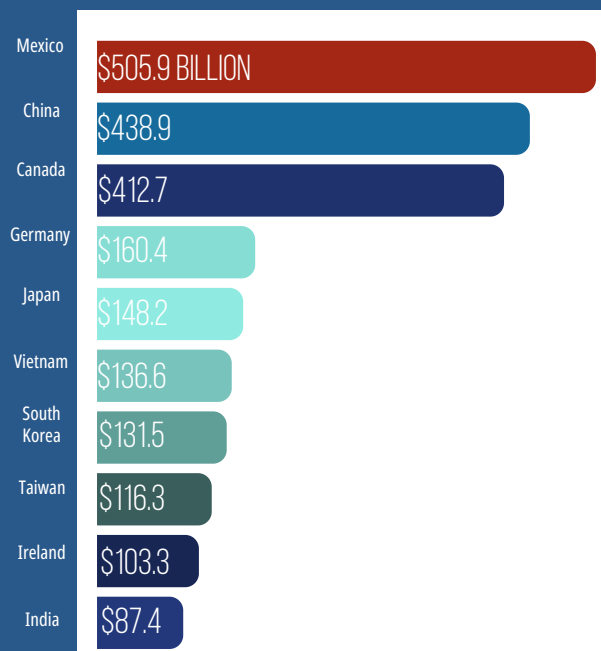
Trump's order to enact 25% tariffs on Mexico and Canada during his first days in office was delayed after the two countries agreed to aid Trump's mission of stricter border enforcement and eliminating fentanyl trafficking.

"[Canada and Mexico] are not only our two largest trading partners but also our neighboring countries; two of our strongest allies," Peck said.

In 2024 the United States imported roughly \$21.3 billion of fruits and vegetables from Mexico, according to the United Nations COMTRADE database. Mexico is a primary supplier of avocados, pineapples and melons. Canada is a major contributor of machinery, vehicles, crude oil and some Trader Joe's frozen meals.

"If [the tariffs] are in place for a short time or don't go into effect at all, it's not going to have a negative impact on prices," Peck said. "If they do go forward with them and they are imposed for a long period of time, it will have a negative impact on inflation."

TOP 10 TRADING PARTNERS OF THE U.S. IN 2024





# Trump's healthcare moves include possible cuts to USC research and Medicaid funding

By Sydnie McClain

Since taking office, Trump has signed several healthcare-related executive orders, and the House passed a budget resolution that could cut Medicaid.

One of Trump's first executive orders withdrew the U.S. from the World Health Organization, while another mandated federal agencies recognize only two sexes, male and female.

Additionally, on February 13 the Senate confirmed Robert F. Kennedy Jr. as the new secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Kennedy's focus is on chronic disease and the impact of processed foods on obesity, Healthcare Dive reported. He has a history of spreading vaccine misinformation, including refusing to acknowledge that research shows childhood vaccines do not cause autism and COVID-19 vaccines saved lives, according to the Associated Press.



Kennedy has also suggested the bird flu vaccine is dangerous, and questioned whether the disease was “bioengineered,” according to NPR. Medical experts dispute both claims.

As of March 4, a measles outbreak in Texas infected 159 people, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. This outbreak caused the first measles-related death in a decade. During a February 26 cabinet meeting, Kennedy downplayed the situation and said “We have measles outbreaks every year,” as reported by NBC News.

Paul Ginsburg, a senior scholar at the USC Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics, warned that Kennedy's influence on vaccine skepticism could have “devastating” consequences for public health.

According to Truthout, HHS laid off as many as 5,000 probationary employees, many in public health roles, but many were brought back. The Department of Agriculture also sent termination letters to bird flu response workers before rescinding them a few days later.

“If you work for federal governments, you're looking for other jobs now. Whether you've been fired or not,” Ginsburg said.

On February 10, a judge temporarily blocked Trump's attempt to cap the National Institutes of Health's funding for indirect research costs at 15%, according to NPR. If the ruling is overturned, the future of USC's research and discovery programs — which received \$569 million in federal funding last fiscal year — remains uncertain.

Legislative efforts to overturn the Affordable Care Act were unsuccessful in Trump's first term. He has avoided specifics on health care policy so far this term, saying only that he had “concepts of a plan” during a presidential debate on September 10, 2024.

