



MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

This email message is being sent to EPA employees.

Dear Colleagues,

Happy Holidays! To every member of our EPA family, thank you for another remarkable year.

As we approach the end of 2023, I hope you can take a moment to acknowledge the tremendous impact that we have made as an agency, and how each of you has played an important role in delivering for the American people.

The effort and accomplishments of our team are unparalleled, and I couldn't be prouder to lead EPA. I'm inspired by both the volume of what we've accomplished over the last year and also by the level of excellence that we've maintained in the process.

Across all EPA regions, headquarters, and in every single lab and office, each of you has left your own mark on this agency, helped push EPA to new heights, and delivered vital public health and environmental protections for the people of this country.

This year, I traveled to all 10 EPA regions and saw firsthand how your work has impacted communities nationwide. Our regional offices continue to serve as critical touch points responsible for executing our programs across states and territories, implementing funding from the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law \(pdf\)](#) and the [Inflation Reduction Act](#), and building collaborative relationships with local communities.

From standing up rules and programs to cutting pollution and bringing clean, reliable energy to communities that need it most, to deploying billions of dollars in resources, your work is making people's lives better.

And while it would be impossible to mention everything we achieved in 2023, I wanted to highlight some of our agency's biggest accomplishments:

- Issued a final rule that will prevent 1.5 billion metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions from the oil and natural gas industry.
- Proposed Lead and Copper Rule Improvements to dramatically reduce exposure to lead in our drinking water.
- Provided over \$13 billion from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to states, Tribes, and territories for water infrastructure improvements.
- Released the final Report on the Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases.
- Revised EPA's consultation policy with Indian Tribes to strengthen our agency's Nation-to-Nation relationship.
- Deployed \$1 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding to expedite cleanup activities at 100 Superfund sites, and began cleanup of 22 additional Superfund sites.
- Expanded EPA's support for small, underserved, or Tribal communities that have traditionally been hesitant to apply for funding because of capacity challenges.
- Proposed health protections to reduce exposure to ethylene oxide by 80% per year.
- Delivered breakthrough science leading to important progress in addressing PFAS pollution.
- Created resources for the public on how to best protect children during wildfire smoke events.
- Delivered on EPA's human capital goal by hiring 1,977 new employees in 2023.
- Launched innovative environmental justice programs, including Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers, centered around providing funding and technical assistance to our most overburdened and underserved communities.
- Carried out emergency response efforts across the country, including East Palestine, Ohio, and on Maui, Hawaii.
- Continued to advance EEO and DEIA, including creating the Office of Inclusive Excellence.
- Established a first-of-its-kind National Environmental Youth Advisory Council.

I'm honored to be a part of the EPA family and the community that we've worked to create at the agency.

May this season bring us all hope and inspiration for a fruitful and prosperous year ahead. I hope we all find time to enjoy some well-deserved rest and come back reenergized and ready to tackle whatever challenges we may face in the next year.

Let's also remember the hard moments that you or your colleagues may have endured this year. Events around the world or close to home often left us scared, unsure what to do or say, or with heavy hearts. So, as we move forward into 2024, I want to reiterate that we are one EPA family and that as we strive to advance EPA's mission, we also need to support and lift each other up.

It's critical that we continue to maintain our high standards, stay disciplined, work hard, and look out for one another so that we can ensure all people have clean air to breathe, clean water to drink, and the opportunity to live a healthy life.

For those celebrating, I hope you have a happy holiday. For all EPA employees, I wish you a joyful and peaceful season!

Sincerely,

Michael S. Regan
Administrator