



FIRST EDGI ANNUAL REPORT



EDGI Environmental Data
& Governance Initiative

March 1, 2018



FIRST EDGI ANNUAL REPORT

Stephanie Knutson
Marcy Beck
Steven Braun
Ray Cha
Lindsey Dillon
Gretchen Gehrke
Rebecca Lave
Michelle Murphy
Matt Price
Toly Rinberg
Sara Rubinow
Chris Sellers
Nick Shapiro
Kyala Shea
Lourdes Vera
Dawn Walker
Sara Wylie
EDGI

March 1, 2018

The [Environmental Data & Governance Initiative](https://envirodatagov.org) (EDGI) is an international network of academics, professionals, and non-profits that promotes open and accessible government data and information along with evidence-based policy making.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Introduction</u>	3
<u>How We Got Here</u>	4
<u>Interviewing</u>	8
<u>Archiving</u>	10
<u>Public Archiving Events</u>	10
<u>Archiving & Community Tech Support</u>	12
<u>Data Together</u>	12
<u>Website Monitoring</u>	15
<u>Environmental Data Justice</u>	17
<u>Publications</u>	19
<u>100 Days and Counting Reports</u>	19
<u>Public Commentaries and Op-eds</u>	25
<u>Published Peer Reviewed Articles</u>	25
<u>Academic Publications That Mention EDGI</u>	27
<u>Financial Overview</u>	28
<u>Where We're Headed</u>	30

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first annual report of the [Environmental Data & Governance Initiative](#) (EDGI). In the last year we have formed a thriving organization, supported almost entirely by volunteer labor, driven by a shared concern about the dismantling of federal environmental protections. Together we've accomplished more than we could have imagined. We invite you to learn more about our organization and to celebrate all we have done in the past year. Thank you so much for all of your support.



Figure 1: EDGI members presenting [a poster](#) for the Society of Social Studies of Science (4S) Making and Doing conference August 31st 2017. EDGI received a [4S award](#) for a Distinguished Contribution to Making and Doing in STS. Members back left to right: Becky Mansfield, Nick Shapiro, Michelle Murphy, Dawn Walker, Phil Brown, Lindsey Dillion, Rebecca Lave; front left to right, Lourdes Vera and Sara Wylie.

HOW WE GOT HERE

On November 11th, 2016, I emailed a dozen colleagues to initiate a collective conversation on how we might be able to organize in anticipation of the new administration's likely dismantlement of federal environmental and climate protections. Aware that the view from one profession or location would be insufficient to understand how federal scientific integrity might be compromised, the initial group was both multidisciplinary—historians, anthropologists, sociologists, a geographer, and an environmental chemist—and distributed across anglophone North America—Boston, Houston, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Newfoundland, North Carolina, and Toronto. Slow at first, replies then began to flood in. Each person brought insights and resources, and added more and more people to the email CC line. The sincerity and ease of collective action were perfectly antithetical to the disconcerting actions unrolling at the highest level of our government. Not only was the Environmental Data and Governance Initiative (EDGI) built in the style of an everyone-lends-a-hand barn raising, but it was also designed in that same distributed manner. We have no founder, no charismatic leader; we have each other in coordinated and mutually-edifying action.

Today EDGI is supported by over 160 members, our volunteer community numbers nearly 1,000, and more than 110 web developers make up our software development community. Our work is almost entirely volunteer-based, with only a handful of members receiving any financial compensation for their contributions. The multitude of professions, locations, and expertise that now constitute our group is more diverse than I can list on a single page. We catalyzed a national movement to consider and intervene in the vulnerability of environmental data. We develop software to track changes on federal environmental websites. To more deeply follow changes to federal agencies we interview current and recently retired Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) personnel. We've served as a key reference in a letter penned by seven senators to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, given voice to a collective of federal environmental employees larger than any journalistic organization could assemble, and made significant headway on building more robust infrastructures for the environmental and climate data that is needed to be informed stewards of this earth. We've been shadowed by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists and spoofed by [late night comedy shows](#). Throughout it all, the

thoughtfulness, poise, and dedication of EDGI collaborators provides daily inspiration and rejuvenation. The labor of so many people from so many different walks of life and places has interwoven in our collective work a common voice that demands transparency, integrity, and equity in constructing environmental data and governance. We are proud to have had our work recognized by two awards this year: the J. Franklin Jameson Archival Advocacy Award from the Society of American Archivists and the Making and Doing Award for Outstanding Achievement from the Society for the Social Studies of Science.

In the year ahead, we will continue consolidating all of this work into resources to support scientific integrity and government transparency. Our archived climate data will be introduced into a clearinghouse to help state policy makers mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. Our open source website monitoring platform will begin to be used by partner accountability organizations and ultimately will be open to all. Our environmental data justice working group will launch two prototypes for forward-thinking improvements to data practices, and our interviewing team will be issuing further reports on the ongoing changes to the EPA.