Vice President JD Vance said Trump wants to allow people to choose their own coverage plan, but splitting individuals into separate risk pools could lead to higher, unaffordable premiums for sicker patients, according to CNN.

“The ACA was created to make health insurance affordable for everyone,” Ginsburg said. “If Trump and Vance want to get away from [a single risk pool], they will be undoing the increased coverage that the ACA created.”

Trump has repeated his promise to not cut Medicaid, but the House passed a budget resolution that could lead to massive cuts to the program, according to Reuters. As a part of the budget resolution, the House Energy and Commerce Committee has been instructed to reduce spending by \$880 billion over the decade. According to Ginsburg, Medicaid is the only major program under its jurisdiction that could generate those savings.



# House Republicans lay the groundwork to extend 2017 Trump tax cuts

By Benjamin Gamson

The House [passed a budget blueprint on February 25](#) that could cut taxes by \$4.5 trillion, a step that begins the process to extend the [2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act](#).

The blueprint is the first step of budget reconciliation, a process that Republicans hope to use to pass the majority of Trump's domestic agenda.

The blueprint, which instructs committees to fund or slash programs, passed narrowly 217-215 with Kentucky Rep. Thomas Massie, a Republican, joining all Democrats in opposing the measure.

Massie argued the tax cuts would raise the deficit because spending was not cut enough.

It remains unclear whether a package that deals with tax cuts, border security, defense funding and potential cuts to Medicaid would get enough votes to pass both chambers of Congress.

The February 25 resolution has no exact policies but [allocates money to committees with instructions on how to appropriate funds](#).

Trump's priorities for the final bill include the elimination of taxes on tips, overtime pay and Social Security.

Jordan Barry, a USC professor of law and taxation, said getting rid of taxes on tips would create loopholes in the tax code.

---

**"If you don't tax a particular type of income, you encourage people to get paid that way," Barry said. "You get weird situations. People start tipping their doctors or things like that, because it's tax-free."**

---

What Trump is aiming for is unclear.

"Your tips will be 100% yours," Trump said [at an event in Las Vegas on January 25](#).

Policy specifications remain unclear as congressional Republicans have three separate plans to fulfill this promise, and it remains to be seen whether Trump supports any of the three proposals.

Trump also wants tax cuts for goods produced in the U.S. and an adjustment of the [state and local tax deduction](#) (SALT).

It is unclear exactly what would change with the SALT deduction, but Barry said it hurt Republicans inadvertently in 2017 when they capped it at \$10,000.

"If you live in a blue state where you have a lot of expensive property values and a lot of income and a state income tax, you'd be above that \$10,000 cap, and then you could only deduct up to \$10,000, and people were mad about that," Barry said.

Another provision that could be extended is the [opportunity zone program](#) that encourages investment in low-income areas with little economic growth.

"Essentially they allow wealthy investors to invest in low-income areas and receive massive tax benefits, and one of those provisions essentially will require people to pay tax in 2026," said Deanna Newton, a professor at Pepperdine Caruso School of Law. "I would also see them attempting to expand that provision, meaning they would continue to defer taxes past 2026."

# Trump's attempts to shrink the federal workforce and abolish DEI

By Isa Greiff

Trump signed several executive orders aimed at slashing social services, targeting unions and imposing tariffs that could cost Americans thousands annually.

His administration's cuts to the federal workforce have led to allegations of unlawful firings, while a federal funding freeze threatened school meal programs, medical research and veteran services.

During the campaign, Trump emphasized the importance of deregulation and embracing America's business leaders. In a [speech](#), he said "[Elon Musk] is a character, he's a special guy, he's a super genius. We have to protect our geniuses, we don't have that many of them."

As a candidate, he [announced](#) that all striking workers should be fired and vowed to veto the Protecting the Right to Organize Act and the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act.

Following his inauguration, Trump signed an executive order creating the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), a workforce optimization program led by Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy. According to the [White House](#), "the Executive Order will make the federal workforce more efficient and effective. Agency Heads will coordinate and consult with DOGE to shrink the size of the federal workforce and limit hiring to essential positions."

In response, [The Office of Special Counsel](#) said there is evidence the Trump administration violated federal law in firing these employees. They have since reinstated six of the federal employees who were fired. In a statement, [Special Counsel Hampton Dellinger](#) said all employees who were fired should be reevaluated based on their performance.

Trump also called for a federal funding freeze that includes a pause on federal agency grants, loans and other financial assistance programs. This order threatened school meal plans, cut off access for Head Start programs and halted experimental medical research like breakthrough dementia and cancer studies.

In Minnesota, this order would withdraw \$1.8 billion of federal funding that would serve veterans, farmers and healthcare.

Along with Trump's attempt to defund the U.S. Agency for International Development, he [announced](#) an executive order calling for the end of diversity, equity and inclusion programs.

According to Democratic Minnesota Rep. Ilhan Omar, this poses a serious threat to underrepresented workers and potentially violates the Civil Rights Act.

Companies have responded by rolling back their inclusion initiatives. Omar said on her [website](#), "this action is an attack on workplace rights and equal opportunity, that is meant to weaken employment anti-discrimination policies."

Trump faces potential legal repercussions after dismissing National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) member Gwynne Wilcox and discharging NLRB general counsel Jennifer Abruzzo. The NLRB is now left with insufficient members to hear cases, raising concerns about the legality of this choice.

According to [Ogletree Deakins](#), "Wilcox's removal leaves the Board with only two sitting members: Republican appointee Marvin Kaplan, whom President Trump named the NLRB Chair on his first day in office and Democratic appointee David Prouty, whose term is set to end in August 2026." By firing these two employees, Trump has completely shut down the NLRB, leaving the workers it supports on their own.

Ted Eytan



## 'Shock and awe:' Trump's crackdown on immigration unfolds

By Paige Collazo

Trump signed [17 immigration-related executive orders](#), aiming to fulfill his promise to crack down on illegal immigration, which he framed as a national security threat.

"All illegal entry will immediately be halted, and we will begin the process of returning millions and millions of criminal aliens back to the places from which they came," Trump said in his inaugural address on January 20.

Niels Frenzen, co-director of the USC Gould School of Law Immigration Clinic, described the administration's strategy as a "shock and awe" campaign.

"No individual policy is surprising, but what is significant is that his administration is pursuing so many draconian, norm-shifting attempts at changing constitutional interpretation and laws," Frenzen said.

Among the most controversial executive orders is Trump's attempt to reinterpret the [14th Amendment's citizenship clause](#) and restrict birthright citizenship by requiring at least one parent be a U.S. citizen or legal resident.

According to Frenzen, the move would result in "children being born in the United States who were not citizens of the United States could then be arrested and deported to countries where they may not be citizens and have never been."

The [9th U.S. Circuit](#) Court of Appeals blocked Trump's attempt to ban birthright citizenship.

Immigration enforcement is also ramping up, with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arresting 800 to 1,200 people daily in Trump's first week and now averaging 667 people per day, according to Border Czar [Tom Homan](#).

"Thirteen million people are not going to be removed from this country, certainly not...in the four years of this administration," former ICE Director Sarah Saldaña said in an interview with [NBC Dallas-Fort Worth](#). "Out of 10 operations that would occur on a given day, you might yield two to three immigrants who are not in the country under authorization."

The Trump administration is stationing 9,200 American troops along the U.S.-Mexico border, with the potential for more deployments, according to the [Associated Press](#).

Trump said he planned on deporting up to 30,000 migrants to Guantanamo Bay, a U.S. naval base in Cuba where full constitutional protections do not apply. On March 5, [NBC](#) reported that the administration is rethinking this strategy given the enormous cost of transporting and housing migrants in the facility. The Defense Department calculates it will cost \$23,000 to \$27,000 for each detainee to land in Guantanamo.

Panama is also playing a role in Trump's immigration strategy as it temporarily houses migrants deported from the U.S. before repatriation. This is part of a joint policy with the U.S. to deter illegal migration, according to [Panama's vice minister for foreign affairs](#).

In the U.S., the FBI has shifted its focus toward border security and immigration enforcement, redirecting resources from terrorism and white-collar crime, [Bloomberg Law](#) reported.

