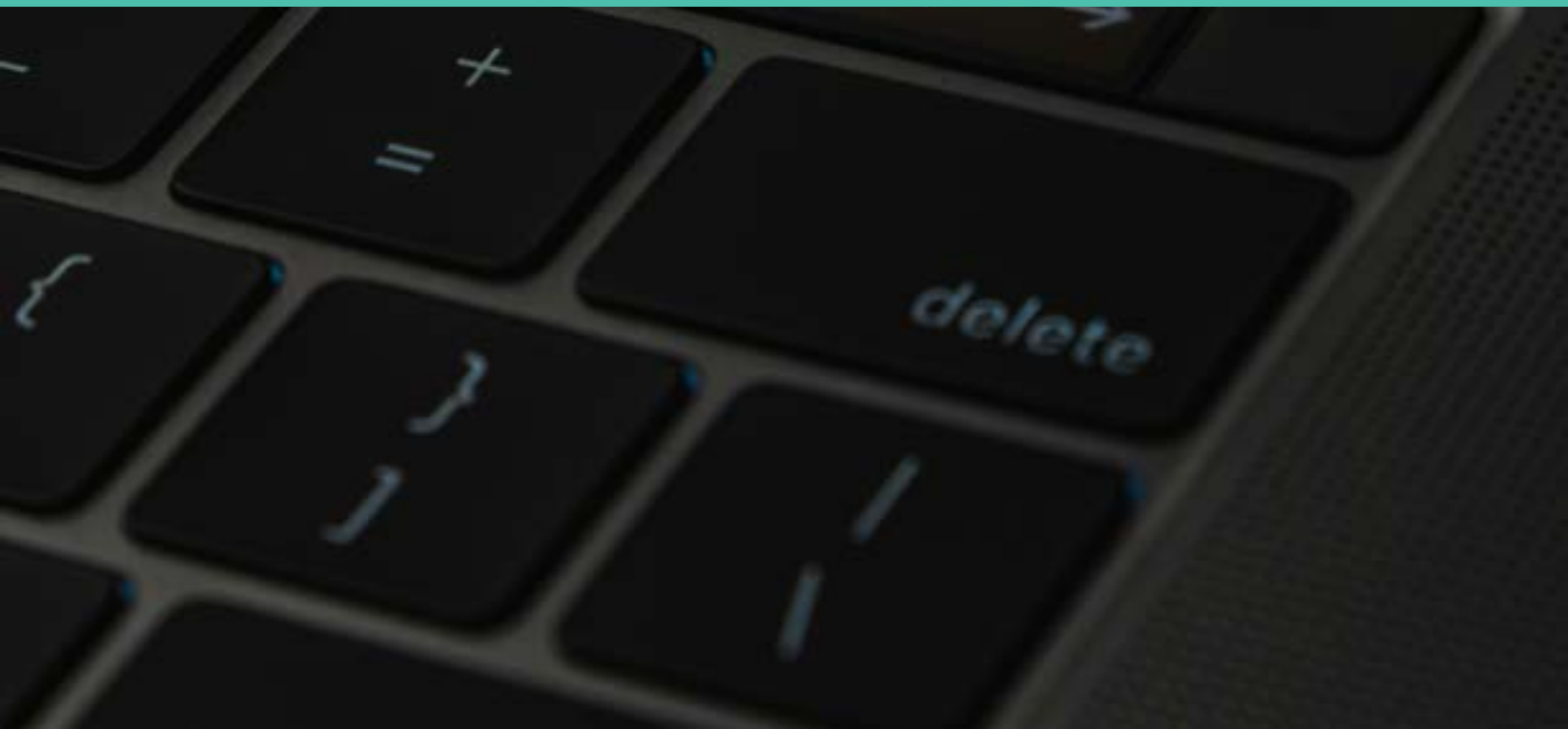# Climate of Suppression

Environmental Information
Under the Second Trump Administration

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The Environmental Data & Governance Initiative (EDGI) is a North American network with members from numerous academic institutions and nonprofit or grassroots organizations, as well as caring and committed volunteers and employees who come from a broad spectrum of work and life backgrounds. EDGI promotes open and accessible government data and information along with evidence-based policymaking.

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Table of Contents

Executive Summary

In its first six months, the second Trump administration has significantly altered the federal environmental information landscape. Information about environmental justice and climate change has been rewritten and deleted as part of a broad deregulatory policy agenda that disavows these critical, intersecting issues.

Websites are the [primary medium for communication between federal agencies and the public](#),[1] but there are very few policies governing how US federal website content is developed, altered, or removed. Unlike printed predecessors, information on the Internet is often rewritten without warning, labeling, citation, or archiving. The dearth of federal web governance policies and the transitory nature of web-based information make it vulnerable to information suppression and revisionist history.

To record the changes made to public information by the Trump administration, the Environmental Data & Governance Initiative (EDGI) Website Governance team has been monitoring over 4,000 federal environmental webpages and sharing data about changes to content, language, and information access through the [Federal Environmental Web Tracker](#).[2] The scope and speed of website changes during the second Trump administration has far exceeded that of the first. While EDGI is monitoring only 20% of the webpages monitored during the first Trump administration, we observed 70% more website changes in President Trump's first 100 days in office in 2025 than in 2017.

One of the first and most thorough targets of the second Trump administration's information suppression was web content related to environmental justice (EJ) and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). While the Biden administration approached environmental and climate justice as a central "[whole-of government](#)" concern,[3] the Trump administration explicitly rejected that. Following President Trump's day one Executive Order 14151 "[Ending Radical and Wasteful DEI Programs and Preferencing](#),"[4] federal EJ and DEI information was completely excised. The day after President Trump took office the second time, the Council on Environmental Quality took down the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) and within one month all nine federal equity screening tools were removed. Agencies removed equity-related key terms and information from their websites

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[1] Donovan et al., "Policies for Federal Agency Public Websites and Digital Services, OMB Memorandum M-17-06."
[2] Environmental Data & Governance Initiative, "Federal Environmental Web Tracker About Page."
[3] The White House, "Environmental Justice."
[4] Ending Radical And Wasteful Government DEI Programs And Preferencing.

with precision, and by the middle of February, no federal agencies had environmental justice websites or webpages available to the public. The Trump administration has effectively removed all information about environmental racism from federal websites. This restriction of language and information facilitates the denial of facts and generation of misinformation, undermining our collective ability to address these issues.

Information related to climate change has been altered and removed by the second Trump administration as well, though more variably than occurred for environmental justice and equity information. The most notable removal of climate information in the first six months was the US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) website globalchange.gov and the congressionally-mandated National Climate Assessments it hosted. Many premier climate change informational resources have been removed from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) websites as well, despite its statutory authority to provide information about climate change.[5] However, while several executive orders and deregulatory efforts demonstrate that the Trump administration intends to roll back efforts to mitigate climate change,[6] information about climate change remains intact on some agency websites. For example, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Climate Change website, which had been rebuilt by the Biden administration after the first Trump administration removed all of its webpages,[7] remains virtually unaltered six months into the second Trump administration.

The Trump administration's changes to public information are part of a broader agenda to reshape the form and function of the federal government. This agenda involves deep budget and staffing cuts to federal agencies, dismantling the federal scientific enterprise,[8] and repealing regulations that implement bedrock environmental laws. The broader agenda also involves the removal of factual information about the negative impacts, such as environmental and climate injustices, of unbridled industry and "energy dominance."[9]

The nature of these federal website changes harken back to the first Trump administration, but are bolder: Rhetoric has intensified, statutory authorities for information sharing have

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[5] Environmental Data and Governance Initiative, "NOAA Upholds Its Authority to Provide Public Information."

[6] Brady, "Trump's EPA Now Says Greenhouse Gases Don't Endanger People."

[7] Environmental Data and Governance Initiative Website Monitoring Team, "Work in Progress: Governance of Digital Environmental Information In the Biden Administration's First Year."

[8] Minovi et al., "Science and Democracy Under Siege | Union of Concerned Scientists."

[9] US Department of Energy, "Secretary Wright Highlights 100 Days of Unleashing American Energy Under President Trump."

been challenged, and information about environmental racism has been universally excised from federal websites. Paired with the Trump administration's history of double-speak,[10] the tactics used facilitate misinformation and can produce ignorance.[11] This impedes our ability to address critical issues and undermines American democracy and environmental governance. Trustworthy public information is foundational for a functioning democracy. The swift removal of public information at odds with the Trump administration's viewpoints demonstrates the need for more comprehensive and binding policies to protect the integrity of federal information and, ultimately, to protect American democracy.

Introduction

Accurate, reliable information is essential for a functional democracy as it allows people to scrutinize, debate, and influence government actions.[12] Conversely, mis- and disinformation obfuscate the truth,[13] impact perceptions of reality,[14] and foster fear and a lack of trust in institutions.[15] Given the political and social implications of information consumption, it is crucial that the public has access to reliable and trustworthy authoritative information.

Trust in Government Information

In an increasingly siloed and distrustful informational landscape, government websites can and should act as trustworthy information sources the public can use to develop informed opinions and guide actions. Websites are the primary means through which the government communicates with the public,[16] and they serve as integral knowledge-producing resources funded by taxpayers. On average, US government websites have over 40 million visitors every day and 8 billion every year,[17] and historically, these sites have been perceived as dependable sources for accurate, authoritative information.[18]

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[10] Yoder, "From Doublespeak to Alternative Facts."
[11] Nelson et al., "The Marley Hypothesis."
[12] Neuman, *Access to Information: A Key to Democracy*.
[13] Sanchez and Middlemass, "Misinformation Is Eroding the Public's Confidence in Democracy."
[14] Jiang et al., "Repetition Increases Belief in Climate-Skeptical Claims, Even for Climate Science Endorsers."
[15] Medzerian, "Trust in Voting."
[16] Donovan et al., "Policies for Federal Agency Public Websites and Digital Services, OMB Memorandum M-17-06."
[17] Avery et al., "From Pageviews to Progress: A 10-Year Journey through the Lens of the Digital Analytics Program."
[18] Yext, "People Overwhelmingly Trust Government Websites — But Can The Public Sector Deliver?"

However, information on government websites is vulnerable to suppression and skewing according to political goals. While the Information Quality Act (Section 515 of PL 106-554[19]) requires that information on government websites be accurate, there are scant policies governing what information must be present on federal websites or when or how website information may be changed.[20] These policy gaps facilitate information suppression by the US federal government.

Contextualizing the Political and Environmental Moment

Twenty-five years into the 21st century, the United States faces two overarching issues that intersect with and exacerbate almost all other environmental concerns: climate change and environmental justice. Climate change is no longer a distant threat or future crisis; we are approaching and passing critical climate deadlines, and the effects of climate change are impacting more people every day,[21] from droughts and fires to hurricanes and floods. The impacts of climate change are not evenly distributed, with communities who are least responsible for planet-warming emissions often bearing the brunt of increasingly intense climate impacts.[22] Likewise, exposures to environmental hazards are concentrated in certain communities, especially low-income communities of color.[23] The disproportionate impacts of environmental toxins are pervasive,[24] and while frontline communities have been fighting against unjust exposures to environmental harms for decades,[25] environmental justice only shifted from a peripheral to a central issue in government during the Biden administration.[26]

The first president to directly address climate change and environmental justice was President Bill Clinton, with Executive Order (EO) 13123 "Greening the Government Through Efficient Energy Management"[27] and EO 12898 "Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations."[28] Policies set in motion by these EOs were expanded upon by President Barack Obama and most recently by

[19] General Services Administration, "Section 515 - Federal Register Notice," 515.
[20] Environmental Data and Governance Initiative Website Monitoring Team, "Work in Progress: Governance of Digital Environmental Information In the Biden Administration's First Year."
[21] Smith, "2024: An Active Year of U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters."
[22] UC Center for Climate Justice, "What Is Climate Justice?"
[23] Bullard, *Confronting Environmental Racism*.
[24] Lee, "Confronting Disproportionate Impacts and Systemic Racism in Environmental Policy."
[25] Chowkwanyun, "Environmental Justice."
[26] The White House, "Environmental Justice."
[27] Greening the Government Through Efficient Energy Management.
[28] Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations.

President Joe Biden, who developed the most progressive climate and environmental justice policies of any US president, largely emanating from EO 14008 "Tackling the Climate Crisis At Home and Abroad,"[29] EO 14096 "Revitalizing our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All,"[30] and two key laws: the Inflation Reduction Act (PL 117-169[31]) and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (PL 117-58[32]).

Outpacing these policy advancements, public information about climate change and environmental justice has grown significantly in the last 30 years, particularly in the last four. The US Global Change Research Program, established by Congress in 1990 (PL 101-606[33]) to study climate change, first established a presence on the world wide web in 1997. By the most recent National Climate Assessment (2023), its web-based report had become a model for effective science communication for policy development.[34] The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are leaders in both climate science and climate science communications. A key example of this is NOAA's flagship climate education website, climate.gov, with news features, maps and data products, and climate change education materials. Informational resources about environmental justice have also grown rapidly since the 1990s, such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) environmental justice website, which has existed since the George W. Bush administration and expanded significantly under the Obama and Biden administrations to be the primary node for information to advance EJ advocacy, practices, and policies.

While public information about the climate crisis has expanded and tangible effects of climate change can be felt around the globe, climate denialism remains rampant. The fossil fuel industry, conservative politicians, and political operatives funnel billions of dollars into initiatives to foment climate denialism,[35] dismissing the causes and impacts of climate change. President Trump has repeatedly called climate change a hoax and campaigned on deregulating the energy industry,[36] and officials from the first Trump administration explained that the new administration would need to "eradicate climate change references."[37] President Trump also campaigned on rescinding executive orders and

[29] Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad.
[30] Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All.
[31] Inflation Reduction Act.
[32] Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.
[33] Global Change Research Act of 1990, Pub. L. No. 101-606.
[34] Avery et al., "Navigating Complex Waters."
[35] Collomb, "The Ideology of Climate Change Denial in the United States."
[36] Trump, "Agenda47," February 9, 2023.
[37] Bravender, "Leaked Project 2025 Videos."

[removing federal "equity" policies](#),[38] including environmental justice policies, derisively labeling them as "woke" and "Marxist."

Federal Website Monitoring

The public should have access to trustworthy, nonpartisan information about the issues affecting them, how their government is addressing those issues, and how they can respond. The public has an explicit and specific [right to know](#) about environmental hazards that may impact them in order to make informed decisions and responses.[39] EDGI's mission is to advance the environmental right to know in policy and practice, so people have the information they need to thrive.

Given the role of government websites as authoritative sources of information, paired with the urgency of environmental justice and climate action, it is imperative to work toward an information ecosystem that prioritizes information integrity over political motivations. One of the first steps in this long effort is scrutinizing changes to informational resources and characterizing those changes and how they relate to a larger social, political, and economic landscape. Changes to the content, language, and access to federal environmental websites have a direct impact on the public's knowledge about, perception of, and action around critical issues. Advocates have recently argued that it is unlawful to remove key data and information resources from public access in an unreasoned and untransparent manner, including [climate information](#),[40] [health information](#),[41] and [environmental data tools](#).[42] In an effort to support public knowledge about environmental issues and the federal information landscape, EDGI has [documented](#) and [analyzed](#) changes to federal environmental websites since 2016.[43,44] We [identified patterns of information suppression during the first Trump administration](#),[45] and present in this report observations on how federal website information about climate change and environmental justice has changed during the first six months of the second Trump administration.

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[38] Trump, "Agenda47," March 2, 2023.

[39] US Environmental Protection Agency Office of Land and Emergency Management, "Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA)."

[40] *Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York, et al v. USDA*.

[41] *Doctors for America v. Office of Personnel Management et al.*

[42] Union of Concerned Scientists, "Environmental And Science Groups Sue Trump Administration Over Removal of Climate and Environmental Justice Websites and Data."

[43] Environmental Data & Governance Initiative, "Federal Environmental Web Tracker About Page."

[44] Environmental Data and Governance Initiative, "Website Governance."

[45] Gehrke et al., "Access Denied: Federal Web Governance Under the Trump Administration."

Methodology

EDGI's Website Governance working group monitors changes to thousands of government webpages across several federal agencies. By analyzing how language, content, and access to information change, we can report on the shifting informational landscape as well as anticipate and contextualize broader changes in environmental governance.

Since January 20, 2025, the Website Governance team has been tracking changes to 4,429 federal webpages. The team identified these webpages through (1) EDGI's own analysis of Project 2025 and observations from the first Trump administration and (2) recommendations from partner organizations focused on environmental policies and environmental justice advocacy. Each of the 4,429 webpages is searched, filed, and indexed every other weekday by either EDGI or the Internet Archive and each version of the page is saved in a WARC (web archive) file. EDGI developed software to compare the most recent version of a webpage to a specified prior version and calculate and visualize the differences. The code for all of these processes can be found here on GitHub.

EDGI's Website Governance team members manually review the changes identified as potentially significant by EDGI's software and assess whether they are important. Changes deemed unimportant include changes to the HTML file that are not visible to website users, clerical edits such as the correction of typos, and routine updating of news features. Changes deemed important include those where: information is added, removed, or altered; language is altered in a way that affects the focus or emphasis of issues discussed in a page; or information access is altered through, for example, the addition or removal of links to other webpages. EDGI's team describes and categorizes important changes, identifying whether they involve changes to the information on a page and/or access to information and what topics the changes relate to (e.g., climate change, equity, science and research, governance, etc.). These important changes are added to EDGI's publicly available Federal Environmental Web Tracker.[46]

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[46] Environmental Data & Governance Initiative, "Federal Environmental Web Tracker About Page."

Web Changes in the Trump Administration

Summary of Observations

The sample of 4,429 webpages monitored by EDGI includes 2,744 URLs managed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA; 62%). The other 38% of the sample includes webpages hosted by more than 13 other agencies, including 286 managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA; 6%), 180 by the Department of Energy (DOE; 4%), 152 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC; 3%), 135 by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA; 3%), and 105 by the Department of Transportation (DOT; 2%).

In the first six months of President Trump's second term, EDGI's team has cataloged 879 important changes on 639 different federal webpages. While the EPA manages 62% of the webpages EDGI monitors, the EPA manages only 54% of the webpages with important changes made to them. NOAA only comprises 6% of the overall sample monitored, but 10% of the webpages with important changes on them. DOE hosts 4% of the webpages monitored, but 7% of those with changes on them. DOT hosts 2% of the webpages monitored, but 5% of webpages EDGI observed with changes in the first 6 months of the Trump administration (Figure1).
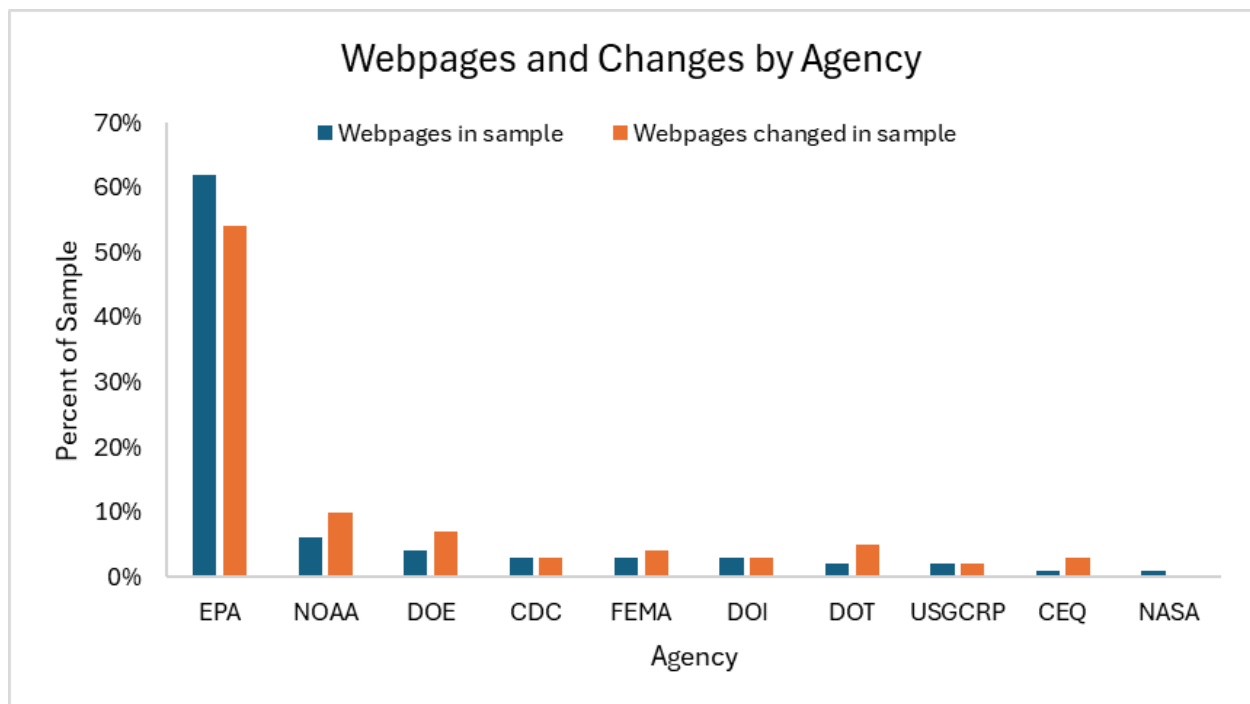
Figure 1. The percent of webpages in EDGI's 4,429 page sample hosted by an agency, compared to the percent of changed webpages in EDGI's sample hosted by that agency. NOAA, DOE, FEMA, DOT,

and CEQ have had a significantly higher ratio of webpages changed compared to webpages tracked by EDGI during the first six months of the second Trump administration.