Onwards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a large 'N' and ending with a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

Nick Shapiro
EDGI

**Your support
makes this work possible**

DONATE NOW

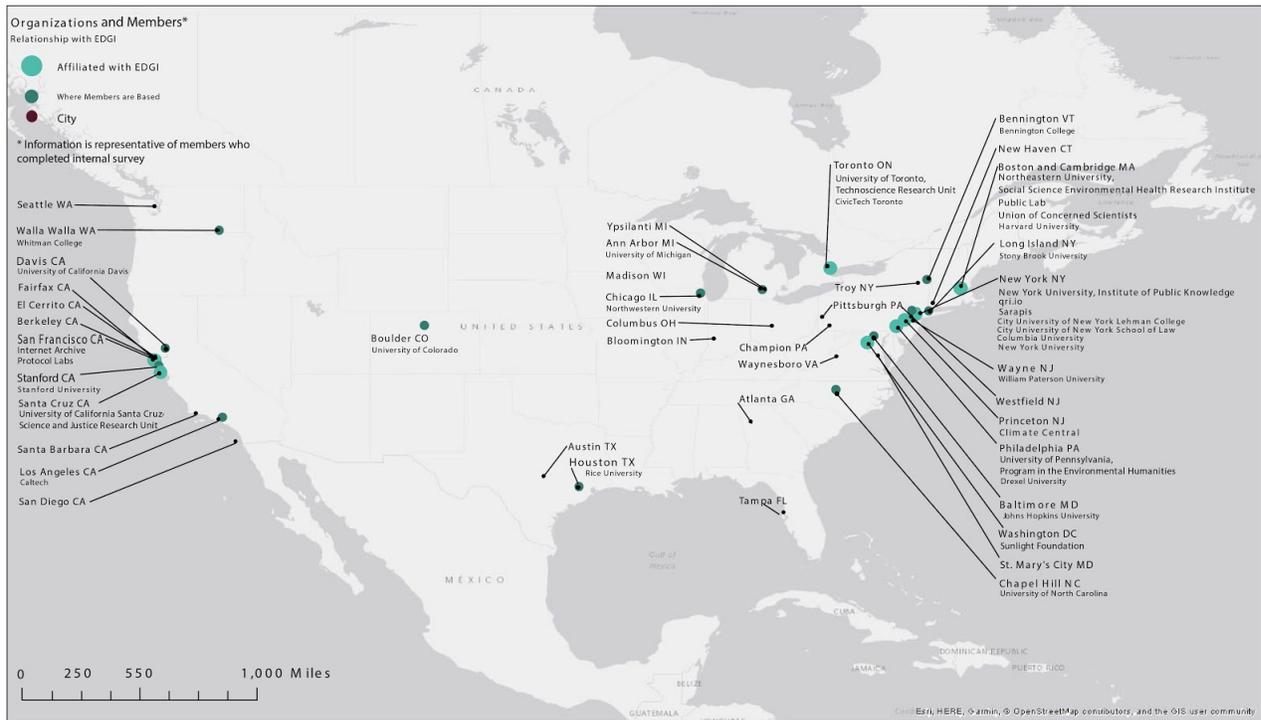


Figure 2: Map of EDGI members in the United States and Canada and their affiliations. Image credit: Lourdes Vera and Ray Cha. Data from the internal EDGI member survey, map created in ESRI ArcGIS and Adobe Illustrator, Basemap from OpenStreetMap.

