

UNDERSTANDING PROJECT 2025



OCTOBER 2024

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

POLICY BRIEF FOR WE CAN ACTIVISTS



Thank you to WE CAN Board Member Tiffany Crawford for contributing this article.

The environmental rollbacks summarized in Project 2025 will seem like déjà vu for federal employees who worked under the Trump administration. To promote conservative and right-wing policies that reshape the United States federal

government and consolidate executive power; all Trump-era environmental policies and executive orders will be restored.

In conjunction with the recent US Supreme Court decision, *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*, this plan weakens federal agency authority and ability to protect and conserve our natural resources and native wildlife.

Clean Air and Clean Water

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will trade in its environmental oversight role for a supportive role to state governments in their efforts to create and manage site-specific environmental regulations
- Rollback Biden-era clean air and clean water regulatory actions
- Shutter the law enforcement wing of EPA's Office of Water
- Reinstate the Cooperative Federalism Policy, which gives States the lead in developing, implementing, and complying with federal regulations.
- Remove federal protections from wetlands, which are natural barriers for flooding, natural filters of air and water pollution, and habitat and nursery grounds for countless threatened and endangered species.
- Disinvest in science and research which used to support human health through regulatory action
- Eliminate USDA's Conservation Reserve Program, which provides financial incentives to farmers to protect environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production.

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Climate

- Withdraw the United States from the Paris Accords (again), an international treaty set to address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions globally.

FUN FACT

The United States is the largest producer of GHG emissions in the world.

- Eliminate Biden-era clean energy programs used to minimize daily impacts on climate change

FUN FACT

The 2022 Clean Energy Plan has already created more than 300,000 new jobs, and eliminating tax credits and rebates that are helping electrify homes and businesses across the country.

- Privatize the National Weather Service and prevent it from forecasting extreme weather events and providing research on the advancing climate crisis.
- Disinvest in climate science and research.

Wildlife Protection

- Dismantle the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to lessen its ability to monitor and collect environmental data supporting healthy oceans and wildlife conservation.
- Rescind critical habitat protections for threatened and endangered wildlife and marine animals
- Reinstate Trump-era revisions to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which minimize environmental considerations for new construction in an effort to expedite infrastructure projects.

Energy Exploration and Development

- Reinstate the Trump-era Energy Dominance Agenda, which would increase the development of natural gas, coal, petroleum, and other minerals on Federal lands.
- Prioritize natural resource exploration and extraction over efforts to conserve them.
- Reinstate the Trump-era plan to open most of the National Petroleum Reserve of Alaska to leasing and development.
- End Biden-era promotion of solar and wind energy development.

Environmental Justice

- De-emphasize the importance of environmental equity in federal regulations and policy
- Decentralize and diminish EPA's ability to enforce regulations that protect clean air, water, and land management.