The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) develops and enforces environmental regulations, often by setting national standards that states and tribes enforce through their own regulations. Nearly half of their budget goes into grants to state environmental programs, non-profits, educational institutions, and others to support a wide variety of projects, from scientific studies that help us make decisions to community cleanups.

Quick Facts

* The [mission](http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa/our-mission-and-what-we-do) of the EPA is to protect human health and the environment.
* EPA was established on December 2, 1970 to consolidate a variety of federal research, monitoring, standard-setting and enforcement activities to ensure environmental protection.
* The annual budget is approximately $8.2 billion.
* EPA issues close to 400 RFAs a year, expending roughly half of the EPA budget.
* The Office of Research and Development is the scientific research arm of the EPA.

Main Programs

[**Grants and Fellowships available through EPA**](https://www.epa.gov/grants)

* The above link gives an overview of EPA grant opportunities and offers tutorials for those seeking EPA grants or other support.
* EPA offers student and faculty fellowships, scholarships, and internships.
* Two of the most popular programs among universities include the Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program and the Greater Research Opportunities (GRO) program.

[**Office of Research and Development (ORD)**](https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-research-and-development-ord) supports six integrated research programs that identify the most pressing environmental health research needs with input from EPA offices, partners and stakeholders:

* [Air, Climate, and Energy Research Program](http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-air-climate-and-energy-research-program) - examines the interplay between air pollution, climate change, and the dynamic energy sector to develop innovative and sustainable solutions for improving air quality and taking action on climate change.
* [Chemical Safety for Sustainability Research Program](http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-chemical-safety-sustainability-research-program) - provides the decision-support tools needed for the safe production, use, and disposal of chemical, while advancing innovative ways to evaluate chemicals, conduct risk management, and prioritize time-critical research.
* [Human Health Risk Assessment Program](http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-human-health-risk-assessment-program) - conducts research identifying, evaluating, synthesizing and integrating scientific information on individual chemicals and chemical mixtures.
* [Homeland Security Research Program](http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-homeland-security-research-program) - provides scientific solutions that improve water utilities’ abilities to prepare for and respond to incidents that threaten public health and advance EPA’s capabilities to respond to wide area chemical, biological or radiological contamination incidents, including natural disasters.
* [Safe and Sustainable Water Resources Research Program](http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-safe-and-sustainable-water-resources-research-program) - provides the science and innovative technologies that the Agency and the nation need to maintain drinking water resources and systems, as well as to protect the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the nation’s waters.
* [Sustainable and Healthy Communities Research Program](http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-sustainable-and-healthy-communities-research-program) - provide the knowledge, data, and tools needed to answer questions on how do we meet today’s needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs in ways that are economically viable, beneficial to human health and well-being, and socially just, while supporting local communities seeking to become more sustainable.

**ORD’s Laboratories, Centers, and Offices**

* [National Center for Computational Toxicology (NCCT)](http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-national-center-computational-toxicology-ncct) - integrates advances in biology, biotechnology, chemistry, and computer science to identify important biological processes that may be disrupted by chemicals in use today.
* [National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA)](http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-national-center-environmental-assessment-ncea) - a leader in the science of human health and ecological risk assessment, a process used to determine how pollutants or other stressors may impact human health and the environment.
* [National Center for Environmental Research (NCER)](http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-national-center-environmental-research-ncer) - supports funding for high-quality research by the nation's leading scientists and engineers that will improve the scientific basis for decisions on national environmental issues.
* [National Exposure Research Laboratory (NERL)](http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa) - supports EPA’s mission to protect human health and the environment by developing and applying innovations in exposure science.
* [National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory (NHEERL)](http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-national-health-and-environmental-effects-research-laboratory-nheerl) - conducts systems-based, effects research needed to achieve sustainable health and wellbeing, encompassing both human and ecosystem health.
* [National Homeland Security Research Center (NHSRC)](http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-national-homeland-security-research-center-nhsrc) - works to foster resilience in communities with training and technical assistance for community-based organizations responsible for response and recovery and develop strategies that minimize the risk of hazards and strengthen the ability to withstand and recover from future disasters.
* [National Risk Management Research Laboratory (NRMRL)](http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-national-risk-management-research-laboratory-nrmrl) - determines what environmental risks exist and how to manage those risk in a way best suited to protect human health and the environment.
* [Office of the Science Advisor (OSA)](http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-science-advisor) - provides leadership in cross-Agency science and science policy development and implementation to ensure the best possible use of science at the Agency.
* [Office of Science Policy](http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-science-policy-osp) - the lead organization for integrating, coordinating, and communicating scientific and technical information and advice across EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD), and between ORD and the agency's programs, regions, and external parties.

**Grant Programs of Interest**

* [Fellowships and other student programs:](http://epa.gov/fellowships/) Grants, fellowships, and research associateships
* [Air Grants](https://www.epa.gov/learn-issues/learn-about-air):  includes competitive grant funding announcements for projects and programs relating to air quality, transportation, climate change, indoor air and other related topics.
* [Brownfields Grants and Funding:](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/grant_info/index.htm) existing facilities where redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived contamination.
* [Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE):](http://www.epa.gov/care/)  provides funding to build broad-based partnerships to reduce environmental risks at the local level.
* [Environmental Education Grants:](http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html) projects to help the public make informed decisions that affect environmental quality.
* [Environmental Information Exchange Network and Grant Program:](http://www.epa.gov/Networkg/grants/) provides funding to develop an Internet-based, secure network that supports the electronic collection, exchange, and integration of high-quality data.
* [Environmental Justice:](http://www.epa.gov/Compliance/environmentaljustice/grants/index.html) includes the EJ Community/University Partnership Grants Program and the Environmental Justice Through Pollution Prevention Grants Program.
* [National Clean Diesel Campaign Grants and Funding:](http://www.epa.gov/otaq/diesel/grantfund.htm) building diesel engine emission reduction programs across the country to improve air quality and protect public health.
* [People, Prosperity and the Planet:](http://www.epa.gov/P3/) college students address challenges from a wide range of categories: agriculture, built environment, materials and chemicals, energy, and water.  These can be challenges found in the developed or developing world and the solutions will move us towards a sustainable future.
* [Pollution Prevention Grant Program:](http://www.epa.gov/p2/pubs/grants/index.htm#p2grant) provides matching funds to state and tribal programs to support pollution prevention and to develop State-based programs.
* [Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Grants and Fellowships:](http://www.epa.gov/ncer/) funds research grants in numerous environmental science and engineering disciplines through a competitive solicitation process and independent peer review.
* [Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR):](http://www.epa.gov/ncer/sbir/) competitively funds environmental technology research at small businesses. **Colleges and universities are eligible to partner only.**
* [Water Grants:](http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/) includes the state revolving funds for drinking water and wastewater, grants for water pollution prevention and wetlands protection, and tribal grants.

Things to Consider

* Two of the most popular programs among universities include the Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program and the Greater Research Opportunities (GRO) program

Resources

* [Grant Awards Database](http://yosemite.epa.gov/oarm/igms_egf.nsf/HomePage?ReadForm)
* [Sample Indirect Cost Proposal Format For Nonprofit Organizations](http://www.epa.gov/ogd/recipient/sample1.htm)
* [Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests](http://www.aascu.org/GRC/MultiSection.aspx?id=10668)