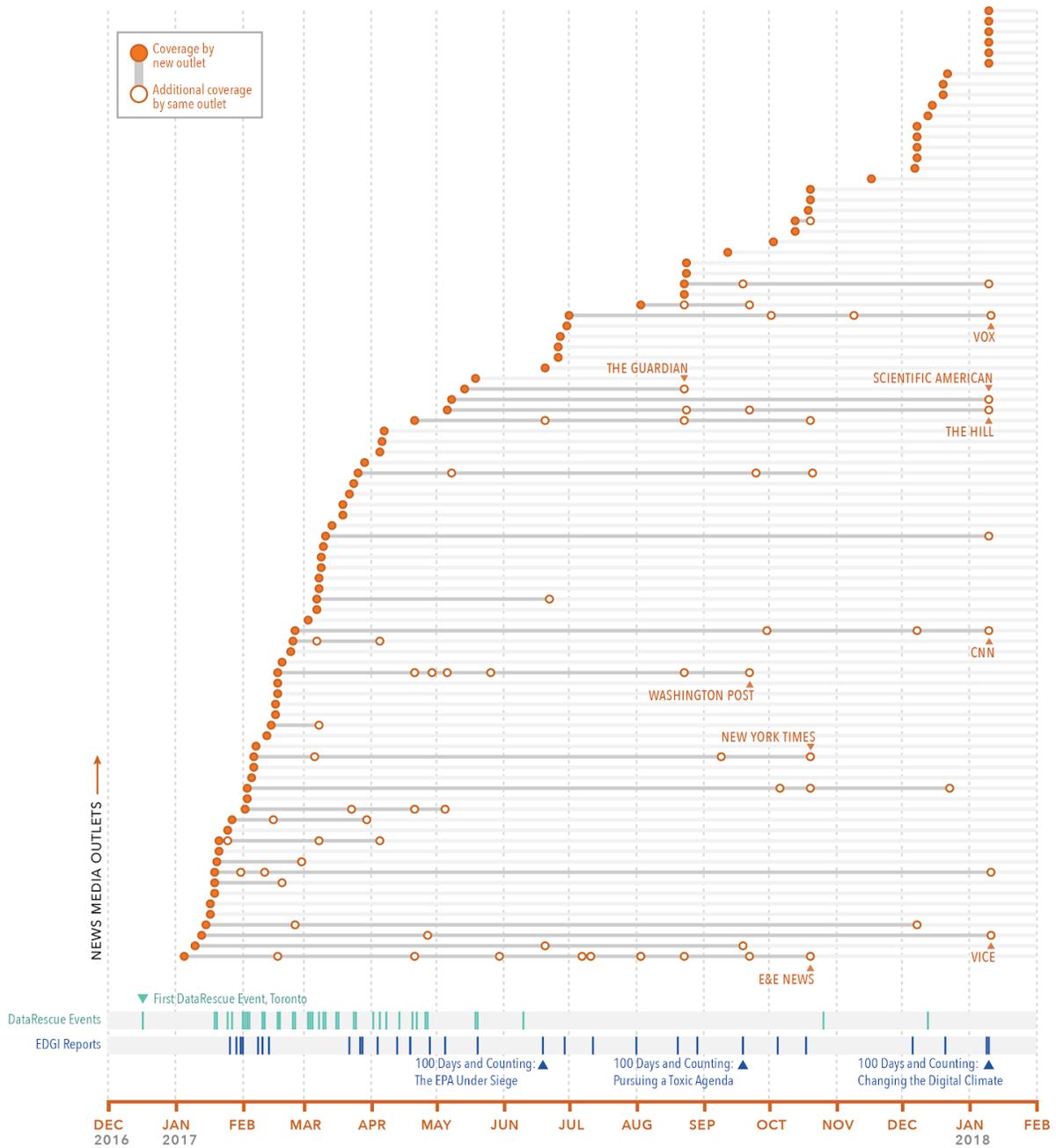


Figure 3: Media coverage of EDGI in 2017 by significant EDGI events including DataRescue events and publication of Web Monitoring and reports in the [100 Days and Counting](#) series. Graphic credit: Steven Braun, using data compiled by Lourdes Vera.

INTERVIEWING

Among EDGI's initial projects was the launching of a confidential interviewing/oral history project with long-time federal environmental employees, mainly at EPA but also at OSHA. Initially the interviewing project sought a human and nuanced perspective on these environmental agencies, one that extended beyond publicly accessible data and websites targeted by other EDGI activities to examine these agencies' inner workings. We also aimed to preserve institutional memory that seemed threatened by the new administration and to situate ongoing impacts historically. As both the project and the impacts of Trump and Pruitt unfolded, we found ways of publicly presenting our findings while protecting interviewee identities that made the interviewing project into something more: it has provided a public window on what the new administration has been doing to the EPA while giving public voice to a widespread internal discontent with, and criticism of, agency leadership.

We began in December of 2016, primarily with retired employees found through invitations distributed by agency alumni groups as well as contacts already known to some of us through previous research. Through snowballing (asking interviewees for further contacts), we also began speaking with some current employees. The interviewing was conducted by trained teams of volunteers in Washington DC, Boston, the San Francisco Bay Area, New Jersey, Colorado, and Vermont, with long-term EPA and OSHA employees. By June of 2017, interviewers had conducted, transcribed, and analyzed interviews with 62 agency personnel—51 who had or still worked for EPA and 9 for OSHA. Interviewees came from a range of professional backgrounds—lawyers, scientists, and policy experts—and had experience in many different parts of the agency, with the enforcement and water offices best represented.

EDGI's interviewing team then spearheaded a 96-page report combining findings from the interviews with deep digs into historical literature and archives, entitled "[EPA Under Siege: Trump's Transition in History and Memory](#)." This inaugural installment of EDGI's report series, 100 Days and Counting, compared the approach to the EPA during the first five months of the Trump administration to the course of earlier presidential administrations in North America that targeted their own environmental agencies with comparable aggression, in the early Reagan administration (1981–1983) and under Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper

(2006–2015). EDGI analysts concluded that the Trump assault was on track to surpass these. The report, the first comprehensive public perspective on the actual impacts of the Trump administration inside this 15,000 person agency, was immediately hailed in publications from [Mother Jones](#) to [Bill Moyers](#) to [Grist](#) (Eco-watch found it “[stunning](#)”). It helped steer journalists past the media hype and deregulatory efforts emanating from the White House and Pruitt’s administrative office, to spotlight what was happening across the rest of this vital environmental agency. In August, 2017, [front-page coverage by The New York Times](#) highlighted Pruitt’s impacts inside the EPA for the first time. EDGI’s study provided important backing for this piece, from quotes by interviewing team leadership to stories gathered from our interviewees to an online link to our report. Since then, with some regularity, journalists from the The New York Times, The Washington Post, and other environmental reporters now approach EDGI’s interview team with inquiries about the opinions and experiences of EPA employees. We are also collaborating with the Environmental Protection Network, a group of former EPA employees, to ensure that environmental journalists have channels to former as well as current EPA staff and their views.

The interviewing project is ongoing. As of the end of 2017, we had conducted 82 interviews and were making new contacts, especially with those who had departed the agency through voluntary buyouts over the fall. We are planning a further round of conversations that will enable a follow-up report and interview compendium, to be prepared in late spring or early summer 2018, covering EPA’s first year and a half under Trump and Pruitt. Interviewees’ knowledge is already helping us understand ongoing dynamics inside the EPA and other environmental agencies as they are being reshaped by the Trump administration.