Changes to federal websites began immediately upon President Trump taking office on January 20. The pace of changes to federal websites was highest during the first month after inauguration, including nearly 100 webpage changes in the first week. After the first 100 days of the administration passed on April 29, 2025, the pace of important changes decreased from an average of 42 to 22 per week (Figure 2).
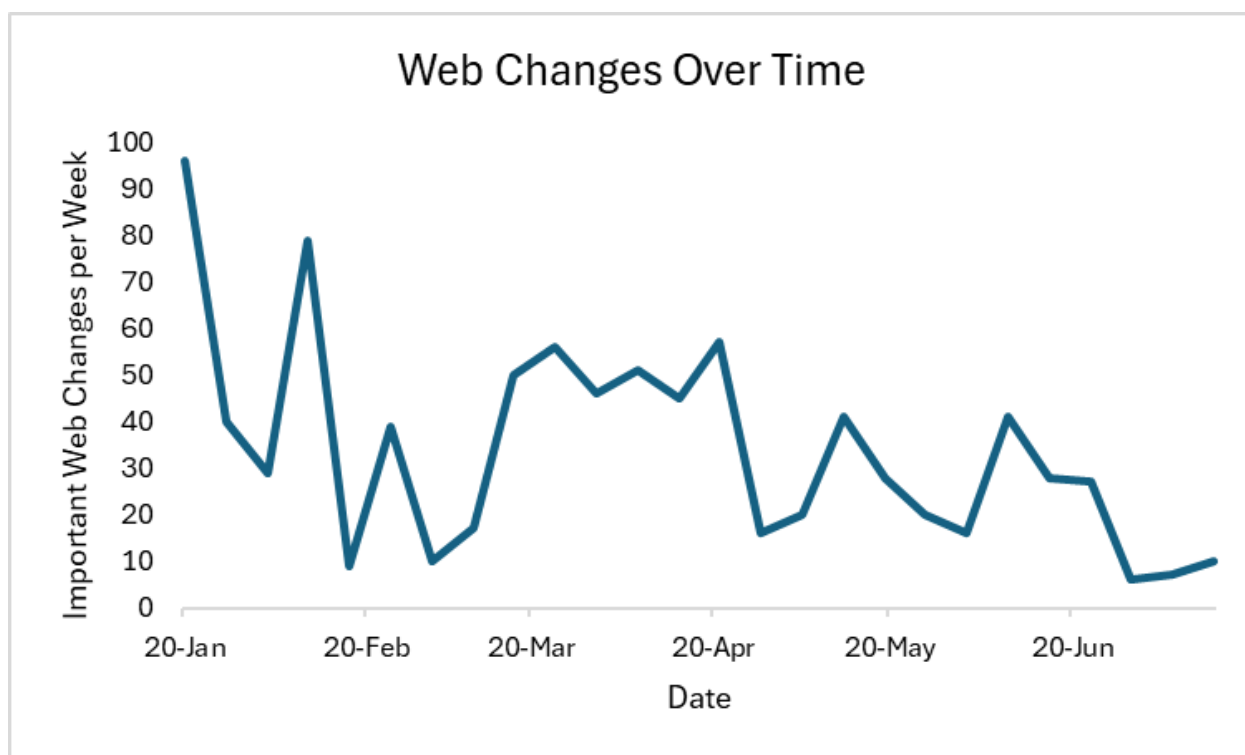
Figure 2. The number of important changes documented by EDGI each week of the first six months of the second Trump administration. There were, on average, fewer changes per week in June and July than earlier in the presidential term.

When analyzing how information on federal websites has been altered, EDGI distinguished between changes to the content of information and changes in access to information. Content changes include replacing the term "climate change" with "extreme weather" or removing a sentence about the impacts of climate hazards on different communities, for example. Access changes include the removal of an entire webpage or the removal of links to further information on a webpage's navigation bar, for example. In the first six months of

the second Trump administration, EDGI observed 649 content changes and 605 access changes, including 372 that were both content and access changes (Figure 3).
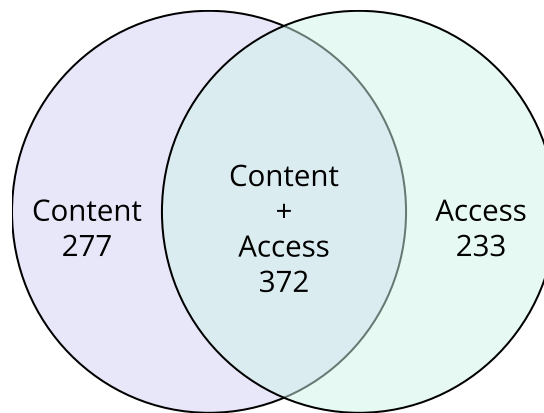
Figure 3. A Venn diagram of the content and access changes observed by EDGI during the first six months of the second Trump administration. There were 277 purely content changes, 233 purely access changes, and 372 changes to both content and access.

EDGI also assigned thematic topics to each of the changes observed.[47] Climate (including climate science, climate change impacts, and climate change mitigation and adaptation) was, by far, the most common topic observed in the first six months of the second Trump administration. In the first 100 days, 25% of website changes observed by EDGI were related to climate, 15% to governance, 10% to data and tools, 9% to energy, and 9% to environmental justice (Figure 4).

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[47] Environmental Data & Governance Initiative, "Federal Environmental Web Tracker About Page."

Treemap of Changed Topics (All Web Changes) - First 100 days

Data source: Environmental Data and Governance Initiative
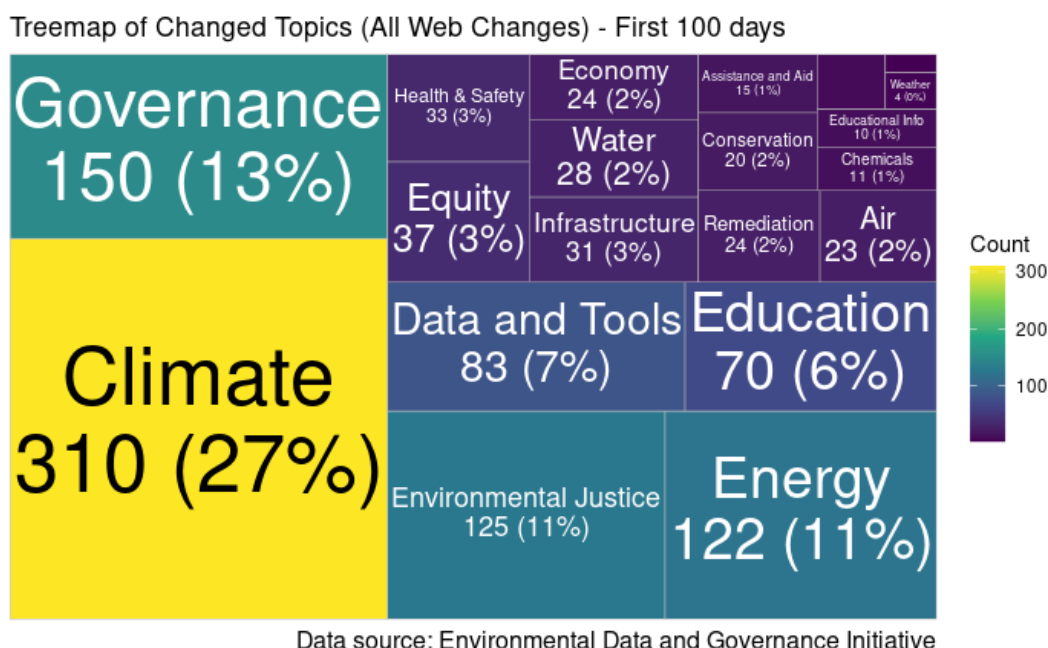
Figure 4. Treemap of the topics of federal website changes documented by EDGI in the first 100 days of the second Trump administration. The majority of website changes were related to climate, governance, data and tools, energy, and environmental justice.

The types of web changes observed varied for different topics. For example, the web changes observed related to equity and/or environmental justice were significantly ($p = 0.002$) more likely than other topics (or the whole sample) to be the removal of whole webpages.

Equity and Environmental Justice

One of the first and most thorough targets of the second Trump administration's information suppression was web content related to environmental justice (EJ) and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). On the day of his inauguration, President Trump signed Executive Order 14151 "Ending Radical and Wasteful DEI Programs and Preferencing."[48] Among other directives, the EO instructs agencies to terminate all federal DEI requirements, policies, programs, preferences and activities; environmental justice offices and positions; and equity-related actions, initiatives, and programs. President Trump also signed EO 14154 "Unleashing American Energy"[49] and EO 14173 "Ending Illegal

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[48] Ending Radical And Wasteful Government DEI Programs And Preferencing.

[49] Unleashing American Energy.

Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity,"[50] which revoke prior executive orders directing the federal government to address environmental justice. These orders to halt DEI and EJ programs initiated sweeping changes to public information about specific federal DEI and EJ programs as well as equity and environmental justice issues as a whole.

Erasure of Environmental Justice Websites

In the first weeks of the second Trump administration, several federal agency webpages and websites dedicated to environmental justice and DEI were removed. Days after inauguration, the Biden administration's central EJ website, environmentaljustice.gov, was taken down. By January 31, the Department of Justice's (DOJ) environmental justice website was moved to the agency's online archive; the US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) environmental justice subdomain showed only the message "Content not Available"; and the US Global Change Research Program's page for DEIJA and Code of Conduct began returning a "Page not found" message and a 403 error. Guidance documents like the FWS EJ policy also were removed. By early February, information and pages dedicated to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Climate Change and Health Equity (OCCHE) were deleted. On February 14, the EPA's entire Environmental Justice subdomain, epa.gov/environmentaljustice, was deleted, with every page returning the message, "this web page does not exist" (Figure 5).

By the middle of February, no federal agencies had environmental justice websites or subdomains up for public access.

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[50] Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity.
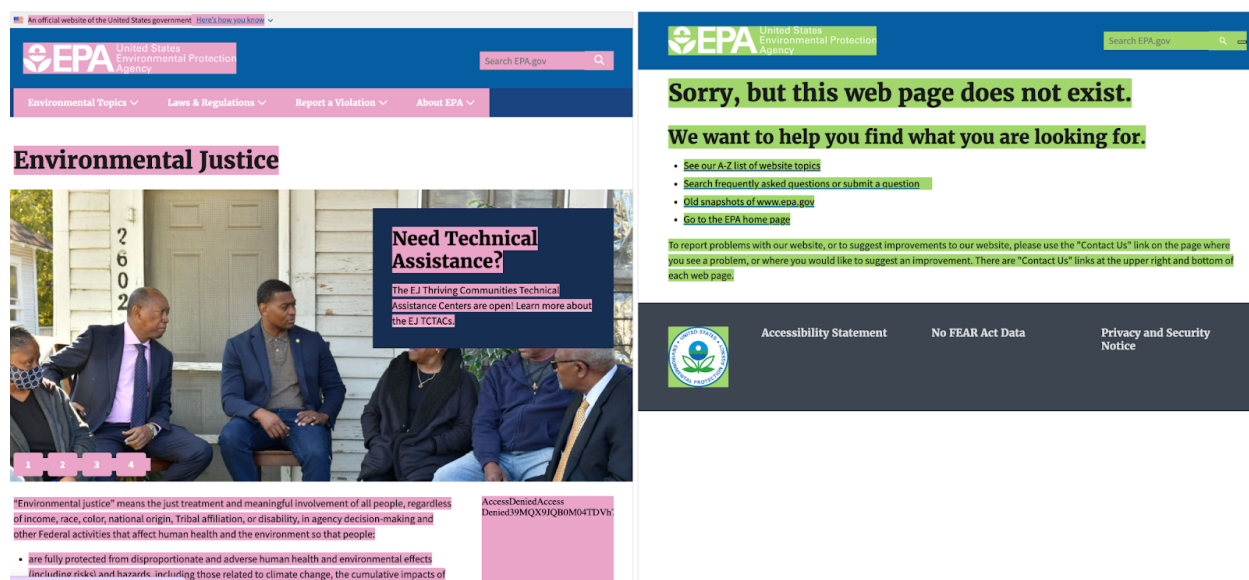
Figure 5. On February 14, 2025, the EPA's environmental justice subdomain was deleted. Compare the previous version from January 31, 2025 (left) to the more recent version from February 15, 2025 (right). Text highlighted in red was deleted; text highlighted in green was added. URL: https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice

Deletion of Key Terms

Across federal agencies, key terms related to DEI and EJ began disappearing from federal webpages soon after President Trump's day one executive orders. For example, on the "Definitions" page for EPA's Climate Resilience and Adaptation Funding Toolbox (CRAFT), the EPA removed entries for "climate equity," "climate justice," "disadvantaged community," "environmental justice," "environmental justice mapping tools," "Justice40," and "workforce development." While the term "vulnerable community" wasn't deleted, its definition was changed to no longer mention the relevance of socioeconomic factors such as income or race. This definition deviates from how the term was originally defined in the Fifth National Climate Assessment.[51]

In other cases, terms related to environmental justice and equity were replaced with those eliminating any reference to the topics. In January and February, on various pages "environmental justice" was replaced with "community-scale action" or "best practices"; "vulnerable" with "at risk" or "disaster-prone"; and "equitable and sustainable" with "innovative." In March, the term "community" was removed from several EPA pages, such as

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[51] US Global Change Research Program et al., *Fifth National Climate Assessment*.

