

# Eliminate EPA Grant Programs and Information Exchange/Outreach

SAVINGS IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016-2020	2016-2025
\$131	\$131	\$132	\$133	\$136	\$139	\$142	\$146	\$149	\$152	\$663	\$1,391

## Heritage Recommendation:

Eliminate EPA grant programs as well as information exchange/outreach programs. Estimated savings for eliminating the EPA grant programs are not available, but eliminating the information exchange/outreach program saves \$131 million in 2016, and \$1.4 billion over 10 years.

## Rationale:

The EPA should not be funding Environmental Education Grants and other grant programs, such as job-training programs. The EPA has allocated taxpayer money to projects that educate and increase awareness about stewardship. The majority of grants have been awarded to nonprofits with schools being a distant second; the most popular topics are biodiversity and general “environmental literacy.” Past educational projects have included learning how to build “rain gardens,” the significance of urban forests, poster contests on sun protection, asthma awareness and radon, and schoolyard habitat restoration.<sup>43</sup> From 1992 to 2011, the EPA has granted over \$54 million through this program. Even the Obama Administration has recognized a need to cut back on revolving state grants, reducing its FY 2014 budget request for such grants by \$581 million.

## Additional Reading:

- Nicolas Loris, “EPA Is Desperately in Need of Budget Cuts. Here’s a Few Places to Start,” *The Daily Signal*, July 10, 2014, <http://dailysignal.com/2014/07/10/epa-desperately-need-budget-cuts-heres-places-start/>.
- The Heritage Foundation, “Environmental Conservation: Eight Principles of the American Conservation Ethic,” <http://www.Heritage.org/research/projects/environmental-conservation>.

## Calculations:

Savings for eliminating the information exchange/outreach program are expressed as budget authority and were calculated by using the FY 2014 enacted spending levels as found in page 1,003 of EPA, “Fiscal Year 2015: Justification of Appropriation Estimates for the Committee on Appropriations,” March 2014, [http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-03/documents/fy2015\\_congressional\\_justification.pdf](http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-03/documents/fy2015_congressional_justification.pdf). The 2014 enacted level was then increased at the same rate as discretionary spending for 2016–2025, according to the CBO’s most recent August 2014 baseline spending projections.