ARCHIVING

One aspect of EDGI's work is seeking to ensure the continued public access to potentially vulnerable scientific data and web pages from The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), The Department of Energy (DOE), The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), The Department of the Interior (DOI), and The United States Geological Survey (USGS). This has occurred through public archiving events, ongoing grassroots archiving tech community support, mentoring Google Summer of Code students, and our involvement in the nascent Data Together initiative.

Public Archiving Events

From December 2016 through June 2017, scholars, students, technologists, and local organizers from across the United States and Canada attended DataRescue events to nominate key government web pages for archiving as part of the nonprofit digital library [Internet Archive](#), and to develop methods to archive datasets and dynamic sites that would not be preserved through automated methods. In total, 49 DataRescue events were held in cities across the U.S. and Canada. Using an EDGI-developed browser extension, participants at these events nominated approximately 63,000 web pages as "seeds" for web crawling operations by the Internet Archive. A further 22,000 data sets were identified as candidates for non-automated preservation, and several hundred of these went through a workflow designed to provide a verifiable copy and preserve citability, and were uploaded to the [DataRefuge repository](#) organized by collaborators at the University of Pennsylvania. EDGI volunteers played an important role in building and providing the toolkits, demystifying web archiving basics, writing [agency "primers"](#) that helped participants know what to archive, and providing organizational training and support that made these local events possible. In addition, EDGI played an important role in gathering a community of volunteer technologists who continued to build the software behind the online pipeline that coordinated archiving work across events.

Working with local organizers and hundreds of volunteers, these actions contributed to the largest-ever Internet Archive [End of Term Harvest](#). According to the [Internet Archive](#), EDGI along with other collaborators to the End of Term Harvest (aka the End of Term Web Archive) nominated over 100,000 new web pages or government datasets as seeds and overall archived over 200 terabytes of government websites and data between fall 2016 and spring 2017:

“This includes over 100TB of public websites and over 100TB of public data from federal FTP file servers for a combined total of over 350 million URLs and files, including over 70 million HTML pages, over 40 million PDFs and (for semantic web aficionados) 8 text/turtle MIME type files.”
([Internet Archive 2017](#))

Fortunately, we have not observed removal of government datasets from the public Web as of early 2018. Instead, the strong public interest and participation in data archiving sparked unprecedented public and media attention directed at the question of how to care for environmental and climate data for the future.



Figure 4: Data archivers at work at the San Francisco Bay Area DataRescue event, February 11th 2017.

Archiving & Community Tech Support

EDGI volunteers have continued to build tools towards public web archiving and scraping. Another set of volunteer efforts has helped coordinate and foster the positive online space within EDGI for ongoing open-source and community-driven tool development that brings together people with diverse tech skills working across different time zones. Some of these tools have been specific to the DataRescue workflow, while others are more general. All of our tools and workflow documents can be accessed through the [EDGI GitHub](#). The EDGI GitHub has 117 contributors and 17 “teams,” with 45 “repos” (repositories for projects).

Tools for Archiving:

- <https://github.com/edgi-govdata-archiving/archivers-harvesting-tools>
- <https://github.com/edgi-govdata-archiving/archivers.space>
- <https://github.com/edgi-govdata-archiving/workflow>

Volunteer technology creation within EDGI is inherently collaborative, and in order to support this we’ve engaged in concerted outreach. This has included holding 22 Coding Nights hosted at Civic Tech Toronto and ChiHack nights in Chicago. We have organized over 40 community calls, developer standup meetings, have created processes to onboard and welcome new contributions, and have held numerous community building sessions.

EDGI’s Archiving and Web Monitoring Working Groups participated in the [2017 Google Summer of Code](#), during which we mentored two students, Harsh Baid and Janak Raj Chandra. They worked on creating a [Data Visualization](#) of Data Rescue archiving work and a [system to classify changes for our Website Monitoring project](#).

Data Together

In [July 2017](#), we jointly partnered with [qri.io](#) and [Protocol Labs](#), creators of [InterPlanetary File System \(IPFS\)](#), to launch [Data Together](#), a project to create a

decentralized, distributed storage infrastructure for scientific and other data such as the “grey literature” (unpublished literature or literature published non-commercially such as government reports) used by policymakers. Using new protocols, Data Together is iterating on a collaboration platform that allows users and communities to easily “capture” datasets, verify them, track provenance, and make them accessible to others by providing decentralized, interlinked “nodes” that serve copies of datasets to the public. EDGI and our partners see Data Together as an important step forward towards a robust, reliable way to keep government data available to scientists and citizens for the long term. A demo of a Data Together prototype was held in Boston in August 2017 at our EDGI Enacting Environmental Data Justice Event. Two months later, we held a two-day Project Sprint on Data Together with collaborators across the cities of Toronto, Boston, and New York. We hope to soon be launching our first major partnership (to be announced) with a community of climate policy makers and scientists.

