



Advancing Environmental Justice

For far too long, low-income communities, indigenous communities, and communities of color have faced environmental injustices – bearing the brunt of toxic pollution and enduring chronic underinvestment in infrastructure and critical services. The COVID-19 pandemic only amplified the major structural inequities that have impacted these communities for generations, and the climate crisis is already making these disparities even worse.

That's why Democrats made environmental justice a top priority for the 117th Congress, delivering:

- The single largest ever investment in our nation's water infrastructure, to ensure that each and every community – regardless of zip code – has reliable access to clean water
- A historic climate bill that prioritizes environmental justice communities while reducing emissions, lowering energy costs, creating jobs, and propelling our nation toward a clean economy
- The largest ever investment in tackling legacy pollution in environmental justice communities in American history
- Unprecedented investment in climate resilience – because environmental justice communities are already facing the impacts of new climate realities

This Congress, Democrats focused on addressing longstanding disparities in the pursuit of equity – delivering for environmental justice communities in key ways.

And this is just the beginning.

Clean Water

Millions of Americans do not have reliable access to clean water. Many more live in areas where a single storm can have devastating impacts on their water infrastructure. That's why, this Congress, Democrats worked to secure the single largest ever investment in our nation's drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure. Highlights from this Congress include:

Lead Pipe Replacement: \$15 billion to replace lead service lines across the country.

Drinking Water Infrastructure: \$11.7 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, a critical program to ensure safe drinking water for communities large and small.

Wastewater and Stormwater Infrastructure: \$11.7 billion for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, which provides critical funds to repair our crumbling wastewater and stormwater infrastructure.

Addressing PFAS: \$10 billion to help make sure our water is free of PFAS contamination.

Affordable, Clean Energy

As the U.S. transitions toward a clean energy economy, no community should be left behind nor overburdened by the new infrastructure that enables clean energy. That's why Democrats put frontline communities at the forefront of climate action considerations when crafting – and successfully passing – climate legislation this Congress. Highlights include:

Clean Energy: Democrats secured major reforms to the existing tax code to promote clean electricity deployment, so that future investments bring clean energy and good jobs to disadvantaged communities. This includes a new bonus credit for renewable energy projects that serve environmental justice communities or affordable housing developments.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: \$27 billion in funding to EPA to help leverage private investments in projects that combat climate change, with no less than 60% of this money going toward clean energy financing in low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Energy Affordability:

- **Weatherization Assistance Program:** Over \$3.5 billion in funding to reduce energy costs for hundreds of thousands of low-income households by increasing their homes' energy efficiency.
- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program:** Record funding to states to help families and individuals afford their energy bills.
- **Energy Efficiency:** \$9 billion toward two new home energy rebate programs focused on helping low- and moderate-income households increase their efficiency – bringing down energy bills.

Clean Air

No one should have to question whether the air they breathe is safe. Yet, this is the unfortunate reality for many environmental justice communities across the country – where, day in and day out, poor air quality endangers residents and exacerbates health disparities. That's why, on top of historic investment in clean energy, Democrats have doubled down on efforts to address existing air pollution in environmental justice communities and stop pollutants from making their way into the air in the first place. Highlights from this Congress include:

Environmental and Climate Justice Block Grants: \$3 billion in competitive 3-year grants to states, tribes, and municipalities to address disproportionate environmental

and public health harms related to pollution and climate change in low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Reducing Air Pollution in Frontline Communities:

- \$3 billion for the purchase or installation of zero-emissions port equipment and technology and the development of climate action plans to reduce air pollutants at ports. A portion of the funding is targeted toward communities that already have unhealthy levels of air pollution.
- \$1 billion to EPA to award grants and rebates to help replace polluting heavy-duty vehicles with zero-emitting ones. A portion of the funding is targeted toward communities that already have unhealthy levels of air pollution.
- \$60 million for grants to address diesel emissions from goods movement facilities – like airports, railyards, and distribution centers – and from vehicles servicing those facilities in low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Clean Air and Climate Grants: \$476 million in funding for grants to update our aging air pollution monitoring network, such as investments in new monitoring systems to better detect air pollutants. These investments will particularly benefit environmental justice communities exposed to persistent air pollution.