### Read Local:

Demand for immigration legal services spikes at California colleges

Boyle Heights Beat

With radios and megaphones, volunteers patrol L.A. streets to warn communities of ICE activity

Los Angeles Public Press

Self-Defense Against ICE: Community Groups In L.A. Are Uniting to Protect Themselves

L.A. Taco



## Trump's plans for Ukraine, Gaza spark conflict resets

By Nicholas Corral

Trump has reshaped the Russia-Ukraine war and overseen a weakening of the U.S.-Ukraine relationship following a February 12 phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

According to the Washington Post, Trump first spoke with Putin on February 12 and backed away from Ukraine's key goals, including membership in NATO and ownership of territory occupied by Russia.

Russian and U.S. diplomats also met in Saudi Arabia without Ukraine on February 18. At the United Nations, the U.S. voted for a resolution calling for peace but not condemning Russia.

---

### **Thomas Graham, a distinguished fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and expert on Russia and Ukraine, said there is absolutely no path to peace that does not involve Ukraine.**

---

These events also sparked insults between Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Trump on social media and an escalation in Trump's demands that the U.S. be repaid for its military aid.

Ukraine and the U.S. prepared a deal that would have promoted the development of Ukraine's mineral resources while paying the U.S. some of those proceeds.

However, that deal was never signed after a heated debate between Zelenskyy, Trump and Vance at the White House on February 28. The BBC reported that Zelenskyy was asked to leave without the deal having been signed.

Graham said Ukraine favored investment in its mineral resources in a peace plan, but the new deal gives the U.S. a portion of those proceeds. Regardless, Graham said on February 5 that any mineral extraction is unlikely for the time being.

"Many of the minerals are actually located in territory that's occupied by the Russians," Graham said. "Nobody is seriously going to make investments until at least a ceasefire, and [an] enduring ceasefire, is put in place."

On March 3, the Trump administration froze military aid to Ukraine according to Bloomberg and, March 5, stopped intelligence sharing, including information used to strike Russian targets, according to Reuters.

In the Middle East, Trump floated a proposal to relocate Palestinians in Gaza to other neighboring countries and transition ownership of the land to the U.S. to build a "Riviera of the Middle East."

Trump proposed Jordan and Egypt would take in Palestinians, but Jordanian King Abdullah II and Egyptian government have expressed opposition to the idea. The United Arab Emirates also expressed opposition in a meeting with Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Emirati state news reported.

Axios reported on March 5 that the Trump administration was conducting unprecedented negotiations with Hamas, which the U.S. designates a terrorist group. Later in the day, Trump also posted another round of ultimatums on Truth Social demanding the group release hostages "OR THERE WILL BE HELL TO PAY."

## Major shifts in U.S. foreign policy mark new international relations era

By Salome Nebiyu

Trump's first 50 days ushered in major shifts in U.S. foreign policy.

From disassembling the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to imposing tariffs on close allies, Trump is following through with the shock and awe agenda Border Czar Tom Homan announced prior to the president's inauguration.

As of February 20, Trump has signed over 70 executive orders, many relating to foreign policy. Some of the most surprising changes include a 90-day pause on U.S. "foreign development assistance," withdrawal from the World Health Organization and imposing sanctions on the International Criminal Court.

In late February, Trump-appointed U.S. District Judge Carl Nichols lifted his temporary stay on the layoff of a majority of USAID employees. This ruling began a 30-day deadline for all staffers to return to the U.S. Nichols said he fears that USAID employees will be abandoned abroad in high-risk areas.

"Trump has also federally renamed the Gulf of Mexico the "Gulf of America," contributing to the U.S.-Mexico tensions alongside new aggressive immigration policy at the Southern border. The annexation of Greenland, Canada and Panama are promises unrealized, but remain high on Trump's agenda as seen through his recent congressional remarks.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Panamanian President José Raúl Mulino have refused Trump's threats to their lands. Mulino echoed Trudeau's message, saying "I reject in the name of Panama and all Panamanians this new affront to the truth and our dignity as a nation."

China's response to the U.S.'s emboldened foreign policy differed greatly, with the Chinese embassy to the U.S. posting on X "If war is what the U.S. wants, be it a tariff war, a trade war or any other type of war, we're ready to fight till the end."

Despite these threats to close allies, some relations remain undeterred as Trump continues to meet with foreign leaders, including British Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

Trump's extreme actions in his first few weeks led to high anxiety amongst some students at USC. For many, they feel this second term will be different from the first.