To learn more about the Data Together project, see:

- The [Data Together website](#)
- The public [Data Together GitHub](#)
- Watch online talks discussing the Data Together vision:
 - Dawn Walker talking on [“Ensuring Climate Data Remains Public”](#) at 34C3.
 - Matt Zumwalt talking on [“Golden Age for Libraries - Storing Data Together”](#) at Code4Lib2017; at the [ESIP Summer Meeting](#); and at [NDSR Symposium at the World Bank](#).



Figure 5: EDGI and Data Together members after our first in-person Partners Meeting on August 29th, 2017. Back row from left: Matt Price, Liz Barry, Jeff Lui, Dawn Walker, Brendan O'Brien. Front row from left: Matt Zumwalt, Justin Schell, Mike Hucka, Rico Gardaphe.

WEBSITE MONITORING

The data and knowledge created and stored by the federal government is a public resource that should benefit everyone. To understand how the presentation of information is shifting and to hold the federal government accountable for how it decides to present that information, EDGI has been monitoring alterations to federal environmental, climate, and energy websites.

On a weekly basis, volunteer analysts on [EDGI's Website Monitoring Team](#) track changes to tens of thousands of web pages. Using Web crawling and archiving tools, the analysts are notified when the web pages they are monitoring are altered in any way, and then inspect the changes for significance. The analysts make use of the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine to corroborate and confirm all identified changes. Volunteers from the U.S. and Canada meet on a weekly video conference call to discuss their findings. Through a rigorous internal review process, the team writes [reports](#) documenting the important changes they discover, and subsequently sends these reports to a large pool of environmental journalists and civil society organizations for wider dissemination.

EDGI has been enormously successful in its website monitoring work, generating a continual stream of concrete demonstrations of how Web content is being altered under the Trump administration. EDGI website monitoring reports have been cited in more than 120 news articles and are regularly covered by [The Washington Post](#), [The New York Times](#), [POLITICO](#), [E&E News](#), [The Guardian](#), [Vox](#) and other outlets. In December 2017, our work was featured in [CNN Politics](#) and aired on a [CNN segment](#), as well as was written about in a [PBS Frontline piece](#). We are an important source for the Union of Concerned Scientists, which published a [blog post](#) by our team.

In one of its most significant findings, EDGI published a [report](#) and [blog post](#), documenting how a previous EPA website with climate and energy resources for state, local, and tribal governments was replaced by one that is 200 pages smaller and omits climate information. Following [The New York Times](#) coverage, seven Democratic senators wrote a [letter](#) to EPA Administrator Pruitt requesting that the previous website be returned and that an explanation for the removals be provided. The issues around the significant climate change website overhaul were

raised in Administrator Pruitt’s House hearing on December 7, 2017, and staffers were briefed in advance of Mr. Pruitt’s Senate hearing on January 30, 2018, where Senator Carper also brought up the website overhaul during his opening remarks.”

In early January, EDGI released a report, “[Changing the Digital Climate](#),” providing an in-depth analysis of how federal climate change Web content has been censored in the first year of the Trump administration. The report was covered by [The New York Times](#), discussed on [PRI’s The World](#), and across many other outlets. The report describes the most significant documented changes to federal environmental websites, including the loss of climate Web resources on the EPA website and other agency websites, downplaying of U.S. international climate policy, a shift in stated priorities away from renewable energy and toward fossil fuels, new emphasis on job growth, and a change in language used to describe climate, with explicit mentions such as “climate change” and “greenhouse gases” being replaced by vague terms like “sustainability” and “emissions.”

Future work includes the continued development of a [public Web monitoring platform](#) to archive and monitor government websites. The Web monitoring platform will integrate snapshots from the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine, allowing analysts to make use of a vast historical record. Through collaboration with PageFreezer, EDGI will add to the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine records by transferring an extensive archive built by EDGI and PageFreezer to the Wayback Machine, which includes comprehensive records of EPA.gov and NOAA.gov among other domains. This will enable EDGI, EDGI’s partners, and the public to see their government’s work; it will increase the transparency of how information is reordered, added, altered, or removed; and it will ensure consistent access to public data and information.

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA JUSTICE

Environmental Data Justice (EDJ) is the guiding principle of all of EDGI's work, from archiving environmental data to monitoring federal websites to developing positive visions of better, more inclusive environmental protection. EDJ draws from critical traditions of questioning what counts as data, what data is (and is not) collected, and by whom; encourages us to ask who is involved in the scientific process and who is excluded; whose knowledge and expertise is valued and whose devalued.

Existing environmental policies and regulations have failed to prevent climate change, to reduce the regularity of industrial accidents and toxic contamination, and to prevent grave environmental harms to Indigenous territories, poor communities, and communities of color. As environmental justice activists have noted, collecting more and better data is central to documenting and addressing each of these concerns. However, in recent years, big data and surveillance have increasingly negatively affected communities, labor, immigration governance, border practices, and policing. EDJ argues that data is neither neutral, nor inherently good, but sits instead at the nexus of questions about justice, inclusion, and accessibility.

Over our first year, we established the [EDJ Working Group](#) within EDGI, held a conference on [Enacting Data Justice](#) in Boston in August 2017, wrote several collective academic articles on EDJ, conducted EDJ analysis in our ["Pursuing a Toxic Agenda" report](#), and started putting EDJ principles to work in our partnership in the Data Together project. As we move into 2018, we will continue to develop the EDJ framework as a guide for rebuilding government environmental protections and creating more accessible and community-driven data infrastructures.