EPA's "[Protecting Communities from Coal Ash](#)" and "[Water Infrastructure and Capacity Assessment Tool](#)" pages.
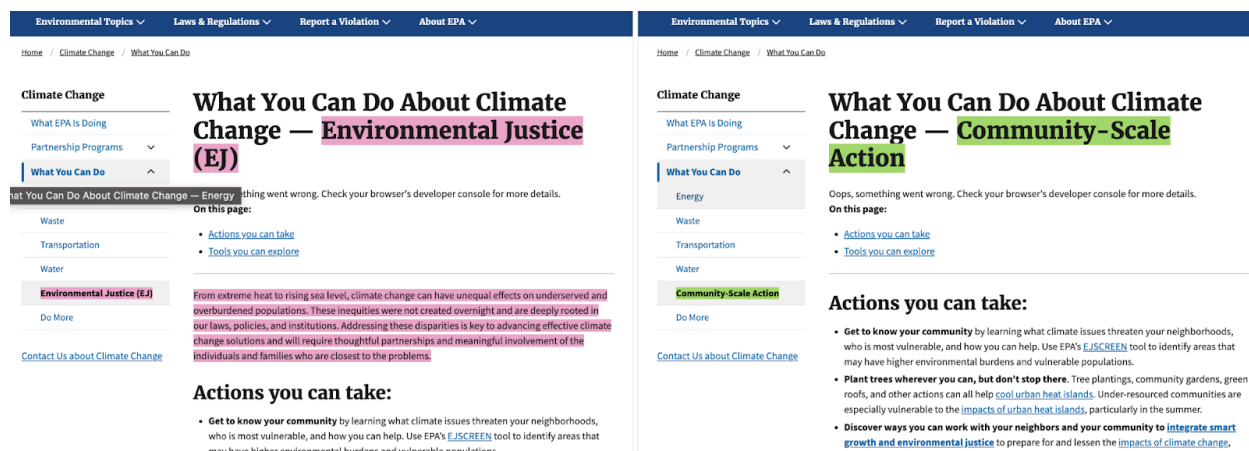
Figure 6. The removal of environmental justice language and information from EPA's "What You Can Do About Climate Change" webpage. Compare the previous version from [January 22, 2025](#) (left), to the newer version from [February 1, 2025](#) (right). Text highlighted in red was removed; text highlighted in green was added. URL: [https://www.epa.gov/climate-change/what-you-can-do-about-climate-change-community-scale-actio n](#)

While specific DEI language was replaced in late January and early February, information more broadly related to DEI or EJ sometimes remained intact without these keywords. For example, across EPA pages like "[Climate Change Impacts on Ecosystems](#)," section headers for "Environmental Justice and Equity" were edited to "Population Impacts," but the paragraphs under the headers, which described different levels of vulnerability across communities, remained unedited. Similarly, EPA's page, ["What You Can Do About Climate Change- Environmental Justice," was renamed "What You Can Do About Climate Change- Community-Scale Action."](#) On this page, the introductory paragraph about inequitable impacts of climate change was deleted but several references to under-resourced communities, disparities, and diversity remained intact (Figure 6).

Removal of Information About Environmental Injustices

Following the initial removal of specific DEI and environmental justice language, many agencies often removed broader information about equity issues. For example, in early February [on NOAA's education page for climate change impacts](#), several paragraphs about the unequal impacts of climate change, vulnerable groups, and socioeconomic inequalities

were deleted, as well as a singular sentence stating that, "even within a community, some groups are more vulnerable to these threats than others."

Consistent with the removal of information about disproportionate impacts of climate risks and environmental health concerns on different communities, the Trump administration also removed substantial information about community-based initiatives. In many cases, pages addressing issues like climate change remained mostly intact, but information that specifically discussed community-scale actions and responses was deleted. For example, in April, EPA's page "Planning for Climate Change Adaptation" removed examples of community-based adaptation actions. Similarly, in late March, nearly all the changes made on NOAA's page for "Climate change impacts" were removals of information at the intersection of climate change and communities. These include information about a "climate resilience in your community" activity book, a guide to teaching climate science, and stories about high school students working with NOAA.

Reduction in Equitable Access to Information

Equitable access to information is a critical component of equity writ large. On March 1, 2025, President Trump signed Executive Order 14224 "Designating English as the Official Language of the United States."[52] Shortly thereafter, the EPA changed its website footer, which provides links to resources in other languages, to only include English names of the non-English languages. Relatedly, a Spanish PDF about environmental contaminants found at brownfields was removed from the EPA page for "Understanding Brownfields," and a link to the Spanish language version of DOE's "About the Solar Technologies Office" webpage was removed from the top of the English version. These represent an inequitable restriction of information: Spanish is the second most spoken language in the United States, with over 41 million people who speak Spanish at home.[53]

As described in multiple executive orders, the Trump administration has begun removing programmatic structures that supported more equitable engagement with the federal government. This has been reflected in publicly available information by the erasure of the former existence of those structures. For example, on April 23, 2025, Trump signed EO 14283 "To Promote Excellence and Innovation at Historically Black Colleges and Universities,"[54] which terminated the EPA's Historically Black Colleges and Universities and

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[52] Designating English as the Official Language of The United States.
[53] Dietrich and Hernandez, "Nearly 68 Million People Spoke a Language Other Than English at Home in 2019," 68.
[54] White House Initiative to Promote Excellence and Innovation at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Minority Serving Institutions (HBCU-MSI) Advisory Council. Accordingly, the EPA removed all reference to this advisory council from its page for "Advisory Committees at EPA."[55] Similarly, shortly after President Trump issued EO 14151 "Ending Radical and Wasteful DEI Programs and Preferencing,"[56] several links to diverse affinity groups were removed on the EPA's page "What Kind of People Work at EPA?" including those for African Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, Native Americans, and LGBTQ+ scientists at EPA.[57]

Removal of Environmental Justice Data Tools

During the Obama and Biden administrations, several tools were developed to identify areas where communities face disproportionate environmental harms and risks. Many of these tools and the data behind them have since been removed and discontinued by the Trump administration. On January 22, the White House Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) was removed from the White House website.[58] CEJST was used to identify disadvantaged communities disproportionately burdened by environmental hazards and poverty and was meant to help the government allocate federal funding and projects under Biden's Justice40 initiative.

In early February, EPA's flagship Environmental Justice Mapping and Screening Tool (EJScreen) was also removed,[59] including its landing page, most technical information and additional resources, the main pages for using the tool, pages to download the data for offline use, and servers that distribute the spatial data behind the tool. EJScreen is a mapping tool that provides a nationally consistent dataset to understand demographic and environmental information at a fine geographic resolution.[60] By combining the environmental and demographic indicators identified by the tool, users can view EJ indexes to visualize areas with environmental justice concerns.[61]

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[55] Environmental Data and Governance Initiative, "EPA Removes Information About Its HBCU and Minority Serving Institutions Advisory Council."

[56] Ending Radical And Wasteful Government DEI Programs And Preferencing.

[57] Environmental Data and Governance Initiative, "Trump Targets DEI Pages at the EPA."

[58] Environmental Data and Governance Initiative, "Trump Removes Access to CEJST, Our New Coalition Restores It."

[59] Environmental Data and Governance Initiative, "EPA Removes EJScreen from Its Website."

[60] US Environmental Protection Agency Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, "What Is EJSCREEN?"

[61] US Environmental Protection Agency Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, "Environmental Justice Indexes in EJSCREEN."

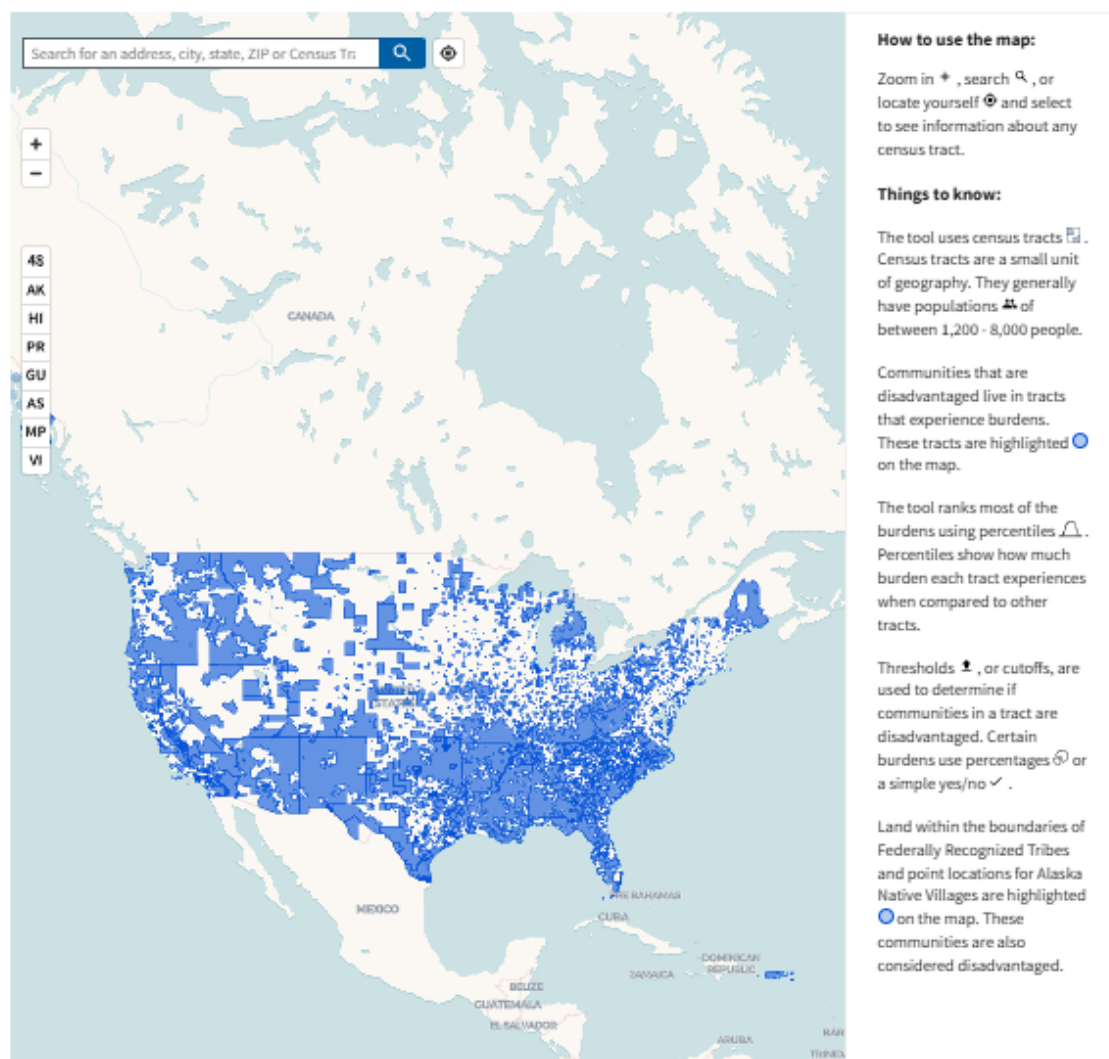**Figure 7**. The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CJEST), as it appeared on January 21, recreated and made publicly available by EDGI and partners in the Public Environmental Data Partners: https://edgi-govdata-archiving.github.io/j40-cejst-2/en/#3/33.47/-97.5.

