

Highlights of the EPA Strategic Plan for FY 2022-2026

1. Tackle the Climate Crisis

- Notable objectives include:
 - i. “Significant transitions in technologies and energy systems”
 - ii. “Publish GHG emissions data and apply tools such as the social cost of greenhouse gases (SC-GHGs), multipollutant analysis, reviews of environmental impact statements, permitting, and technical assistance”

- Notable long-term performance goals include:
 - i. By **September 30, 2026**, promulgate final rules to reduce GHG emissions from light duty, medium-duty, and heavy-duty vehicles; electric utility generating units; and the oil and gas industry.
 - ii. By **September 30, 2023**, annual U.S. consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) will be 10% below the baseline, consistent with the HCFC phasedown schedule implemented under the American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act.

2. Take Decisive Action to Advance Environmental Justice and Civil Rights

- Associated objectives & long-term performance goals are mostly preliminary steps toward developing partnerships at the local level & identifying primary issues with a potential emphasis on controlling exposure to Superfund sites.

3. Enforce Environmental Laws and Ensure Compliance

- Notable objectives include:
 - i. Prioritizing the timeliness of enforcement action (see the first long-term performance goal below) and the return of inspection reports to facilities.
 - ii. Increasing the number of annual inspections in high-priority areas (see the second long-term performance goal below).
 - iii. Provide greater public access to compliance data.

- Notable long-term performance goals include:
 - i. By **September 30, 2026**, ensure the number of “Referred No Complaint Filed” (RNCF) civil judicial cases that are more than 2.5 years old is no more than 93.
 - Primary tools that the agency uses to reduce the number of these cases include asking the US government to file a complaint, dropping a claim, shifting injunctive relief, or shifting penalty demand to reduce risk of litigation.

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- ii. By **September 30, 2026**, conduct 55% of inspections annually at facilities that affect communities with potential environmental justice concerns.
 - FY2017-2019 establishes a baseline of 27% for this measure.

4. Ensure Clean and Healthy Air for All Communities

- Notable objectives include:
 - i. Reducing NOx emissions from Electric Power Generation sources (but may also focus on other stationary fuel combustion sources like industrial boilers)
 - ii. Improving air quality (presumably referring to all criteria pollutants) in non-attainment areas by 10% compared to the 2016 baseline (with a particular focus on PM2.5).
 - iii. Reducing consumption of HCFCs.
 - iv. Reconsidering the December 2020 decision to retain the current PM NAAQS standard (may opt for a stricter standard).
 - v. Implement the “Air Toxics Strategy” to more effectively identify and address existing, emerging, and future air toxics issues
 - For more information: <https://www.epa.gov/haps/air-toxics-strategy>
 - vi. Reduce annual lung cancer deaths associated with radon exposure as compared to the FY2020 baseline
- Notable long-term performance goals include:
 - i. By **September 30, 2026**, reduce ozone season emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) from electric power generation sources by 21% from the 2019 baseline.
 - ii. By **September 30, 2026**, improve measured air quality in counties not meeting the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) from the 2016 baseline by 10%.
 - iii. By **September 30, 2026**, ensure U.S. consumption of HCFCs is less than 76.2 tons per year of ozone depletion potential.

5. Ensure Clean and Safe Water for All Communities

- Notable Objectives include:
 - i. Reducing the number of community water systems that are non-compliant with health-based standards
 - ii. Reduce drinking water lead exposure & PFAS contamination
 - For more information on PFAS:
<https://stevensenvironmental.com/news/regulatory-update-172-pfas-chemicals-added-to-epcra-tri-reporting-list/>
 - iii. Continue to develop new and revised national recommended water quality criteria
 - iv. Protect and restore valuable watersheds

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6. Safeguard and Revitalize Communities

- Notable Objectives include:
 - i. Prioritizing the cleanup of Superfund sites where lead is a contaminant of concern.
 - ii. Considering a proposal to designate PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.
 - iii. Integrate the Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJSCREEN) into the prioritization of and decision-making regarding cleanups.
 - iv. Update the RCRA solid and hazardous waste regulations, as necessary, to ensure protective standards for managing solid and hazardous waste.
 - v. Continue to work to approve state permit programs for coal ash disposal as well as a federal coal ash permit program.
 - vi. Work to ensure that every UST system is inspected at least once every three years, as required by the Energy Policy Act of 2005
 - For information about the Energy Policy Act of 2005:
<https://www.epa.gov/ust/energy-policy-act-2005-and-underground-storage-tanks-usts>.
 - vii. Work to ensure biofuels and other emerging fuels are stored in compatible UST systems.
 - viii. Consider regulatory modifications under CAA Section 112(r) to help prevent serious industrial chemical accidents, mitigate those that occur, and provide communities with better access to information about industrial chemical hazards.
- Notable long-term performance goals include:
 - i. By **September 30, 2026**, bring human exposures under control at an additional 60 Superfund sites.
 - ii. By **September 30, 2026**, make an additional 425 RCRA corrective action cleanups Ready for Anticipated Use.
 - iii. By **September 30, 2026**, clean up an additional 36,500 Leaking Underground Storage Tank facilities.
 - iv. By **September 30, 2023**, HUD and EPA will reduce exposure to lead to protect families, particularly children, by EPA completing at least 100 Superfund lead cleanup projects.
 - v. By **September 30, 2026**, increase the percentage of permit renewals at RCRA facilities to 80% from the FY 2021 baseline of 71%.

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- vi. By **September 30, 2026**, ensure that 40% of CERCLA, Oil, Homeland Security, and FEMA exercises with EPA participation conducted annually address environmental justice concerns.

7. Ensure Safety of Chemicals for People and the Environment

- Notable Objectives include:
 - i. Conduct risk assessments for more than 500 new chemical notice and exemption submissions annually and make affirmative determinations on whether unreasonable risks are posed under those chemicals' conditions of use.
 - ii. Reduce exposure to lead in paint by establishing standards for inspection, risk assessment, and abatement of lead-based paint hazards, along with training and certification programs, among other efforts.
 - iii. Prioritize the review and registration of reduced-risk conventional pesticides and biopesticides
 - iv. Assess in its FIFRA registration and registration review regulatory determinations whether listed endangered or threatened species or their designated critical habitat may be affected.
 - v. Update and strengthen standards of the Safer Choice Program
 - For more information about the Safer Choice Program:
<https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice>
 - vi. Continue research on tools that can quickly and accurately identify vulnerable communities near TRI facilities, which would support prioritization of pollution prevention initiatives.
- Notable long-term performance goals include:
 - i. By **September 30, 2026**, complete at least eight High Priority Substance (HPS) TSCA risk evaluations annually within statutory timelines compared with the FY 2020 baseline of one.
 - ii. By **September 30, 2026**, review 90% of risk mitigation requirements for TSCA new chemical substances compared to the FY 2021 baseline of none.
 - iii. By **September 30, 2026**, renew 40% of expiring lead-based paint Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) firm certifications within 30 days compared to the FY 2021 baseline of 36%.
 - iv. By **September 30, 2026**, reduce a total of 1.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO_{2e}) released attributed to EPA pollution prevention grants.
 - v. By **September 30, 2026**, EPA's Safer Choice program will certify a total of 2,300 products compared to the FY 2021 baseline of 1,950 total certified products.