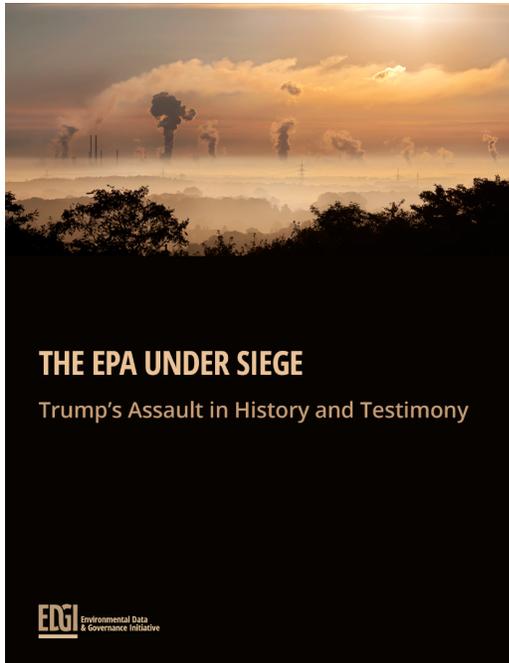
Figure 6: EDGI members developing the concepts of Environmental Data Justice at EDGI's "Enacting Environmental Data Justice Event" hosted by Northeastern University August 29th 2017. From left to right: Phil Brown, Patrick Connelly, Beth Coleman, and Lindsey Dillon.

PUBLICATIONS

EDGI places a priority on timely, public-oriented writing, while also pursuing publication in scholarly, peer-reviewed journals. EDGI has released three extensive reports on the Trump administration's effects on environmental data and governance as part of its series, "100 Days and Counting." EDGI members have also written shorter publications, including [annotations on Administrator Pruitt's first address to the EPA](#) (picked up by *Newsweek* and *Environmental Health News*), a [white paper on H.R. 1430](#), and [an op-ed](#) in *The New York Times* on website alterations of climate change information. EDGI members have also drawn on their own expertise as historians and social scientists to publish timely analyses of current events in *The Washington Post*, *Vox*, *Times Higher Education*, and *Cultural Anthropology*. Lastly, EDGI members published co-authored articles in scholarly journals *Environmental Justice* and *American Journal of Public Health*. Other articles are in the process of being revised for *Geo: Geography and Environment* and are under review at *Mobilization* and *American Association of Geographers*.

100 Days and Counting Reports

With the election of an anti-science and anti-environment president, EDGI's founders felt it vital to innovate new forms of public scholarship. To provide rapid academic analysis on systematic changes to environmental governance under the Trump administration, over 50 members of EDGI have collaborated to author, edit, and design a series of open access, original research reports entitled [The First 100 Days and Counting](#).



PART 1:

The EPA Under Siege

Trump's Assault in History and Testimony

June 19, 2017

This report analyzes more than 50 interviews conducted by EDGI members with present and former employees of the EPA and OSHA. It compares the changes reported in these interviews to historically similar cases of the Reagan administration and Harper administration in Canada. EDGI's extensive interviews reveal that morale at the EPA has plummeted, anxiety is high, and much work has been "paralyzed." The current administration is on track to deal the EPA a deeper and more lasting blow than Reagan did, exposing an increasing number of Americans to environmental and health threats the EPA was created to combat.



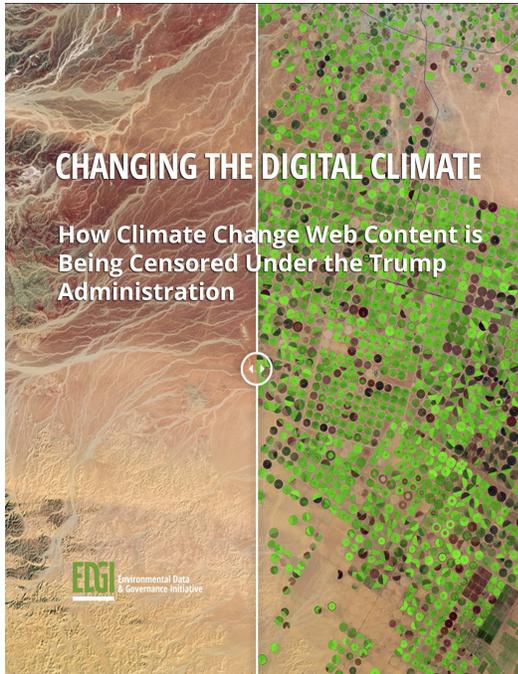
PART 2:

Pursuing a Toxic Agenda

Environmental Injustice in the Early Trump Administration

Sept 19, 2017

This report builds on an interview with Mustafa Ali, the former head of EPA's office of Environmental Justice, who resigned following the nomination of Scott Pruitt to lead the EPA. We found that the Trump administration has already reversed decades of environmental justice work via policies, proposed budget cuts, stated priorities, and political appointments that will increase toxic burdens on children, low-income communities, and communities of color. In particular, we found increased risk to those living near hazardous industrial facilities and farmworker families through: support for the Dakota Access Pipeline; reversal of a ban on chlorpyrifos, an agricultural pesticide known to cause developmental damage in children; rollback of workplace safety regulations; and rollback of environmental data collection and access, vital to proving environmental injustice. In response, EDGI proposed a new framework of Environmental Data Justice to reimagine and reconstruct society's relationship to data with the values of justice, inclusion and accessibility.