By mid-February, the Trump administration had removed all nine federal equity screening tools, including CEJST (Figure 7), EJScreen, DOE's Low Income Energy Affordability tool, and the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Screening Tool for Equity Analysis of Projects (STEAP), as well as other datasets and tools that evidenced social and environmental inequities. EDGI and others in the data preservation coalition Public Environmental Data Partners (PEDP) archived and stood up several of these tools or their associated data, which are available at screening-tools.com.[62] Several public interest groups have sued the federal government to challenge the removal of these tools,[63] and following a court order,[64] access to CDC's Environmental Justice Index has since been restored (although with a disclaimer banner stating that the "Trump administration rejects gender ideology" and the information on the page "does not reflect biological reality"). While each of these tools had their drawbacks, they were important avenues for the public to access, use, and understand federal data pertaining to environmental inequities and injustices. Without these tools, the public loses pathways to understanding where environmental injustices occur and how to address them.

Climate Change

While agencies stripped nearly all environmental justice and DEI information from their websites, information related to climate change has been treated more variably. Many climate change informational resources have been altered or removed, while other key climate resources remain minimally impacted.

Deletion of Climate Change Resources

The most significant alteration to climate change information to date has been the removal of the US Global Change Research Program (USGRP) website, globalchange.gov, on July 1.[65] This site housed the National Climate Assessment (NCA)—a congressionally mandated report released every four years on climate change risks, impacts, and responses in the United States—as well as other climate change education and policy resources. User interactivity was a core feature of the public NCAs hosted on globalchange.gov, which was only possible through a web-based medium and has now been removed. The NCAs are not gone completely, however; static versions can be found in NOAA's documents repository. Civil society has also preserved public access to the NCAs, including in the Internet Archive

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[62] Public Environmental Data Partners, "Data + Screening Tools."

[63] *SIERRA CLUB v. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY*.

[64] *Doctors for America v. Office of Personnel Management et al.*

[65] Yoder, "Why the Federal Government Is Making Climate Data Disappear."

and through a mirror of the globalchange.gov website created by Webrecorder in November 2024.

The removal of globalchange.gov followed a website change in April when the USGCRP changed the banner at the top of its website from a link to their Fifth National Climate Assessment to a message stating, "The operations and structure of the USGCRP are currently under review." Coinciding with this, the Trump administration halted work on USGCRP's congressionally mandated Sixth National Climate Assessment that was scheduled to be published in 2028, dismissing the federal workers who had already begun drafting it.[66]

It is possible that another significant removal of climate change information is currently unfolding as of the writing of this report. On June 24, 2025, NOAA's climate.gov began redirecting to noaa.gov/climate, with a banner stating, "You have been redirected to NOAA.gov. Future research products previously housed under Climate.gov will be available at NOAA.gov/climate and its affiliate websites." Climate.gov has been NOAA's premier climate change information outlet for 15 years, with resources for policymakers, educators, climate scientists, and the general public. The entire climate.gov content production staff was terminated effective July 1.[67]

Before June, a plethora of resources had already been removed from climate.gov. For example, NOAA's Climate Literacy Guide, a resource meant to help the public understand and address climate change, was removed from the climate.gov website in early February (and it was later removed from all other federal websites linking to it).[68] The Climate Literacy Guide was first published in 2008 and the 2024 edition was the third version. It incorporated public input and applied over a decade of climate science toward helping the public understand and respond to climate change. In addition to this central climate literacy guide, every resource that had been available on climate.gov's "Teaching Climate" repository was removed in early April (Figure 8). While some of the climate.gov website is still publicly available by entering through a page other than its homepage (e.g., climate.gov/maps-data), it is likely that, without staff to maintain it, the full website will be removed soon.

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[66] Plumer and Dzombak, "All Authors Working on Flagship U.S. Climate Report Are Dismissed."
[67] Holthaus, "Major US Climate Website Likely to Be Shut down after Almost All Staff Fired."
[68] Environmental Data and Governance Initiative, "NOAA Removes the 2024 Climate Literacy Guide from Its Website."
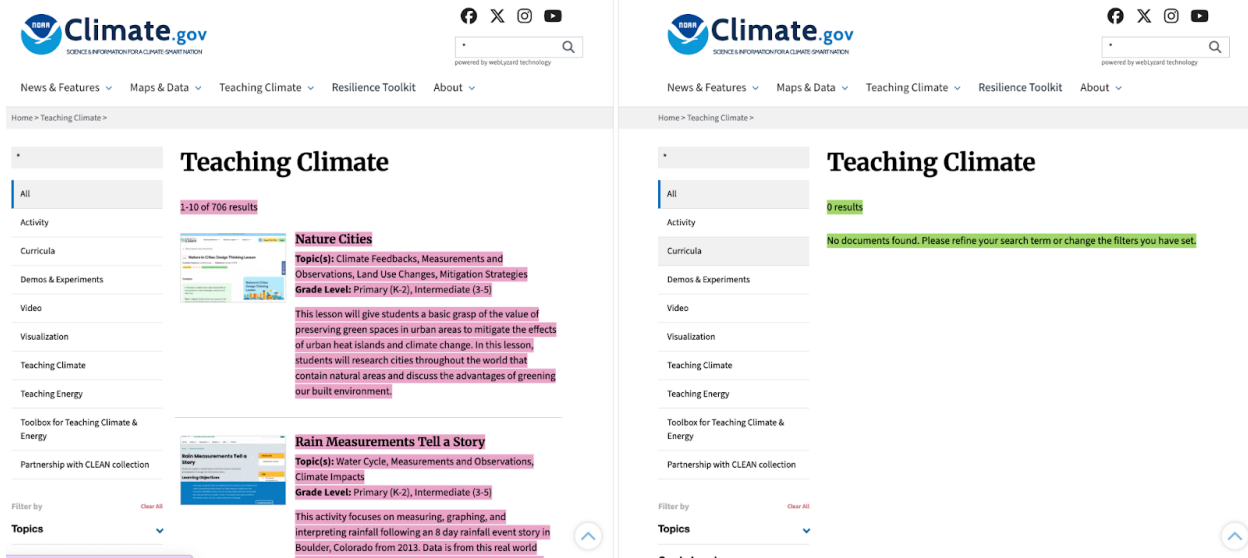
Figure 8. The NOAA Climate.gov "Teaching Climate" webpage. Compare a previous version from March 13, 2025 (left) to a recent version from May 6, 2025 (right); text highlighted in red was removed and text highlighted in green was added. All of the resources that had been available on climate.gov's "Teaching Climate" repository were removed. URL: https://www.climate.gov/teaching/all

NOAA is one of the few federal agencies that has statutory authority to provide climate change information to the public.[69] In March, information about three federal statutes was added to NOAA's climate.gov "About" page, detailing, for example, NOAA's statutory obligation to "provide reliable, useful, and readily available information on a continuing basis" about climate change. Information about NOAA's statutory authority to collect and analyze climate data and disseminate climate change information to the public was also added to NOAA's "Climate Program Office" homepage. Despite NOAA's congressional mandate to provide public information about climate change, NOAA's flagship informational resources about climate change are being removed under the Trump administration.

In addition to the changes noted above, several other prominent informational resources have been removed from public access. These include DOT's Climate and Sustainability subdomain, which described the impacts of climate change on the transportation sector, as well as the ways DOT was addressing the climate crisis. In January, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) deleted extensive climate change webpages, reports, data, and tools.

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[69] Environmental Data and Governance Initiative, "NOAA Upholds Its Authority to Provide Public Information."

However, the agency began restoring the resources in May following legal action by farmers and environmental advocates.[70]

While some agencies have altered or removed significant climate information, information about climate change has remained minimally impacted on other agencies' websites. For example, in the first six months of the second Trump administration, the only change to EPA's "Climate Change" website homepage has been the removal of the term "climate equity"; all other information and links remain intact. This is in stark contrast to changes to EPA's Climate Change website during the first Trump administration, discussed below. Similarly, the only change to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) "Climate Change" homepage has been the removal of a reference to environmental justice, and there have been no visible alterations to the main body of DOE's "Climate Change" homepage. While several executive orders and deregulatory efforts demonstrate that the Trump administration intends to roll back efforts to mitigate climate change, thus far only a few agencies have stripped climate change information from their websites.

Language Changes

Some agencies have replaced terms used to describe climate change with vaguer alternatives, maintaining the overall messaging but obscuring and downplaying explicit connections to climate change. In many cases, these removals targeted only certain mentions of climate change, while leaving other references to the crisis intact. For example, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) renamed its "Climate Resilience" webpage to "Future Conditions." The same page removed all instances of the term "climate resilience" and some but not all mentions of "climate change." On EPA's "Sustainable Communities Accelerator Network" homepage, the phrase "climate change and environmental justice" was replaced with "disaster resilience, community engagement," but a reference to climate action plans was retained. Such language changes focus on downplaying climate impacts as part of a larger pattern or crisis, rather than wholesale denial or erasure of a changing climate.

In other cases, the targeted removal of key terms didn't leave any references to climate change untouched. For example, on EPA's webpage for "Creating Resilient Water Utilities"—which had been named Climate Ready Water Utilities under the Obama

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[70] Gutiérrez and Lamirande, "USDA Reverses Course, Commits to Restore Purged Climate Webpages in Response to Farmers' Lawsuit."

[administration](#)[71]—mentions of "climate change" were replaced with "[near- and longer-term weather variability](#)." Throughout the page, references to climate, climate change, and climate data were removed. Similarly, on the DOT's "[Sustainability Resilience Pilots](#)" webpage, the phrase "global climate change" was replaced with "future environmental conditions" and all other instances of "climate" were removed (Figure 9). The general purpose and information shared on these pages remained the same, but without climate change terminology.
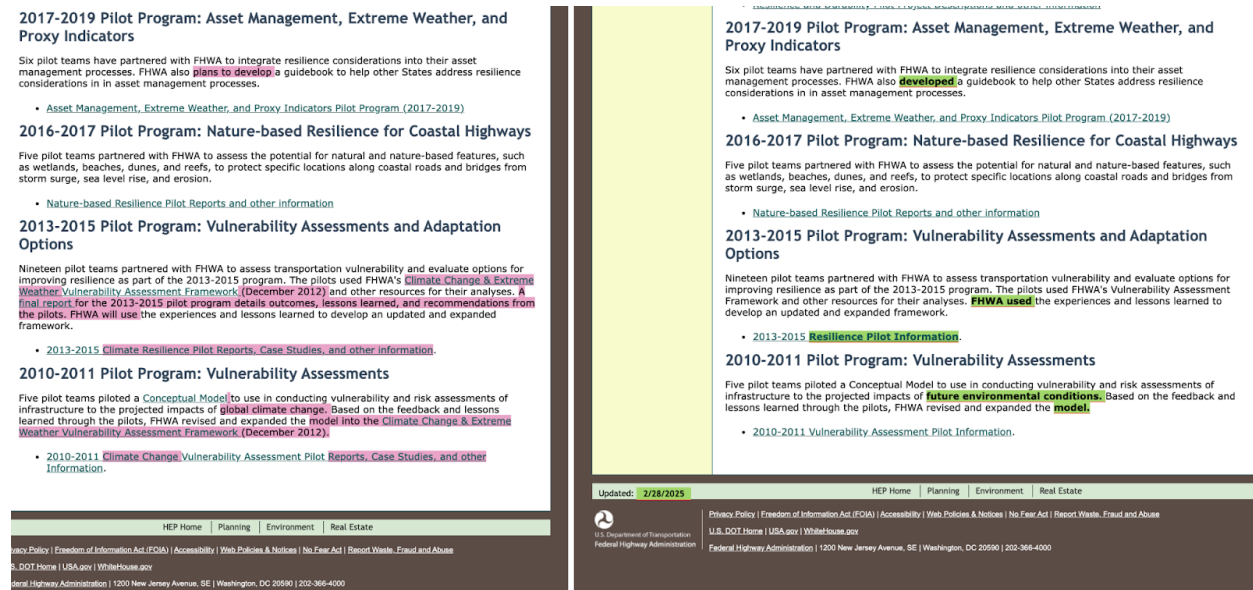
Figure 9. The DOT's "Sustainability Resilience Plots" webpage. Compare a previous version from [March 4, 2025](#) (left) to the more recent version from [March 7, 2025](#) (right); text highlighted in red was removed; text highlighted in green was added. Among other changes, the term "global climate change" was replaced with "future environmental conditions." URL: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/sustainability/resilience/pilots/

