

Eliminate Regional EPA Programs

SAVINGS IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016–2020	2016–2025
\$422	\$423	\$424	\$429	\$439	\$449	\$459	\$471	\$480	\$489	\$2,137	\$4,485

Heritage Recommendation:

Eliminate regional EPA programs that should be owned and managed by state and local governments. This proposal saves \$422 million in 2016, and \$4.5 billion over 10 years.

Rationale:

Resource management should take into account the fact that environmental conditions will vary from location to location and from time to time. A site- and situation-specific approach takes advantage of the fact that those who are closest to a natural habitat are also those who are best able to manage it. Such practices allow prioritization of funds and the separation of problems into manageable units.

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 are expressed as budget authority and were calculated using the FY 2014 enacted spending levels as found in page 1,002 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. 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.