PART 3:

Changing the Digital Climate

How Climate Change Web Content is Being Censored Under the Trump Administration

January 10, 2018

This report draws on the growing [library of reports](#) produced by EDGI's Website Monitoring working group, which monitors changes to tens of thousands of federal webpages relating to the environment, climate, and energy. We describe the clear pattern of censorship of climate change information and resources including: the EPA's removal and ongoing overhaul of its climate change website; several agencies' removal or significant reduction in the prominence of climate change Web content; the Department of State, the DOE, and the EPA's removal of information about the federal government's international obligations regarding climate change; and the systematic change in language about climate change across multiple agency and program websites.

Data Transparency

EDGI models and develops transparent approaches to evidence-based arguments online, where raw data is made available while protecting vulnerable participants' anonymity. In a climate of fake news, it is vital that we restore and develop new norms for evidence-based analysis. To protect the confidentiality of participants in our interview study, we shared a [compendium](#) of deidentified quotes from interviews, organized by theme. For "Pursuing a Toxic Agenda", we shared a detailed description of our [data methods](#), describing the data used in each figure

and discrepancies found in the original data as well as a [full transcript of an interview](#) with the former head of the EPA office of Environmental Justice, Mustafa Ali, which informed our report. For “Changing the Digital Climate”, we shared [EDGI Website Monitoring reports](#) that contain before-and-after screenshots of each change described in the report.

Open Peer Review

Because peer review can be a very slow process, we opted to self publish these reports along with peer reviews from top researchers and leaders in the fields of [environmental history, environmental justice, and climate change](#). Paul Edwards, a leading historian of Climate Change and author of *A Vast Machine: Computer Models, Climate Data, and the Politics of Global Warming* (MIT Press, 2010), begins his two page response to our latest report with:

“The Environmental Data and Governance Initiative has emerged as one of America’s most important political watchdogs. In “Changing the Digital Climate”, EDGI documents the Trump administration’s all-out assault on hard-won knowledge about the causes and consequences of climate change.”

<https://envirodatagov.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Part-III-Report-Comment-from-Paul-Edwards.pdf>

Impact of the Reports

Collectively, [over 21 news articles](#) have described, commented on, and publicized our reports. Highlights include coverage in *The New York Times*, CNN, Vox, and *Scientific American*. Our reports have also received academic coverage by the Social Science Research Council and Rice University’s Cultures of Energy Podcast.

The reports have been retweeted hundreds of times, including by Twitter influencer altEPA, where our second report was liked 253 times and retweeted 243 times:



Figure 7: Screenshot of tweet from altEPA about EDGI's "Pursuing a Toxic Agenda Report" post on September 20th 2017.

EDGI Short Publications

Commentary: Phil Brown, Gretchen Gehrke, Michelle Murphy, Chris Sellers, and Sara Wylie (2017, February 23) "[Scott Pruitt's First Address to the EPA: As Annotated by EDGI](#)".

White Paper: Vivian Underhill, Megan Martenyi, Sarah Lamdan, and Andrew Bergman (2017, March 27) "[Public Protections Under Threat at the EPA: Examining Safeguards and Programs That Would Have Been Blocked by H.R. 1430](#)".

Public Commentaries and Op-Eds

Blog post: Lindsey Dillon and Christopher Sellers. [Environmental Data and Governance in the Trump Era](#). Social Sciences Research Council. December 2017.

Op-ed: Toly Rinberg and Andrew Bergman, "[Censoring Climate Change](#)," *The New York Times*, November 22, 2017.

Op-ed: Leif Fredrickson (2017, September 28) "[The federal agency that few Americans have heard of and which we all need to know](#)." *The Washington Post*.

Blog post: Britt Paris and Rebecca Lave (2017, July 20) "[Environmental Injustice in the Early Days of the Trump Administration](#)." *Union of Concerned Scientists*.

Op-ed: Leif Fredrickson (2017, July 14) "[Scott Pruitt is wrong about the origins of the EPA](#)." *The Washington Post*.

Op-ed: Chris Sellers (2017, July 1) "[Trump and Pruitt are the biggest threat to the EPA in its 47 years of existence](#)." *Vox*.

Op-ed: Chris Sellers (2017, April 22) "[How Republicans came to embrace anti-environmentalism](#)." *Vox*.

Op-ed: Rebecca Lave (2017, February 16) "[It's vital for science that we cache US federal agency facts](#)." *Times Higher Education*.

Op-ed: Jerome Whittington (2017, January 17) "[Environmental Data, Guerrilla Archiving, and the Trump Transition](#)." *Cultural Anthropology*.

Published Peer Reviewed Articles

"Environmental Data Justice and the Trump Administration: Reflections from the Environmental Data and Governance Initiative." 2017. *Environmental Justice*. October.

Lindsey Dillon, Dawn Walker, Vivian Underhill, Megan Martenyi, Nick Shapiro, Sara Wylie, Rebecca Lave, Michelle Murphy, Phil Brown, EDGI

Forthcoming:

“The EPA in the Early Trump Administration: Prelude to Regulatory Capture?” in *American Journal of Public Health*.