Climate Intersectionality

In addition to the removal of guides and educational resources related to climate change, information about how climate change relates to other topics have been removed. For example, in early February EPA's page for "[Natural Disasters and Underground Storage Tanks](#)" deleted a paragraph and linked resources under the header "Changing Climate." This section highlighted the ways climate change events such as heavy rainstorms and record high temperatures can impact underground storage tank sites. This type of

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[71] Environmental Data and Governance Initiative, *Change of Language and Content for EPA's Climate Ready Water Utilities Program and Web Page*.

information suppression severs ties between climate change and other issues, framing climate change as a singular issue that can be approached on its own, rather than as an interconnected problem that needs to be addressed in all sectors.

Comparison of Website Changes Under the First and Second Trump Administrations

Escalating Trends from the First Trump Administration

The changes to public information under the second Trump administration are, in some ways, outgrowths from Trump's first term. Both administrations used similar approaches to alter the landscape of federal environmental information in their first six months: changing the terminology used to describe environmental and climate risks, making scientific and government information harder to access or less navigable, and deleting information wholesale, from single sentences to entire websites. Similar to the first Trump administration, the second has also focused considerable attention on limiting access to climate change information and changing the way we talk about the climate crisis, as described above.[72]

The similarities reflect similar environmental policy agendas: broad deregulation, with specific deregulatory targets on bedrock environmental laws.[73] For example, a few of the second Trump administration's early regulatory actions include "reconsidering" the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP) and the endangerment finding,[74,75] crucial elements of the Clean Air Act; revising the definition of Waters of the United States under the Clean Water Act;[76] and significantly reducing the implementation procedures of the National Environmental Policy Act.[77] Website information has direct implications for policies, particularly by affecting civic engagement: The public often relies on federal websites to write informed public comments and engage in other forms of public

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[72] Environmental Data and Governance Initiative et al., "The New Digital Landscape: How the Trump Administration Has Undermined Federal Web Infrastructures for Climate Information."

[73] US Environmental Protection Agency Office of Administration, "EPA Launches Biggest Deregulatory Action in U.S. History."

[74] US Environmental Protection Agency Office of Administration, "Trump EPA Announces Reconsideration of Burdensome Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program."

[75] US Environmental Protection Agency Office of Administration, "Trump EPA Kicks Off Formal Reconsideration of Endangerment Finding with Agency Partners."

[76] US Environmental Protection Agency Office of Administration, "Administrator Zeldin Announces EPA Will Revise Waters of the United States Rule."

[77] The White House, "Fact Sheet."

participation. The first Trump administration systematically suppressed public information directly related to its regulatory proceedings. For example, the EPA's 2017 planned repeal of the Clean Power Plan followed the redirection of EPA's "Clean Power Plan" website to a single page with minimal resources about the rule.[78] Similarly, the EPA's announcement to repeal the Obama-era Clean Water Rule came weeks after the agency website dedicated to the rule redirected to a new website without any of the scientific information present on the previous site.[79] In a similarly troubling pattern, the Envirofacts Greenhouse Gas Overview page on EPA's website became inaccessible in June 2025, impacting the public's access to information relevant to potential future regulatory actions. This webpage contained scientific information about greenhouse gases emissions data collected by the GHGRP. EPA had announced its intention to reconsider the GHGRP several months before, which will likely result in a proposed rule that is open to public comment.

There are also significant differences between the tactics of the first and second Trump administrations that point to a greater scope and scale of information suppression in 2025. This is reflected in intensified rhetoric. For example, the first Trump administration emphasized "Energy Independence,"[80] while the second urges "Energy Dominance";[81] the first Trump EPA had the "Back to Basics" campaign,[82] while the second Trump EPA launched the "Great American Comeback"[83] and boasted about the "Historic Day of Deregulation."[84] The second Trump administration has also targeted new topics: One of the most striking differences between the administrations is the second Trump administration's eradication of information about marginalized populations, discussed below.

Coinciding with escalated language changes and expanded topical focus, the pace of information changes on federal environmental websites in the early months of President Trump's second term has far exceeded those observed during his first. Although EDGI's team is monitoring only about 20% of the pages we monitored during the first Trump

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[78] Rinberg, "Removing Clean Power Plan Web Resources Undermines Public Engagement."

[79] Rinberg, "Overhaul of the EPA's Clean Water Rule Website Removes Information and Reduces Public Access to Resources."

[80] Presidential Executive Order on Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth.

[81] US Department of Energy, "Secretary Wright Highlights 100 Days of Unleashing American Energy Under President Trump."

[82] Dillen, "Pruitt's 'Back to Basics' Plan Takes Us Back to More Toxic Water."

[83] US Environmental Protection Agency Office of Administration, "EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin Announces EPA's 'Powering the Great American Comeback' Initiative."

[84] US Environmental Protection Agency Office of Administration, "EPA Launches Biggest Deregulatory Action in U.S. History."

administration, EDGI documented 70% more important changes by President Trump's 100th day in office in 2025 than in 2017 (Figure 10).

Website Changes in the First 100 Days of the Trump Administration
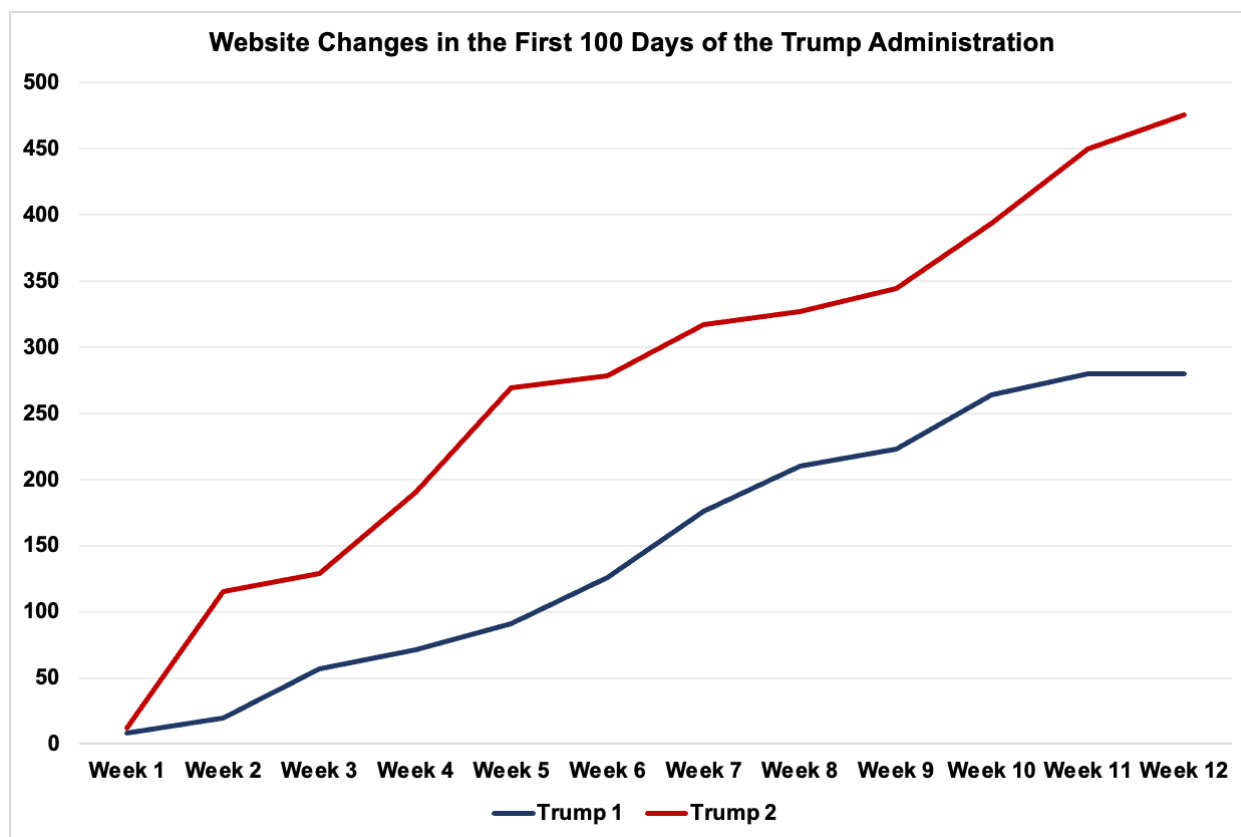
Figure 10. The number of website changes per week during the first 100 days of the first and second Trump administration, respectively. During the second Trump administration, 70% more federal environmental webpages had significant changes made to them than during the first 100 days of the first Trump administration.

Erasing Evidence of Racism

A key difference between the first and second Trump administrations is the second's focus on excising information about equity and environmental justice, subjects that call attention to the existence of systemic environmental racism. Within days of President Trump taking office the second time, most federal agencies had removed all language related to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and within a month, they had removed almost all language about environmental justice as well. Many of the resources that were removed had been present for years and had not been significantly altered or removed during Trump's first term, such

as the EPA's "Careers" webpages for affinity groups.[85] The EPA previously had an "Environmental Justice" website, epa.gov/environmentaljustice, since at least 2008, which had significantly expanded over the last decade. The EPA's January 19, 2017 Snapshot has 387 pages under this domain; the January 19, 2021 Snapshot has 482 pages under it; and the January 19, 2025 Snapshot from the final day of the Biden administration has 616 webpages under the epa.gov/environmentaljustice domain. By February 14, 2025, all of these pages were removed (Figure 11).

EPA Environmental Justice Webpages Under Different Administrations
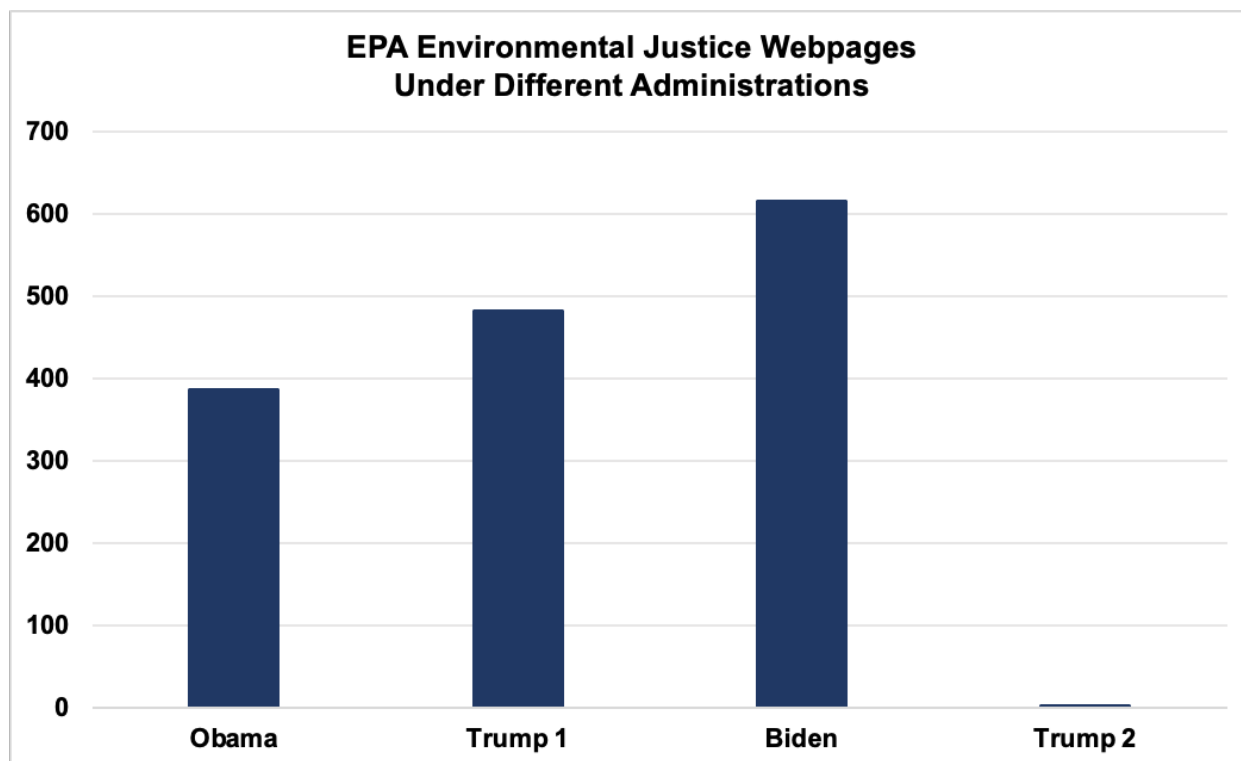
Figure 11. The number of pages in the EPA's Environmental Justice subdomain. Unlike his first administration, the second Trump administration has removed hundreds of webpages related to environmental justice. Source: https://www.epa.gov/utilities/wwwepagov-snapshots; search for "site:epa.gov/environmentaljustice AND NOT site:epa.gov/sites".

Removing equity and environmental justice information was one of the earliest actions of the second Trump administration, indicating its high priority. Across the United States, racialized populations have been disproportionately exposed to pollution,[86] largely because industrial operations and major roadways have been built in and near low-income

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[85] Environmental Data and Governance Initiative, "Trump Targets DEI Pages at the EPA."
[86] Mohai et al., "Environmental Justice."

communities of color. By removing environmental justice informational resources, history, and research, the link between industry operations and immediate and long-term consequential human health impacts becomes less evident to corporations, policymakers, and the public. Erasing this information does not erase the existence of pervasive environmental injustices in the United States, but it can hide its existence, remove it from widespread public consciousness, minimize and ignore the lived experiences of the people affected (who are often members of racialized groups), and impede efforts to address environmental injustices.

Changing Climate Change Information

The second Trump administration's approach to climate change information has not mirrored that of the first Trump administration. In many ways, the second Trump administration's suppression of climate information is faster and more thorough than in 2017,[87] including removing a wide range of informational resources about climate change that were not altered during the first Trump administration. The most significant example of this is the removal of the USGCRP website globalchange.gov and its interactive, congressionally-mandated National Climate Assessments. The other most significant example is the removal of resources from NOAA's climate.gov and the anticipated removal of that website, as described above.

Unlike most environmental agencies, NOAA and the interagency US Global Change Research Program both have congressional mandates to provide the public with climate change information. Neither globalchange.gov nor climate.gov were substantially altered during the first Trump administration, and climate.gov was one of the only federal websites to use the term "climate change" more in 2020 than in 2016.[88] The second Trump administration has removed informational resources provided by the agencies and has called for the dissolution or restructuring of NOAA and the USGCRP.[89,90]

In contrast, informational resources provided by other agencies have not been altered as much as they were during the first Trump administration. For example, every page in the EPA's "Climate Change" website was removed on President Trump's 99th day in office in

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[87] Environmental Data and Governance Initiative, "How Information Was Suppressed in Trump's First 100 Days (and How It Compares to Last Time)."
[88] Nost et al., "Visualizing Changes to US Federal Environmental Agency Websites, 2016–2020."
[89] Cusick et al., "White House Outlines Plan to Gut NOAA, Smother Climate Research."
[90] Colman, "Trump Moves to Hobble Major US Climate Change Study."

2017. The Biden EPA launched a new Climate Change website,[91] and as of the writing of this report, it remains intact.

Targeting Data

The first Trump administration targeted federal data through stagnation more than deletion. For example, under the first Trump administration, EPA's Climate Indicators data remained publicly available but were never updated.[92] Thus far, the second Trump administration is undermining the collection, production, and maintenance of data and has also removed data and tools outright. For example, under the second Trump administration, the EPA has deleted its online Risk Management Plan (RMP) database,[93] which has significant environmental justice implications since it provides details about the hazardous materials used and stored in facilities and exposure risks for nearby communities. While still publicly available, NOAA will stop updating key data, such as NOAA's Billion Dollar Disasters data and website,[94] which records the federal expenses resulting from natural disasters. Several agencies have removed tools that the public and policymakers rely on to interpret data, such as the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) and EPA's EJScreen.[95,96] The second Trump administration's removal of data and tools that it "rejects" or otherwise disagrees with demonstrates more thorough information control than the first Trump administration exhibited.[97]

Beyond targeting specific data and tools that the administration has removed or plans to let stagnate, the second Trump administration is defunding programs that produce data and dismantling the federal scientific enterprise.[98] It has cut all funding for the USGCRP.[99] The second Trump administration is also planning to close the EPA's Office of Research and

[91] Environmental Data and Governance Initiative Website Monitoring Team, "Work in Progress: Governance of Digital Environmental Information In the Biden Administration's First Year."
[92] Environmental Data and Governance Initiative et al., "The New Digital Landscape: How the Trump Administration Has Undermined Federal Web Infrastructures for Climate Information."
[93] Alms, "Inside Efforts to Capture Federal Data after 'the Big Takedown.'"
[94] National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Centers for Environmental Information, "Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters."
[95] Environmental Data and Governance Initiative, "Trump Removes Access to CEJST, Our New Coalition Restores It."
[96] Environmental Data and Governance Initiative, "EPA Removes EJScreen from Its Website."
[97] US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Social Vulnerability Index."
[98] Minovi et al., "Science and Democracy Under Siege | Union of Concerned Scientists."
[99] Waldman, "Why Trump Axed the Global Change Research Program."

[Development](#) and [cut funding for NOAA's Oceanic and Atmospheric Research office](#),[100,101] in addition to environmental and science offices and programs throughout the federal government. This will impact federal environmental data and information for years to come.

Information Control

A central political strategy for the first and the second Trump administrations has been to mold public opinion through controlling the narrative about an issue. As Irwin Stelzer wrote, "[The narrative is essential to persuade the voters to see the world as Donald Trump would have them see it.](#)"[102] Information suppression is a core component of controlling the narrative, as it depresses factual information and creates an opening for falsehoods to thrive. The Washington Post reported that during his first presidential term, [Trump made more than 30,000 false or misleading claims](#).[103]

Scholars study this type of strategy and its impacts on public opinion in "epistemologies of ignorance." In a foundational paper in this field, psychology scholar Jessica Nelson [found that people's perceptions of racism were driven by their (lack of) knowledge](#) of factual historical events:[104] People who knew less about real events like the Wilmington Massacre were less likely to believe in or perceive racism today. This ignorance is not just due to the lack of information, though—it is actively constructed by the absence of factual information plus the presence of information that denies those facts. These findings have been confirmed in several other studies, including one with [political implications](#).[105] The construction of ignorance through information suppression and the denial of facts has significant implications for the resilience of American democracy and environmental governance.

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[100] Daly and Associated Press, "EPA Eliminates Research and Development Office as It Begins Thousands of Layoffs."

[101] Peck and Glasser, "Congressional Committees Push Back on Trump Administration's Proposed NOAA Budget Cuts."

[102] Stelzer, "Donald Trump Is Seizing Control of Data to Bend America's Narrative."

[103] The Washington Post, "Tracking All of President Trump's False or Misleading Claims."

[104] Nelson et al., "The Marley Hypothesis."

[105] Zell and Lesick, "Ignorance of History and Political Differences in Perception of Racism in the United States."

Explicit and Implicit Information Suppression

The Trump administration has explicitly and implicitly acknowledged information suppression as a key tactic in its political agenda. While only a few of the information changes observed in the first Trump administration were explicitly political (notably, the removal of the EPA's Climate Change website to "reflect the agency's new direction under President Donald Trump and Administrator Scott Pruitt"[106]) information suppression has been repeatedly mandated by the second Trump administration. For example, the Trump Department of Agriculture (USDA) ordered its website managers to "identify and archive or unpublish any landing pages focused on climate change"[107] and identify, document, and recommend how to "handle" all other climate change content. Even more directly, President Trump signed the Executive Order 14168 "Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government,"[108] directing agencies to "remove all statements, policies, regulations, forms, communications or other internal and external messages that promote or otherwise inculcate gender ideology." Shortly thereafter, the Office of Personnel Management directed federal agencies to remove all public-facing content relating to "gender ideology."[109]

Even when executive orders didn't explicitly mandate content removal and language changes, agencies often referenced compliance with executive orders as the reason behind website changes. For example, in February the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) added a banner on its webpages that read, "FEMA.gov is being updated to comply with President Trump's Executive Orders. Thank you for your patience and understanding." In June, NOAA redirected its flagship climate information website, climate.gov, to its noaa.gov/climate website, citing compliance with EO 14303 "Restoring Gold Standard Science" as a prompt for the change. The ubiquitous removal of the terms related to DEI and environmental justice across federal websites wasn't explicitly called for in the EO, but directly followed President Trump's Executive Order 14151 "Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing."[110] In some cases agency personnel may remove politically taboo language in order to allow their work on a program to continue . Explicit and implicit restriction of language in the second Trump administration[111] facilitates

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[106] US Environmental Protection Agency Office of Administration, "EPA Kicks Off Website Updates."
[107] Colman and Brown, "USDA Ordered to Scrub Climate Change from Websites."
[108] Defending Women From Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government.
[109] Ezell, "Initial Guidance Regarding President Trump's Executive Order Defending Women."
[110] Ending Radical And Wasteful Government DEI Programs And Preferencing.
[111] Connelly, "Federal Government's Growing Banned Words List Is Chilling Act of Censorship."

the denial of facts and generation of misinformation while undermining the public's ability to act on issues made obscure by tightly controlled language.