"It's scary," said Mostuafa El-Day, a second-year architecture graduate student. El-Day said she believes the country did not have a fighting chance at avoiding a second Trump presidency.

Lensa Hamda, a senior studying industrial and systems engineering, said she fears this second presidency is more extreme than the first. She said her biggest fear is Trump's capability to cause chaos.

"[He's] being very confident in what he says ... and the fact that he's gotten by with it," Hamda said.

Thomas Carothers, a foreign policy expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, wrote in an article that he believes relationships with foreign officials and trust with key allies will continue to disintegrate. Due to the cuts to public service employment, Carothers wrote that he believes this is not just a shift in foreign policy, but domestic culture.

The major shifts in foreign policy have caused protests among foreign aid domestic workers in tandem with challenges in federal court.



Ted Eytan

# Presidential response to Los Angeles burning

By David Rendon

After wildfires devastated parts of Los Angeles County, Trump threatened to withhold aid while the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) carried out on-site cleanup efforts.

Trump visited the Pacific Palisades neighborhood, which was largely destroyed in the Palisades fire, to inspect the damage on January 24, but did not visit Altadena, which was damaged by the Eaton Fire. He later signed an [executive order](#) to speed up the wildfire response. During his visit, he blamed California's Democratic leaders, including L.A. Mayor Karen Bass and Gov. Gavin Newsom, for not putting out the fires promptly.

He also [claimed](#) the U.S. military had "turned on the water" in California. The California Department of Water Resources [posted](#) on X stating that the "military did not enter California."

Trump previously [criticized](#) California's forest management after the 2018 Camp Fire in Paradise, California.

The Bureau of Land Management, which oversees 15 million acres of public lands in California, confirmed it had to pause some fire prevention work in California due to a freeze in government funding by Trump.

In addition, about 2,000 probationary Forest Service workers were fired in mass layoffs by Trump after the fires were contained, USA Today [reported](#).

While these workers' primary role was not firefighting, many had the basic training to combat wildfires. Due to the government-wide hiring freeze, many wildland firefighters will be unable to work in the 2025 fire season.

Ric Grenell, a long-time ally of Trump and the U.S. special presidential envoy for special missions, echoed Trump's sentiment in February, and said that there would be conditions on any future aid. Previously, Trump [told](#) reporters in North Carolina that he wanted voter ID laws implemented in California and "water to be released" before he would give aid. Any aid California would receive would go through Congress first

Ken Alex, the director of Project Climate at UC Berkeley's Center for Law, Energy and the Environment, called Trump's actions "clearly illegal."

"You cannot set requirements that are unrelated to the program — in this case, emergency response money for fires — on something that's completely unrelated," Alex said.

On January 24, Trump signed the "[Emergency Measures to Provide Water Resources in California and Improve Disaster Response in Certain Areas](#)" executive order, which allows the EPA to respond to wildfires as quickly as possible.

The EPA has nearly 1,200 personnel cleaning up and helping L.A. rebuild. The agency finished phase one of clean-up — household hazardous waste removal — February 26 and is on to Phase Two — debris removal.

Trump also signed an [executive order](#) called "Putting People over Fish: Stopping Radical Environmentalism to Provide Water to Southern California," which would reroute more water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to other parts of the state. The order would undo the current water regulation imposed by Newsom and former President Joe Biden that currently delivers more water to the state than Trump's proposition, [CalMatters reported](#).

## Read Local:

Trojans feel impact of LA fires

Daily Trojan

Resident Emphasizes 'Altadena is NOT for sale'

Los Angeles Sentinel

As LA County sues Edison over deadly fire, is the state's wildfire fund in jeopardy?

CalMatters



# How 'Unleashing American Energy' might affect greenhouse gas emissions and clean air

By Caitlin Roehmholdt

Upon taking office, Trump withdrew the U.S. from the Paris Agreement, an international treaty on climate change, and encouraged the extraction of more fossil fuels.

During his campaign, Trump promised to “drill, baby, drill” to lower energy prices by producing more oil and gas. Drilling in Alaska was the focus of one of the executive orders which restored fossil fuel leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge while denying further protection of the land and wildlife in the area. The U.S. Energy Information Administration reported that 2024 brought a record level of crude oil production.

In another executive order, Trump said he wanted “to encourage exploration and production on Federal lands and waters.” Interior Secretary Doug Burgum also signed a secretarial order which removes regulations on oil and gas drilling, and reviews lands and projects that will push forward “energy exploration and dominance.” Burgum said the department will also focus on mining the Outer Continental Shelf.

Douglas Becker, a USC associate professor of political science, international relations and environmental studies, said fossil fuel drilling causes devastating impacts on the environment.

“Carbon is a greenhouse gas, and the more carbon that is in the atmosphere means the greenhouse gases are capturing more and more solar rays from the sun that are meant to reflect out from the planet,” Becker said.

---

**“If it’s holding it in, the temperatures are rising. To address climate change is to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases.”**

---

2024 was the hottest year on record, according to the BBC, and the goal of the Paris Agreement is to keep temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius in comparison to pre-industrial times. The U.S. is the second largest contributor of greenhouse gases, and the agreement aims to reduce these emissions.

Inside Climate News reported that the federal Maritime Administration approved the building of the Texas GulfLink Deepwater Port, a terminal off the Gulf Coast that exports oil to other countries. The EPA opposed the project with a letter outlining how the terminal would produce around 350,000 to 700,000 tons of total annual greenhouse gas emissions.

Lee Zeldin, the administrator of the EPA, is set to cut back on 65% of the EPA’s spending, going from \$9 billion to \$3.2 billion, which is the lowest budget in this program’s 55-year history, according to Inside Climate News. The agency has already repealed regulations set in environmental laws like the National Environmental Policy Act, which was created in 1970 to ensure that federal agencies are causing minimal harm to the environment with their projects.

Trump ordered the termination of New York City’s congestion pricing plan which charges vehicles in the Congestion Relief Zone to prevent traffic buildup for “cleaner air, safer streets and better transit.”

These actions support Trump’s “Unleashing American Energy” executive order, which states that “burdensome and ideologically motivated regulations have impeded the development of [America’s natural] resources, limited the generation of reliable and affordable electricity, reduced job creation, and inflicted high energy costs upon our citizens.”

# The Trump administration shifts focus away from clean energy

By Natalia DeSon

Trump has halted funds for clean energy efforts, moving away from the Biden administration's stance on environmental policy.

In 2022, the Biden administration implemented the Inflation Reduction Act and invested \$350 million to fund programs that need help transitioning to clean energy, according to the [EPA](#). This has been credited by the EPA as a big factor in the recent growth in renewable energy efforts.

According to [the New York Times](#), the Trump administration is working to repeal the act despite sizable grants having already been awarded to various clean energy companies.

In Montana, a biofuels plant did not receive the \$782 million payment it was owed, according to the same report. This payment is only a portion of a \$1.67 billion federal loan.

According to [NPR](#), in South Carolina, the environmental nonprofit Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association was unable to access the government accounts needed to withdraw grant money. This forced the group to stop the process of hiring new employees as they couldn't budget for the future.

Clean energy initiatives contribute to environmental sustainability and can have a positive impact on economic growth, according to the [Department of Energy](#). The department reported that the global market for renewable energy technologies and innovations will be worth about \$23 trillion by 2030, leading to job growth in the U.S.

"[Clean energy] is a real topic for innovation in the United States. It's an opportunity for American exceptionalism in terms of technological innovation, inventions and entrepreneurship," said former EPA advisor Joe Árvai. "It is clearly an area where there's enormous growth potential, economically and from a jobs perspective."

However, planned manufacturing projects and multibillion-dollar investments associated with clean energy cannot move forward because of the frozen funds. The report from [the New York Times](#) said a New Jersey offshore wind project would not be continued. This has a ripple effect on other states that would have been responsible for handling supply chain responsibilities.

The National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program is another clean energy project that has been impacted by the new administration. The program was put into place to make charging stations more accessible by providing states with funds to cover up to 80% of the costs to purchase and install them, according to [ABC News](#). Now, no new EV charging stations can be built, but projects already in the works can continue.

"Climate change is one of those challenges that requires all hands on deck. Whether you take a few days off because of a pandemic or a few years off because of the new administration, that will hurt us in the long run," Árvai said.



[National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)