Lindsey Dillon, Chris Sellers, Vivian Underhill, Nick Shapiro, Jennifer Liss Ohayon, Marianne Sullivan, Chris Amoss, Stephen Bocking, Phil Brown, Vanessa de la Rosa, Jill Harrison, Sarah Johns, Katherine Kulik, Rebecca Lave, Michelle Murphy, Liza Piper, Sara Wylie, the Environmental Data & Governance Initiative

“Paving the Way for Trump: Past Presidential Assaults on Environmental Health Protection,” in *American Journal of Public Health*.

Leif Fredrickson, Christopher Sellers, Lindsey Dillon, Jennifer Liss Ohayon, Nicholas Shapiro, Marianne Sullivan, Chris Amoss, Stephen Bocking, Phil Brown, Vanessa De La Rosa, Jill Harrison, Sara Johns, Katherine Kulik, Rebecca Lave, Emily Marquez, Michelle Murphy, Liza Piper, Lauren Richter, Sara Wylie, the Environmental Data & Governance Initiative

Revised and in the process of resubmission:

“Moving Environmental Justice into Practice,” for *Geo: Geography and Environment*.
Dawn Walker, Eric Nost, Aaron Lemlin, Rebecca Lave, Lindsey Dillon

Under review:

“Situating Data in a Trumpian Era: The Environmental Data and Governance Initiative,” for *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*.

Anita Chan, Lindsey Dillon, Rebecca Lave, Becky Mansfield, Michelle Murphy, Nick Shapiro, Sara Wylie

“Data Resistance: The Work of the Environmental Data and Governance Initiative.”
for *Mobilization*.

Lindsey Dillon, Phil Brown, Christopher Sellers, Aaron Lemelin, Jennifer Ohayon, Sara Wylie, Lourdes Vera, Dawn Walker, and the Environmental Data and Governance Initiative

Academic Publications that mention EDGI

MacKendrick, N. (2017). Out of the Labs and into the Streets: Scientists Get Political. In *Sociological Forum*. doi: 10.1111/socf.12366

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

EDGI's membership works primarily on a volunteer basis. The passion and dedication of our members is the backbone of everything we do. Going forward, we hope to increase our funding, which would allow us to hire paid employees to handle general administrative as well as project-specific work.

EDGI's initial financial support came from a crowdfunding campaign in late 2016 and early 2017 that raised over \$29,000 from nearly 250 donors. Some of these funds were used for minor administrative costs while the vast majority went towards the various working groups to cover software subscriptions, interview transcription, and archiving events.

The Public Laboratory for Open Technology and Science (Public Lab), a 501(c)3 non-profit, serves as EDGI's fiscal sponsor. Public Lab develops and applies open-source tools to environmental exploration and investigation.

Our initial \$50,000 grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) provided funding to support EDGI's rapid response work archiving federal climate and environmental data from March through October 2017. Although the primary focus was on archiving and events that brought together volunteers in Toronto, Boston, and New York to archive federal datasets, funds were also allocated to the Web Monitoring and interviewing groups. DDCF supported Web Monitoring's work to create a back-end database to store our own records of web page snapshots and the ongoing development of custom software for analysts to identify and annotate changes to webpages. Interviewing funds from DDCF were used for transcription of seven interviews, primarily with current EPA employees.

Under a one-year grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the organization Climate Central has partnered with EDGI to comprehensively assess which government-based climate science resources (including databases) are threatened and to establish a model and plan for ongoing monitoring and strategic communications that protect vital scientific infrastructure. EDGI received \$97,000 of the total \$241,000 allocated to this project. Those funds have so far been used to hire a project manager and pay for the website version-tracking software we are using as we continue to build our own custom software.

As part of the Google Summer of Code program, the Archiving and Web Monitoring groups mentored two students and EDGI received \$3,700 to support that work.

Since the end of our initial crowdfunding campaign in April 2017, EDGI has continued to receive donations totaling approximately \$12,000. The donations we receive pay for all of our administrative expenses as well as a significant portion of the work done by the various working groups, in particular, Web Monitoring. Donations from all of our supporters have been key to EDGI's significant output and outcomes in our first year.

WHERE WE'RE HEADED...

In 2018, EDGI will continue work in each of our focus areas: Archiving, Web Monitoring, Interviewing, and Environmental Data Justice (EDJ). We plan to release our public web monitoring platform, pilot EDJ projects, and create more public, open resources and avenues for engagement. As we move ahead, EDGI aims to model a democratic and horizontal organizational structure that supports equity, interdisciplinary collaboration, and reflects the data practices and care that we envision for the future.

Your 2018 contributions will help us continue to build our custom open-source website version-tracking software, conduct additional interviews with current and former federal employees, produce the next report in our *100 Days and Counting* series, and compensate some of our wonderful volunteers for their contributions. Working together, we aspire to build a future where justice and equity are at the center of environmental, climate, and data governance. This future includes governing agencies and industries held accountable through transparent, collaborative, community-centered environmental research, technology, and decision-making. [We seek to realize a world that creates and maintains healthy, just, bountiful, and beautiful environs in which people thrive.](#)

**Your support
makes this work possible**

DONATE NOW