Methane Emissions Reduction Program: \$1.55 billion to help the oil and gas sector monitor and reduce methane emissions and address legacy pollution. The program also provides a new charge on wasted methane pollution, starting in 2025. This will avoid the release of 15 million metric tons of CO₂ by 2030, which is equivalent to the greenhouse gas emissions of 3.2 million gasoline-powered vehicles driven in a year.

Climate Pollution Plans and Implementation Grants: \$5 billion in competitive grants to states, territories, D.C., tribes, and municipalities to develop and implement greenhouse gas emissions reductions plans.

Addressing Air Pollution at Schools: \$50 million to support air quality monitoring and efforts to reduce air pollution at public schools in low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Cleaning Up Legacy Pollution

More than one in four Black and Hispanic Americans lives within 3 miles of a hazardous contaminated site. This is unacceptable. No one should have to face the risk of toxins contaminating where they live, work, play, pray, and go to school. That's why, this Congress, Democrats worked to secure the largest investment in tackling legacy pollution in American history. Highlights include:

Superfund Cleanup:

- \$3.5 billion for EPA's Superfund Program, which is responsible for cleaning up some of the nation's most contaminated sites in order to protect public health and the environment.

- Reinstated the Superfund tax, which will raise over \$11 billion and ensure that Superfund cleanups will have a guaranteed stream of funding for years to come, reducing the pollution in our communities that is disproportionately felt by low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Brownfields Cleanup: \$1.5 billion to scale-up community-led brownfields revitalization in order to increase local tax bases, facilitate job growth, and safeguard public health and the environment.

Clean Transportation

Today, the transportation sector is the largest single source of carbon emissions in the United States. Transitioning to clean forms of transportation is imperative. So is doing so in a way that is equitable. This Congress, Democrats delivered on both fronts with:

Improved Transit: Secured the largest investment in public transit in U.S. history.

Neighborhood Access and Equity Grants: \$3 billion to support neighborhood equity, safety, and affordable transportation.

Clean School Buses: \$5 billion to replace polluting diesel school buses with clean ones – ensuring a clean commute for students who take the bus to and from school.

Electric Vehicle Tax Incentives:

- A new consumer tax credit that makes used clean vehicles more affordable options for low- and moderate-income individuals.
- A new commercial tax credit for electric vehicles, which will allow government entities to purchase zero emission buses, garbage trucks, and more. This will bring major air quality benefits to environmental justice communities.

Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles: \$1 billion in grants and rebates to help replace dirty medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, like garbage trucks and transit buses, with zero-emitting vehicles, with a specific focus on vehicles serving communities located in nonattainment areas.

Protecting & Revitalizing Communities

For far too long, low-income communities, indigenous communities, and communities of color have endured underinvestment while often lacking a seat at the table when it comes to matters that will impact their wellbeing. In an effort to start to right these wrongs, Democrats this Congress have focused on protecting and revitalizing environmental justice communities. Highlights include:

Bolstering the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA): Over \$750 million for NEPA implementation across the federal government, so that executive agencies have the resources necessary to properly review proposed infrastructure projects that may impact environmental justice communities.

Green Spaces:

- \$1.5 billion to plant trees, establish community and urban forests, and expand green spaces in cities. This will combat climate change, increase recreation opportunities, and reduce heat-related illness.
- \$50 million for investments in urban parks.

Reconnecting Communities: \$1 billion for a new program focused on reconnecting communities divided by transportation infrastructure – particularly historically disadvantaged communities too often nearly destroyed or cut in half by a highway.

Climate Resilience

Environmental justice communities that have long borne the brunt of environmental challenges and related public health implications now find themselves facing the worst of new climate realities. As extreme weather events become more frequent and more severe, our infrastructure is pushed past its limits time and again – to the detriment of so many environmental justice communities.

That's why Democrats this Congress worked to secure **the largest investment in the resilience of physical and natural infrastructure in American history.** This funding will allow environmental justice communities to revamp their infrastructure so that they are not forced to rebuild after each severe weather event.

In just two years, Democrats have delivered historic wins for environmental justice communities and are continuing to fight for equity.