



Who We Are

The US Environmental Protection Agency's charge is to protect human health and the environment. Since 1970, EPA has been working to provide a cleaner and healthier environment for Americans. To accomplish this mission, EPA develops and enforces regulations; provides financial assistance to co-regulators - states, local and tribal governments - and to academia and non-profits; performs and sponsors research on environmental issues; sponsors voluntary partnerships aimed at reducing pollution and conserving resources; and provides environmental education.

In the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA), our mission is to protect human health the environment by ensuring compliance with environmental requirements, preventing pollution and promoting environmental stewardship. Our program focuses on addressing serious environmental harm and risk to public health caused by environmental noncompliance.

Our work is planned, implemented and measured in terms of tangible and lasting environmental results. We use data and other information to set priorities and identify patterns of noncompliance. We address significant environmental and public health problems using a mix of tools, such as assistance, incentives, monitoring, civil and criminal enforcement, partnerships and innovative approaches. Our efforts are measured in part in terms of pounds of pollutants reduced as a result of enforcement actions, penalties assessed that will go toward cleaning up the environment or installing pollution abatement equipment, and funds committed to environmental projects to benefit local communities.



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY