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# A Review of Federal Climate Policy Rollbacks in the United States: Trends, Sectoral Changes, and Implications for Policymakers

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The current U.S. administration is redefining the trajectory of energy and environmental policy in the United States. New executive orders, agency actions, and legislation are shifting the nation away from climate leadership and towards a broad deregulatory climate agenda. In light of today's federal policy landscape, this analysis examines major regulatory trends, specific sectoral changes, and implications for state and local climate action.

## Setting the Scene

*Expediting fossil fuel production and hampering renewable energy*

From inauguration day, the current administration issued executive orders "Declaring a National Energy Emergency" *(E.O. 14156)*[1] and "Unleashing American Energy," (E.O. 14154)[2] aiming to expedite and increase domestic energy production, in particular, fossil fuel production. Across sectors, the federal government is taking steps to revoke and revise energy and climate regulations, guided by *E.O. 14192*[3] and *E.O. 14219*.[4] Notably, *E.O. 14270*[5] directs the Department of Energy (DOE), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to place sunset dates on landmark regulations governing energy production. Congressional actions further hamper climate progress; the recently passed budget reconciliation bill, known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), terminates tax credits and grant programs created under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) years ahead of schedule (see Figure 1).[6]

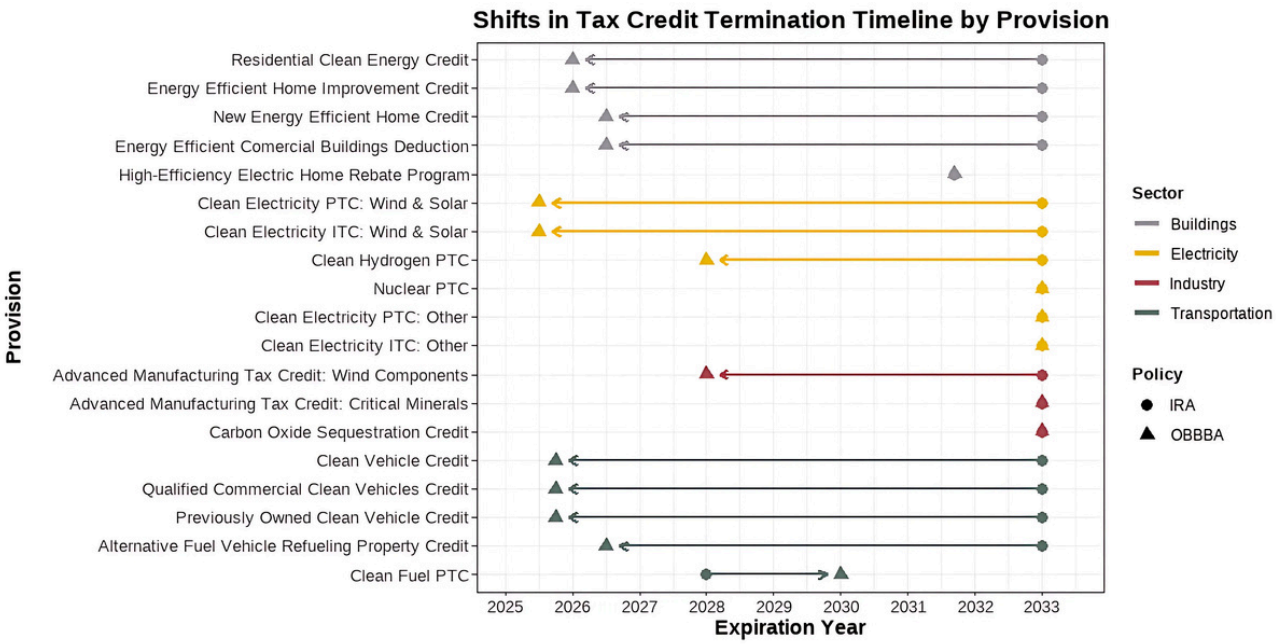


**Figure 1: Adjustments to clean energy tax credit termination timeline by provision.** Given the stringency of wind and solar ITC and PTC eligibility requirements, these provisions are marked as expiring upon the OBBBA's passage, though credits phase out for projects placed in service after 2027 or that begin construction by mid-2026. This figure does not include all IRA provisions.

*Limiting states' climate authority*

Alongside federal deregulation, the administration is taking action to limit states' ability to enact ambitious climate policies. The Executive Order "Protecting American Energy from State Overreach" (*E.O. 14260*[7]) directs the U.S. Attorney General to review all state and local regulations that could burden domestic energy production, address climate change, or regulate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. On June 12, several joint resolutions were signed under the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to disapprove of California's ability to set its own vehicle emissions standards.[8,9] The federal government has also overridden state power operators' decisions to close aging power plants in Michigan[10] and Pennsylvania.[11] Aside from intervening in state processes and rulings, the federal government has paused, rescinded, or otherwise severely inhibited the distribution of billions of dollars in already-approved congressional spending to states and local governments, raising major concerns about illegal impoundment.[12] State leaders and civilians are responding with disapproval of these federal oversteps, and in some cases, legal action.[13-15] In July, 157 House Democrats filed an amicus brief challenging the freeze of more than $425 billion in Congressionally appropriated funding.[16]

*Challenging established science*

Additionally, the administration has demonstrated a disregard for scientific consensus, taking steps to roll back the endangerment finding[17] and the process for calculating the social cost of carbon,[18] which form the basis for climate mitigation policies. In August, the DOE released a report questioning the relationship between anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions and climate change.[19] Many agencies have significantly curtailed their environmental review processes under the National Environmental Policy Act,[20] and the EPA announced in July that it is planning to downsize or close its science and research arm, the Office of Research and Development.[21] Further, the administration is continuing to strip environmental justice considerations from policies, closing environmental justice offices and cancelling EPA environmental justice grants.[22]

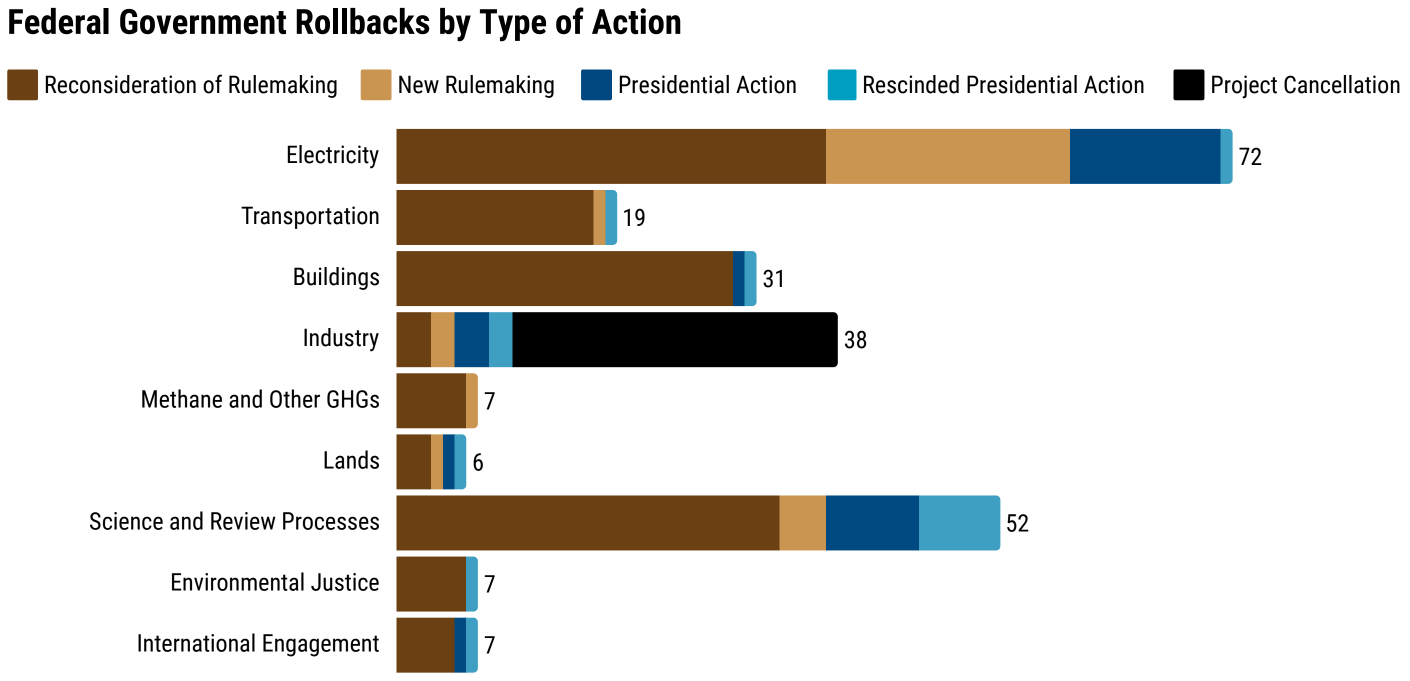


**Figure 2. Number of climate policy rollbacks by type of federal government action, between January-August 2025.** Presidential Action includes Executive Orders, Presidential Memoranda, and Proclamations.

## Electricity Sector Policy Rollbacks

### Current Trends

In 2024, wind, solar, and battery storage accounted for 93% of new domestic energy capacity,[23] and for the first time, wind and solar provided 17% of the nation's electricity between January and November, surpassing the 15% share of electricity that coal provided.[24,25] Additionally, ten states generated a third or more of their energy entirely from solar and wind.[26] Forecasts in 2024 projected that renewable energy growth would continue, enabling wind and solar to play a large role in meeting growing electricity demand.[27,28]

### Summary of Policy Rollbacks

Recent federal actions steer the United States away from wind and solar energy toward fossil fuel and nuclear energy development. Impactful changes include new protections and eased regulations for large fossil-fuel generating resources, significant obstacles to wind and solar project permitting, and directives to strengthen nuclear capacity. Wind developers face substantial barriers to deployment due to pauses on project leasing, increased regulatory uncertainty, and market volatility. Following a Department of the Interior secretarial order and promulgation of several executive orders, offshore wind faces a de facto ban on project pipeline expansion, while onshore actors face substantial barriers to permitting and construction.[29] Utility-scale solar is less affected by leasing and permitting restrictions, though new hurdles exist.

States and localities can expect renewable development to slow in the absence of federal support due to insufficient funding, siting and permitting hurdles, and developer uncertainty. However, federal policies may not fully halt the momentum of renewable energy growth, especially since growing electricity demand will not change.[30] The high cost of coal-powered generation[31] and supply chain issues for gas-powered turbines[32] remain hurdles to fossil fuel dominance. Additionally, states and localities retain power over their energy grids through independent energy administrations, grid operators, permitting entities, public utility commissions, and zoning authorities.[33] If subnational actors continue to set and implement clean energy targets, improve siting and permitting regulations, ensure grid reliability through energy efficiency measures and grid-enhancing technologies, and engage their communities, they can mitigate opposition and maintain some clean energy growth.[34]

### Timeline of Policy Rollbacks

*Fossil Fuels - Leasing and Permitting*

- **January 20** - *E.O. 14156* "Declaring a National Energy Emergency" authorizes the use of emergency powers to facilitate domestic energy production, excluding wind and solar.
- **January 20** - The executive order on "Unleashing American Energy" directs agencies to expedite liquified natural gas (LNG) permitting and processing previously paused by the previous administration.[2]
- **January 20** - *Executive Order 14153*[35] reverses the previous administration's pauses on oil and gas leasing and other activity in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and directs resource development to the "fullest extent possible." Later, the Secretary of the Interior announces that DOI will open the entire Coastal Plain of ANWR and up to 82% of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A). The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management later rescinds protections for the (NPR-A)[36] and withdraws special area policies,[37] relaxing regulations on oil and gas drilling on approximately 23 million acres.
- **April 8** - Several presidential actions, including *Proclamation 10914*[38] and *E.O. 14261*,[39] delay compliance with air toxics standards for about 37% of U.S. coal-fired power plants[40] and direct agencies to lift barriers and allocate resources toward domestic coal production.
- **June 11** - EPA proposes rolling back all Section 111 Clean Air Act (CAA) GHG standards for the power sector and reverting the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) for coal- and oil-fired power plants to the 2012 version.[41] In the absence of these standards, plants no longer have to invest in technologies to comply with emissions limits, the cost of which previously motivated retirements.

*Fossil Fuels - Leasing and Permitting Cont.*

- **July 29** - EPA proposes repealing the 2009 Endangerment Finding,[17] which allows EPA to regulate GHGs as a threat to human health.
- **August 1** - DOI's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issues a series of actions in alignment with OBBBA.
  - BLM promulgates a rule preventing new impact mitigation measures in a lease unless they were already outlined in the resource management plan.[42]
  - BLM amends definitions of "eligible" and "available" lands for oil and gas, removing fees for submitting expressions of interest for oil and gas leases[43] and setting drill permits at 4-year terms.[44]

*Fossil Fuels - Delaying Retirements*

- **April 8** - *E.O. 14262* further approves maximum capacity electricity generation under Section 202(c) of the Federal Power Act, preventing the closure of large generation resources, primarily fossil fuel-powered plants, if that action would reduce net generating capacity.
- **May 23 and May 30** - DOE orders two power plants in Michigan and Pennsylvania to stay online for an additional 90 days, delaying grid operator closure plans and passing millions in operating costs on to consumers.
- **July 4** - OBBBA rescinds unobligated funds for the Energy Infrastructure Reinvestment Financing program (EIR), which provides loan guarantees for emissions reductions at operating power plants and projects at decommissioned plants. The program replacing EIR does not include emissions reductions as a statutory eligibility criteria.[45]
- **July 7** - A DOE report reinforces the administration's intent to keep large fossil fuel generation sources online, citing a possible 100-fold increase in blackouts by 2030 if operating capacity is not maintained and expanded upon.[46]

*Wind and Solar - Leasing and Permitting*

- **January 20** - The President issues a memorandum temporarily withdrawing all areas in the Outer Continental Shelf for wind leasing and pausing all offshore and onshore wind project approval, rights of way, permitting, leasing, or loans. The order also halts progress on the Lava Ridge Wind Project.[47]
- **January 20** - The Department of the Interior (DOI) pauses permitting for all renewable projects for three months, and after lifting the pause, does not resume permitting for wind projects.[48]
- **February 5** - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) pauses all renewable energy permitting for one day. USACE later lifts the pause for renewables except onshore wind.[49]
- **March 14** - EPA withdraws the air pollution permit for the fully-permitted Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind Project.[50]
- **April 16** - DOI directs the Bureau of Ocean Management (BOEM) to issue a stop-work order on the fully-permitted Empire Wind 1 Project. On May 19, BOEM lifts the order, allowing operations to resume.[51]
- **May 5** - Seventeen state attorneys (plus the DC attorney) file a lawsuit challenging the January 20 moratorium and later agency actions.[52]
- **July 29** - The Secretary of the Interior directs DOI to identify and eliminate any preferential treatment for wind and solar facilities and consider withdrawing onshore Wind Energy Areas on public lands.[53]
- **July 29** - DOT announces it will now recommend a restrictive 1.2-mile setback for wind turbines built near highways and railroads.[54]
- **July 30** - BOEM rescinds all designated Wind Energy Areas on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), removing 3.5 million acres of federal waters as designated wind development areas. The action ends the federal practice of identifying and marking significant areas of the OCS for prospective wind development.[55]
- **August 5** - BOEM rescinds its renewable energy leasing schedule, which required the agency to publish five-year lease forecasts every two years.

*Wind and Solar - Funding and Tax Incentives*

- **June 30** - The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) abruptly closes the July 1 Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) application window, with plans to reopen applications in October. But, USDA priorities released in a May agenda indicate the agency will disincentivize the use of USDA funding for solar projects on agricultural land, the primary use of REAP funds.[56]
- **July 4** - OBBBA codifies significant limitations on wind and solar development, terminating production and investment tax credits (PTC and ITC) for all projects beginning construction after July 2026 or coming online after 2027, several years before their phaseout under the IRA, and adding complex requirements for materials sourcing, contracting, and taxpayer requirements with foreign entities.
- **July 10** - *E.O. 14315* places stricter rules on credits for wind and solar projects, clarifying that a "substantial portion" of a facility must be built to claim the credits.[57]
- **July 17** - The Secretary of the Interior announces that all solar and wind projects on federal lands must receive his and his deputy's personal signature, effective immediately.[58] The stringent timelines and sourcing requirements laid out in OBBBA and guidelines released since the bill render the PTC and ITC for wind and solar functionally rescinded.
- **August 15** - The Treasury Department alters criteria for wind and solar projects, requiring that projects complete "physical work of a significant nature" to be considered to have begun construction.[59]

*Expansion of Nuclear Power*

- **May 23** - Four executive orders (*E.O. 14299-14302*) direct agencies to accelerate nuclear expansion through expedited licensing, new reactor development, and reform of the NRC and reactor testing, aiming to increase U.S. nuclear capacity threefold, reaching 400 GW of capacity by 2050.[60–63]
- **July 4** - OBBBA preserves the IRA's phaseout timeline for nuclear, geothermal, and battery facilities, and adds eligibility for fuel cells.
- **August 12** - The DOE selects 11 advanced reactor projects for testing, aiming for the facilities to be operational by July 2026.[64]

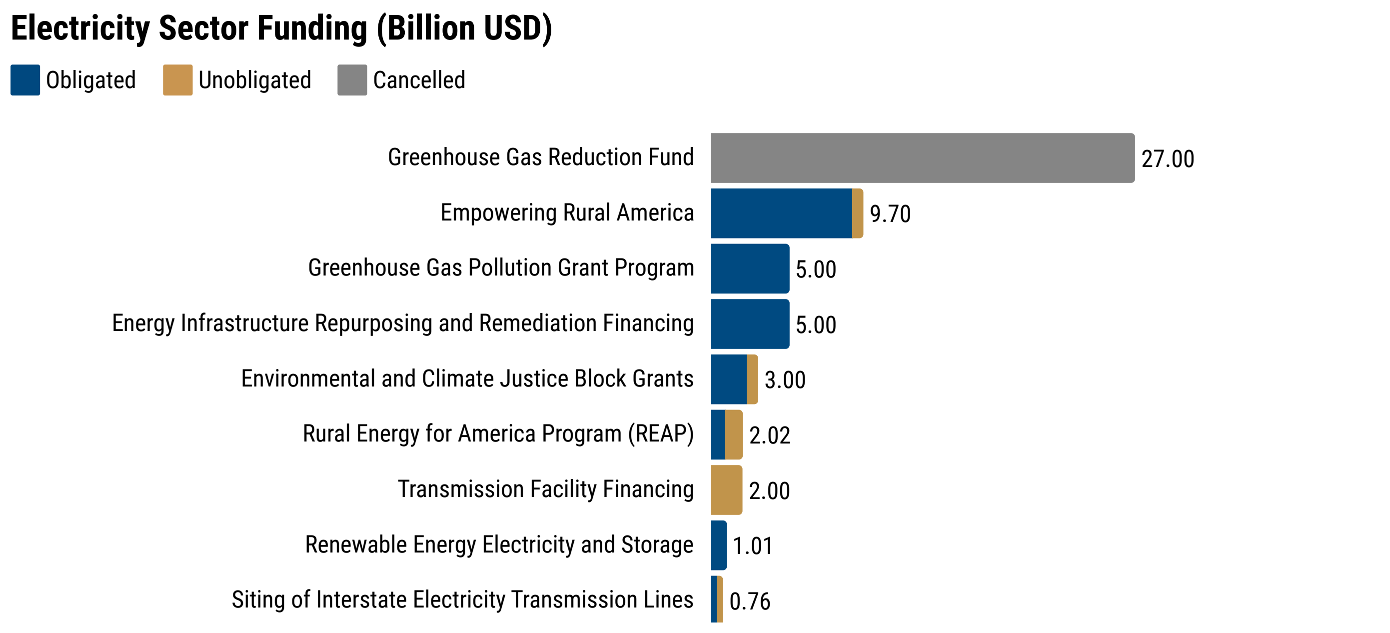


**Figure 3: Electricity sector funding rollbacks.** Some programs were not explicitly designated for electricity projects, such as the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and the Environmental and Climate Justice Block grants, but planned to dedicate substantial amounts of anticipated funds to the sector. The OBBBA rescinds all unobligated funds.

## Transportation Sector Policy Rollbacks

### Current Trends

Transportation comprises the largest share of emissions in the United States, at 28.4% in 2022.[65] Over the past decade, the United States experienced significant electric vehicle (EV) growth, with EVs rising to over 10% of new car sales in recent years, although market share fluctuates year-to-year.[66] Additionally, sales of medium and heavy-duty EVs also continue to rise, though more modestly than for light-duty vehicles (LDVs). Charging networks continue to expand, maintaining steady growth,[66] partially driven by state efforts; as of January 2025, 27 states provide tax incentives, rebates, exemptions for EVs and associated infrastructure.[67]

### Summary of Policy Rollbacks

In alignment with "Unleashing American Energy," which directs institutions to "eliminate the 'electric vehicle (EV) mandate,'" the current administration is reconsidering or terminating any policies favoring vehicle electrification. Rescissions targeting federal grants and loans supporting transportation innovation and electrification infrastructure, federal and state emissions and fuel economy standards, and tax incentives for EVs will make it challenging for states to meet transportation decarbonization targets.

Recent legal action demonstrates that persistent state pressure may unlock some frozen federal funding for charging networks.[68] Additionally, states that adopted California's Advanced Clean Cars II or Advanced Clean Trucks can still choose to honor their commitments, even if they cannot create legally binding standards. In response to the Senate's vote to revoke California's ability to set its own emissions standards, for example, 11 states formed the Affordable Clean Cars Coalition,[69] and California Governor Gavin Newsom passed an Executive Order reaffirming the state's commitment to vehicle electrification and encouraging state vehicle purchases from manufacturers aligned with clean vehicle regulations.[70] Other levers at the state level, including low-carbon fuel standards, EV charging investments, and EV tax incentives, could aid in continuing the transition without federal assistance.

### Timeline of Policy Rollbacks

*Charging Infrastructure Funding*

- **January** - Under "Unleashing American Energy," the administration pauses roughly $2.7 billion in charging infrastructure funding through the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program[68] and $720 million through the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant (CFI) Program.[71] These two programs provide over $7.5 billion to help states finance vehicle electrification networks, the majority of which has been allocated or distributed.
- **June 24** - After 16 states and DC challenge the freeze on NEVI funding, a federal judge issues a preliminary injunction, lifting the freeze and unlocking $1 billion for 14 states.[68]
- **August 11** - The DOT releases interim revised guidance for states seeking NEVI funding, giving them 30 days to submit their plans. Updated guidance removes requirements that the funding comply with Justice40 or other equity-based considerations.[72]

*Vehicle Emissions Standards*

- **March 12** - EPA announces that it will reconsider emissions standards for light-duty, medium-duty, and heavy-duty vehicles, as well as the 2022 Heavy-Duty Nitrous Oxide ($NO_x$) rule, part of the 2024 Clean Trucks Plan.[73]
- **May 12** - Congress passes two CRA joint resolutions revoking California's right to set its own tailpipe emissions standards under the CAA,[74,75] against the advice of both the Government Accountability Office and the Senate Parliamentarian, which independently determined that the CRA was not used appropriately.[76]
- **June 12** - The California District Attorney and ten of the 17 states (plus Washington, D.C.) that adopted Advanced Clean Cars II and/or the Advanced Clean Trucks rules challenge the disapproval of California's waivers.15
- **July 29** - EPA proposes repealing the 2009 Endangerment Finding and all GHG emission standards for light-duty, medium-duty, and heavy-duty vehicles and engines.17

*Fuel Economy Standards*

- **June 11** - DOT announces that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has the authority to alter fuel economy and efficiency standards, asserting that the previous Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards and commercial MHDV and work truck fuel efficiency improvement programs unfairly favored EVs.[77]
- **July 4** - Even though the standards have not yet changed, OBBBA resets the penalty for violating CAFE standards to $0, functionally rolling them back.

*Tax Credits for EVs and Clean Fuels*

OBBBA eliminates nearly all incentives for purchasing, producing, or fueling EVs.

- **July 4** - OBBBA extends biofuel incentives under the Clean Fuel Production Credit through 2029 but terminates all other clean transportation tax credits ahead of schedule. Credits for new, used, and commercial EVs will be repealed for vehicles acquired after September 30, 2025, while credits for alternative fuel installations will be repealed in mid-2026. OBBBA also rescinds unobligated funds for hybrid and electric vehicle grants, sustainable aviation fuels, and the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Loans Program and Section 132 of the CAA, through which the EPA provides funding to transition MHDVs to zero-emission vehicles.

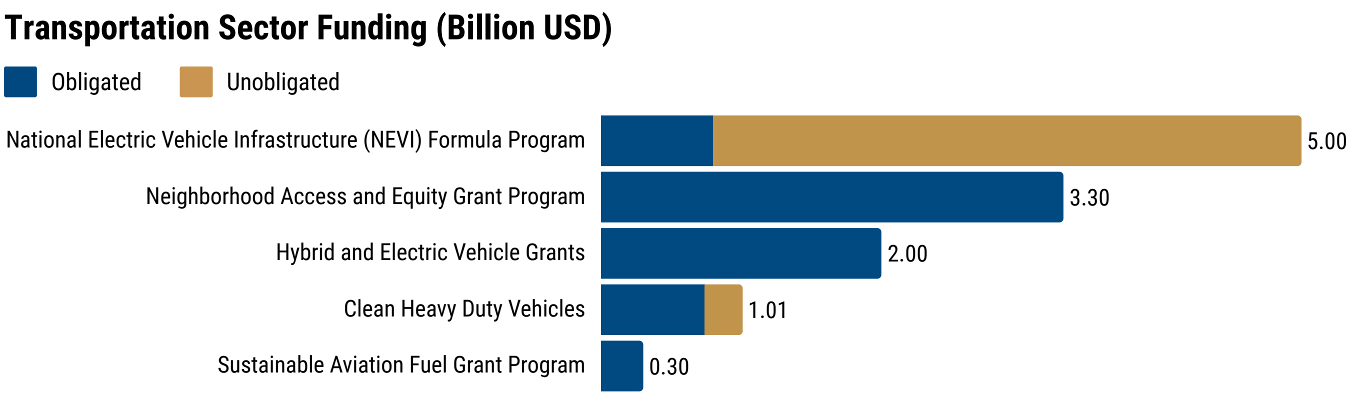


**Figure 4: Transportation sector funding rollbacks.** The OBBBA rescinds all unobligated funds.

## Industry Sector Policy Rollbacks

### Current Trends

Reducing emissions in the industrial sector will require research and development and reduced energy intensity of industrial processes, alongside broader sectoral electrification. The IRA spurred recent industrial innovation, investing $6 billion in demonstration projects and deployment of industrial decarbonization and clean technology manufacturing.[78]

### Summary of Policy Rollbacks

Many federal industrial policies in clean energy, carbon sequestration, and technology have been halted. In May, the Department of Energy cancelled 17 projects aiming to implement carbon capture, low-carbon manufacturing, clean heat and electrification, among other technologies. The future of several regional hydrogen hubs funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) is uncertain.[79] Relative to other sectors, OBBBA repeals fewer tax credits in the industrial sector, with credits for carbon capture and some types of advanced manufacturing remaining (Figure 5), though shifting timelines, loss of funding, and agency actions still pose a threat to industrial decarbonization.

### Timeline of Policy Rollbacks

*Industrial Decarbonization Funding*

- **March 26** - A DOE spreadsheet obtained by POLITICO indicates that the agency is considering cancelling four of the seven hydrogen hubs funded under the BIL, worth $3.875 billion.[79]
- **May 30** - The DOE terminates $3.55 billion in funding for 17 industrial decarbonization projects and seven carbon capture projects issued by the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations.[80]
- **July 4** - OBBBA rescinds all unobligated funds for the Advanced Industrial Facilities Deployment Program, which provides funding for emissions-reducing industrial technology.

*Tax Credits*

- **July 4** - Under OBBBA, the termination timeline for carbon capture credits (Section 45Q) remains the same as under the IRA, and credit eligibility expands to include some forms of carbon utilization. The clean hydrogen production credit (Section 45V) expires a few years early, at the end of 2027. The Advanced Manufacturing Tax Credit (Section 45X) remains intact for the production of solar and battery components, though credits terminate for wind components after 2027, and critical minerals phase out between 2031 and 2033. In alignment with the aims of "Unleashing American Energy," a tax credit for metallurgical coal used for steel production is added, lasting until 2029.

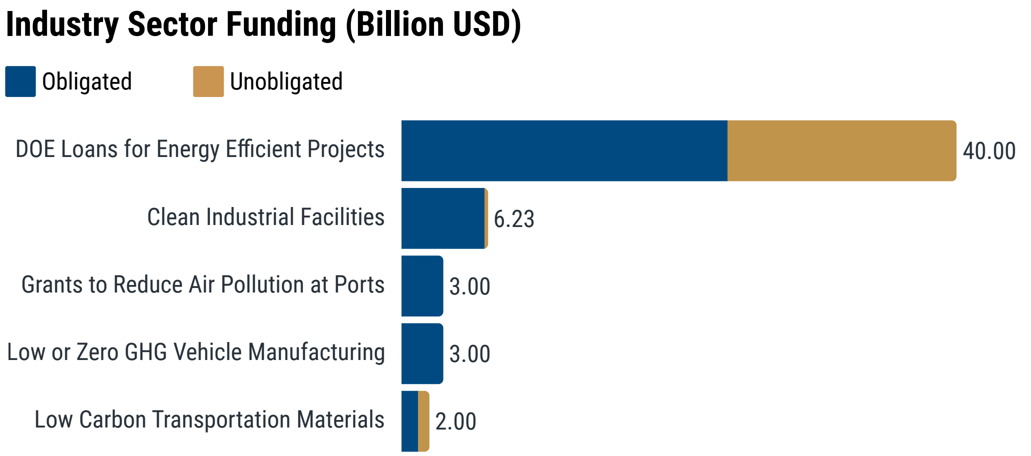


**Figure 5: Industry sector funding rollbacks.** The OBBBA rescinds all unobligated funds.

## Buildings Sector Policy Rollbacks

### Current Trends

Fossil fuel combustion for heating and cooling, appliance and lighting usage, and ventilation are the main contributing sources to GHG emissions from residential and commercial buildings.[65] Under the previous administration, the DOE finalized dozens of appliance efficiency standards and mandated emissions reductions in federal buildings through the Federal Building Performance Standard, while the IRA introduced tax credits for energy-efficient construction and building improvements.[81,82] Additionally, since 2021 and 2023, respectively, sales of heat pumps and electric water heaters outpaced those of fossil space and water heaters.[83] Emissions reduction policies at the state and local levels, which retain jurisdiction over building codes, typically focus on electrification and energy efficiency.[84]

### Summary of Policy Rollbacks

The current administration's deregulatory agenda puts dozens of appliance efficiency standards at risk, alongside the loss of incentives to construct new energy-efficient buildings or retrofit existing stock. Loss of federal funding will make it more difficult for local entities, which often have significant control over building policies, to implement the building retrofits, energy efficiency upgrades, and new construction practices they have in place. However, time remains to claim credits under some provisions that have been preserved under IRA timelines or that do not expire until mid-2026, and states still have the authority to enact efficiency targets, appliance standards, building performance standards, and electrification requirements.

### Timeline of Policy Rollbacks

*Appliance Deregulation*

- **February 14** - The DOE announces plans to delay compliance with seven home appliance efficiency standards set by the previous administration.[85]
- **May 6** - The New York Times reports that the EPA plans to eliminate the Energy Star home appliance energy efficiency certification program, based upon agency documents and a meeting recording.[86]
- **May 9** - The President reinforces broad deregulation of appliances through four joint resolutions signed on May 9 under the CRA,[87–90] eliminating appliance efficiency standards for hot water heaters, refrigerators, and freezers, while also nullifying a program standardizing certification, labeling, and enforcement requirements for consumer and commercial equipment. The same day, the President signs a memorandum directing the DOE to rescind or amend energy and water efficiency standards required by the Energy Policy Act of 1992.[91]
- **May 12** - The DOE followed up on *E.O. 14270* and a presidential memo with an announcement that it will consider withdrawing 47 regulations covering energy and water use standards under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA), as well as test procedures and design requirements for over twenty residential and commercial appliances.[92]

*Incentives for Energy Efficiency and Electrification*

Within this sector, most IRA energy efficiency incentives expire within the next year, about seven years earlier than their original termination date.

- **July 4** - Under OBBBA, tax credits for homeowners to install clean energy systems (Section 25D) or install other energy-saving upgrades (Section 25C) now expire on December 31, 2025, while tax credits for builders and developers of new energy efficient homes (Section 45L) and owners or designers of energy efficient commercial buildings (Section 179D) will terminate on June 30, 2026. Only the High Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Program (Section 50122), which provides funding to states and tribes, is preserved until its original phaseout date in mid-2031, though it is being targeted for rescission under a bill proposed July 25.[93]

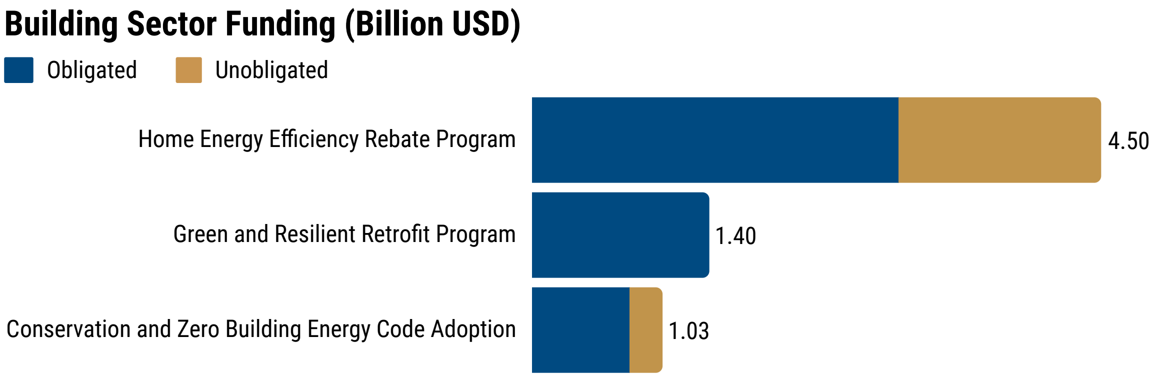


**Figure 6: Buildings sector funding rollbacks.** The OBBBA rescinds all unobligated funds, except for those dedicated to the Home Energy Efficiency Rebate Program.

## Methane and HFCs Sector Policy Rollbacks

### Current Trends

Methane emissions are primarily driven by agriculture (34%) and oil and gas (28%), followed by landfills (16%), with coal mining, flooded land, land use, and other sources also contributing.[94] Methane emissions are disbursed, requiring coordination for mitigation, but many emissions, especially from oil and gas, can be reduced at low cost. The previous administration made significant progress towards mitigating methane emissions by establishing reporting and monitoring requirements, a methane fee, and regulations to prevent methane loss at oil and gas fields.[95] The AIM Act, passed in 2020, gave the EPA the authority to address hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), a class of greenhouse gases commonly used in refrigerants and aerosols. In 2022, the United States ratified the Kigali Amendment, pledging to phase down HFC production and consumption, and under the IRA, invested $38.5 million for AIM Act implementation.[96]

### Summary of Policy Rollbacks

Currently, the EPA is reconsidering federal limits to methane and other pollutants, accountability measures through the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program, and the Waste Emissions Charge, also delaying compliance with new and existing source regulations promulgated in 2024. The elimination of federal methane rules will markedly change the regulatory landscape. While nine states have enacted oil and gas methane regulations,[97] it will be important for other states to regulate their oil and gas methane while increasing efforts to mitigate agricultural and landfill methane.

### Timeline of Policy Rollbacks

*Methane*

- **March 12** - EPA announces plans to reconsider the previous administration's methane and other air pollutant regulations for the industrial sector under Section 111 of the CAA and the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GGRP).[98] The GGRP, which collects emissions data from over 8,000 facilities, accounting for 85-90% of national emissions, is at risk of a complete overhaul.
- **March 14** - A CRA joint resolution was signed disapproving of the EPA's fee on methane emissions from the oil and gas sector, the policy implementing the IRA's Waste Emissions Charge. In accordance with the CRA, the EPA withdraws the implementation rule but not the fee itself.[99] Although the methane fee still exists, there is currently no mechanism to enforce or collect it.
- **July 31** - In accordance with the March 12 order, EPA extends the compliance deadlines for methane and other air pollutant regulations under Section 111 of the CAA, which the EPA estimates will result in an additional 3.8 million tons of methane, 960,000 tons of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and 36,000 tons of toxic air pollutant emissions between 2028 and 2038.[100]

*HFCs*

- **March 12** - The EPA announces plans to reconsider the Technology Transition Rule within the AIM Act, which limits HFC use in certain sectors.[101]
- **July 4** - OBBBA rescinds unobligated funds for hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) management and mitigation through the AIM Act. However, these funds, dedicated to program administration and research, were fully obligated at the time of the OBBBA's passage, and should be available for use by research institutions and the EPA.

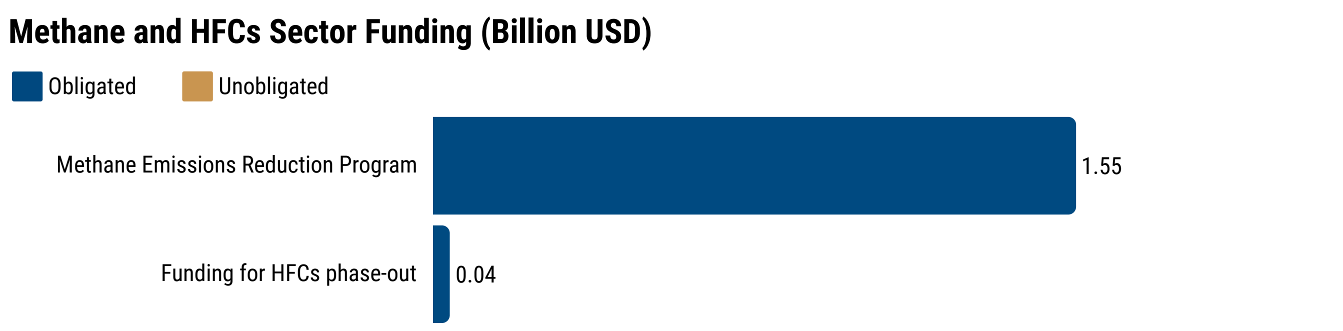


**Figure 7: Methane and Other GHGs sector funding rollbacks**. Regulations withdrawn for the Methane Emissions Reduction Program through the CRA. The OBBBA rescinds all unobligated funds.

## Lands Sector Policy Rollbacks

### Current Trends

The total net sink from land use, land-use change, and forestry decreased 12.5% between 1990 and 2022, primarily driven by lost forest land.[65] Maintaining and boosting the country's carbon sink, through afforestation and improved soil management, could aid in reducing national emissions while providing extensive co-benefits. Federal funding from the IRA and BIL expanded land conservation, fire prevention, and forest restoration programs, while state programs such as local government incentives for wildfire prevention in Colorado and Minnesota's soil health program continue to strengthen the land sink.[102]

### Summary of Policy Rollbacks

The federal government intends to overhaul public land agencies through funding and staffing cuts to the National Park Service, National Forest Service, U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Public land management priorities are shifting from conservation to increased resource procurement, as indicated through executive orders and agency actions.

### Timeline of Policy Rollbacks

*Forests and Timber*

- **March 1** - *E.O. 14225* directs expanded timber production.[103]
- **April 3** - USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins responds to *E.O. 14225* with a Secretarial Memorandum to increase timber production and designate an emergency situation on national forest system lands.[104]
- **June 23** - Secretary Rollins rescinds the Roadless Rule, allowing for the construction of roads on roughly 59 million acres of National Forest System land for fire prevention and timber production.[105]

*Federal Lands*

- **April 15** - EPA expands the 2022 Construction General Permit to all Lands of Exclusive Federal Jurisdiction, making it easier to provide permits to projects subject to Clean Water Act requirements.[106]
- **May 13** - BLM commits to expediting oil and gas leasing on public lands, shortening the parcel review process to six months.[107]

*Conservation Funding*

- **July 4** - OBBBA rescinds over $16 billion in unobligated funds for several USDA programs focused on agricultural conservation.[108] Affected programs include the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program. The bill also rescinds remaining funds for public and private forest conservation, including through the Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program and Forest Legacy Program.

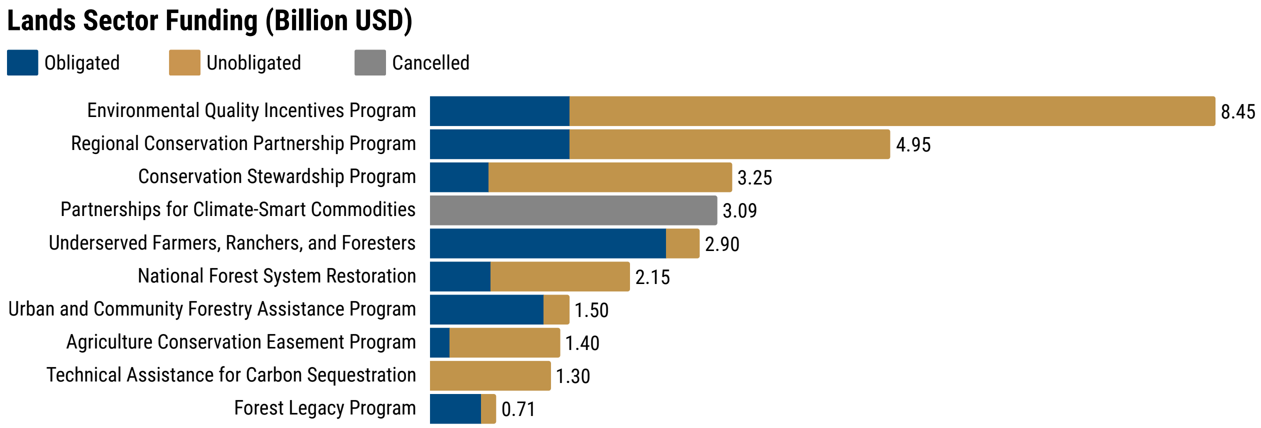


**Figure 8: Lands sector funding rollbacks.** The OBBBA rescinds all unobligated funds.

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