Public Information and Programmatic Actions

The Trump administration's changes to the content of and access to information on government websites are part of a broader agenda that is transforming the purpose and functioning of the US government. The first six months of Trump's second term have revealed unprecedented upheavals to the government, including massive funding cuts, the shutdown of numerous environmental programs, and the dismissal of tens of thousands of civil servants.[112] In this administration, website changes have often preceded and served as indicators of staffing and policy changes to come. For example, EPA's EJScreen was removed from public access on February 5, 2025. The next day, the staff of EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR) were all placed on administrative leave.[113] Following this action, on February 14 EPA removed its Environmental Justice website, epa.gov/environmentaljustice. Two months later, on April 21, the staff of OEJECR received termination notices, effective July 31, 2025.[114] Similarly, the OCCHE website was removed between January 24-30, 2025; while its staff had been placed on administrative leave on January 22, it was announced on February 5, 2025 that the office would be shuttered.[115] On June 24, 2025, the Climate.gov homepage began redirecting to NOAA.gov/climate and the Climate.gov staff were terminated effective July 1. This pattern underscores the important role of controlling public information as part of the Trump administration's broader policy agenda.

Information Restriction Internationally

While modern technology and information sharing practices provide access to new factual information, they also facilitate the spread of mis- and disinformation. Scholars have established that, though we've been living in the Information Age,[116] we have in the last decade crossed into the Disinformation Age.[117] Most Americans engage with information in online venues, including social media, search engines, and websites. The Internet provides instant access to information, which can bolster public knowledge and facilitate civic engagement but can also undermine it. The speed of the spread of information when

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[112] Hsu, "Officially, 59,000 Federal Jobs Are Gone under Trump. There's More to the Picture."

[113] Borunda and Perez, "EPA Employees Who Work on Environmental Justice Are Put on Leave."

[114] Volcovici, "EPA Begins Layoffs of Environmental Justice Staff."

[115] Wittenberg, "HHS Climate Office Goes Dark under Trump."

[116] MacLeod, *Propaganda in the Information Age*.

[117] Bennett and Livingston, *The Disinformation Age*.

coupled with anonymity, the development of echo chambers, and politically-motivated disinformation campaigns presents an existential threat to democracy.[118] This is further exacerbated by the meteoric rise in the use of artificial intelligence, which is indifferent to truth.[119]

An understudied element of the Internet's influence on democracy is its ephemeral nature. Unlike its printed predecessors, information on the Internet can be and is rewritten without warning, labeling, citation, or archiving. The transitory nature of web-based information makes it ripe for revisionist history and gaslighting—practices tied to authoritarianism and fascism around the globe.

In countries like Turkey and Hungary under the leadership of Tayyip Erdogan and Viktor Orbán, respectively, website information has been exploited for authoritarian purposes. In Turkey, where president Erdogan has entered his eleventh year in office, information suppression has mostly targeted journalists. Between 2007 and 2023, over 900,000 websites and domain names mentioning Erdogan or his political party were restricted through court orders, including both foreign and domestic news articles, social media posts, and YouTube videos.[120] Restrictions were also imposed on organizations that attempted to track information suppression, including a 2023 "Disinformation Bill" passed in Turkish Parliament, as a legal tactic to further suppress journalists.[121] In Hungary, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's tactics for restricting free press have included utilizing media buyouts to create centralized control of nearly 80% of Hungary's media market resources (a level of media centralization previously unseen in post-Soviet Europe) to remove critical and even neutral information sources, particularly related to his candidacy and image.[122]

The information suppression currently taking place in the United States takes a different path than ensuring a positive image of a politician or a political party, as seen in Turkey or Hungary, and instead changes or removes access to taxpayer-funded research, policies, and data to create an information landscape that matches the administration's viewpoints.

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[118] Persily, "Can Democracy Survive the Internet?"
[119] Hicks et al., "ChatGPT Is Bullshit."
[120] English, "Turkish authorities banned nearly one million websites between 2007-2023."
[121] Basın Kanunu Ile Bazı Kanunlarda Değişiklik Yapılmasına Dair Kanun (Law on the Amendment to the Press Law and Certain Laws).
[122] Krekó, "The Birth of an Illiberal Informational Autocracy in Europe."

Conclusion

The second Trump administration has altered and removed substantial federal environmental information, particularly relating to environmental justice and climate change. On President Trump's second day of his second term in office, the administration took down the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool data and map used to identify overburdened communities. Within days, federal agencies stripped equity-related language from their websites and within one month, all federal agencies had removed their environmental justice websites and webpages. Climate change information has also been deleted, though not as consistently. While agencies like the EPA still host a Climate Change website, significant climate science and educational information resources have been removed from NOAA's websites, and the congressionally-mandated US Global Change Research Program's website, including the National Climate Assessment, was removed.

The nature of these federal website changes harken back to the first Trump administration, but are bolder: Rhetoric has intensified, statutory authorities for information sharing have been challenged, and information about environmental racism has been universally excised from federal websites. Information suppression is part of a broader political agenda to reshape the structure and function of the federal government. The tactics used facilitate misinformation and constructed ignorance and impede our ability to address real environmental and climate crises.

Trustworthy public information is foundational for a functioning democracy. The swift removal of public information at odds with the Trump administration's viewpoints demonstrates the need for more comprehensive and binding policies to protect the integrity of federal information and, ultimately, to protect American democracy.

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Appendix A – All Website Changes Described in the Report

The website changes described in the report text are listed below. Where possible, links to the Internet Archive Wayback Machine's "Changes" view are provided, along with links to a "before" version and an "after" version of the change described in the text. For situations where the Internet Archive does not have an archived version of the "before" or where the "Changes" view doesn't function for the comparison of interest, the most relevant links the Internet Archive does have are provided.

1. The Biden administration's central environmental justice website, environmentaljustice.gov, was removed.
    a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250121035020/20250201050020/http://environmentaljustice.gov
    b. Versions from January 21, 2025 and February 1, 2025
2. The Department of Justice's (DOJ) environmental justice website was removed and moved to the agency's online archive.
    a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250115014947/20250131222007/https://www.justice.gov/oej
    b. Versions from January 15, 2025 and January 31, 2025
3. The US Fish & Wildlife Service environmental justice subdomain began showing only the message "Content not Available."
    a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250122221000/20250804212512/https://www.fws.gov/program/environmental-justice/about-us
    b. Versions from January 22, 2025 and August 4 2025
4. The US Global Change Research Program's page for DEIJA and Code of Conduct began returning a "Page not found" message and a 403 error.
    a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250108200151/20250124060601/https://www.globalchange.gov/about-us/deija-and-code-conduct
    b. Versions from January 8, 2025 and January 24, 2025
5. Environmental justice guidance documents, such as the FWS EJ policy, were removed.

a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250110222838/20250208145048/https://www.fws.gov/media/ej-additional-direction-implementing-deputy-secretarys-order-3355

b. Versions from January 10, 2025 and February 8, 2025

6. Information and pages dedicated to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Climate Change and Health Equity (OCCHE) were deleted.

a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250124214758/20250203045956/https://www.hhs.gov/climate-change-health-equity-environmental-justice/climate-change-health-equity/index.html

b. Versions from January 24, 2025 and February 3, 2025

7. The EPA's entire environmental justice subdomain, epa.gov/environmentaljustice, was deleted, with every page returning a message saying "this web page does not exist."

a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250131021432/20250215130824/epa.gov/environmentaljustice

b. Versions from January 31, 2025 and February 15, 2025

8. Removals and changes to terms related to environmental justice and DEI on EPA's "Definitions" page for the Climate Resilience and Adaptation Funding Toolbox (CRAFT).

a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250211023320/20250214130638/https://www.epa.gov/resilient-investments/definitions

b. Version from February 11, 2025 and February 14, 2025

9. This EPA page's title was edited from "What You Can Do About Climate Change-Environmental Justice" to "What You Can Do About Climate Change-Community-Scale Action."

a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250122222258/20250201023310/https://www.epa.gov/climate-change/what-you-can-do-about-climate-change-environmental-justice-ej

b. Versions from January 22, 2025 and February 1, 2025

10. On this EPA page for a "Background on HFCs and the AIM Act," "Environmental Justice" was edited to "Best Practices."

a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250121185617/20250130084016/https://www.epa.gov/climate-hfcs-reduction/background-hfcs-and-aim-act

b. Versions from January 21, 2025 and January 30, 2025

11. On EPA's page for "Smart Growth and Transportation," the term "vulnerable" was replaced with "at-risk."

a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250210015717/20250215130711/https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-growth-and-climate-change

b. Versions from February 10, 2025 and February 15, 2025

12. On EPA's page for "Smart Growth Strategies for Disaster Resilience and Recovery," the term "vulnerable" was replaced with "disaster-prone."

a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250210015838/20250215130739/https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-growth-strategies-disaster-resilience-and-recovery

b. Versions from February 10, 2025 and February 15, 2025

13. "Equitable and sustainable" was replaced with "innovative" on the Oak Ridge National Laboratory's page for its Climate Change Science Institute.

a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250204081854/20250210015810/https://www.ornl.gov/ccsi

b. Versions from February 4, 2025 and February 10, 2025

14. The term "community" was removed from EPA's page for the "National Enforcement and Compliance Initiative: Protecting Communities from Coal Ash Contamination."

a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250321205421/20250407074351/https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/national-enforcement-and-compliance-initiative-protecting-communities-coal-ash

b. Versions from March 21, 2025 and April 7, 2025

15. The term "community" was removed from across EPA's page for the "Water Infrastructure and Capacity Assessment Tool."

a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250306213419/20250320062707/https://www.epa.gov/waterfinancecenter/water-infrastructure-and-capacity-assessment-tool

b. Versions from March 6, 2025 and March 20, 2025

16. Section headers for "Environmental Justice and Equity" were changed to "Population Impacts" on EPA's page for "Climate Change Impacts on Ecosystems." However, the information under the headers, which discussed unequal vulnerabilities across different communities, remained unchanged.

a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250118221832/20250201015624/https://www.epa.gov/climateimpacts/climate-change-impacts-ecosystems

b. Versions from January 18, 2025 and February 1, 2025

17. This EPA page's title was edited from "What You Can Do About Climate Change-Environmental Justice" to "What You Can Do About Climate Change-Community-Scale Action."

a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250122222258/20250201023310/https://www.epa.gov/climate-change/what-you-can-do-about-climate-change-environmental-justice-ej

b. Versions from January 22, 2025 and February 1, 2025

18. On NOAA's educational page about Climate change impacts, several paragraphs about the unequal impacts of climate change, vulnerable groups, and socioeconomic inequalities were deleted, as well as a singular sentence stating that, "even within a community, some groups are more vulnerable to these threats than others."

a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250201014712/20250215011617/https://www.noaa.gov/education/resource-collections/climate/climate-change-impacts

b. Versions from February 1, 2025 and February 15, 2025

19. EPA's page for "Planning for Climate Change Adaptation" removed examples of community-based adaptation actions.

a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250417110442/20250423000154/https://www.epa.gov/arc-x/planning-climate-change-adaptation

b. Versions from April 17, 2025 and April 23, 2025

20. Nearly all the changes made on NOAA's page for "Climate Change Impacts" were removals of information at the intersection of climate change and communities.

a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250308000710/20250405012229/https://www.noaa.gov/education/resource-collections/climate/climate-change-impacts

b. Versions from March 8, 2025 and April 5, 2025

21. Footers across EPA pages were changed to include English names of the language resources they link to.

a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250304220228/20250311214151/https://www.epa.gov/hwgenerators

b. Versions from March 4, 2025 and March 11, 2025

22. A Spanish PDF about environmental contaminants found at brownfields was removed from the EPA page for "Understanding Brownfields."

a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250217150902/20250225084434/https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/understanding-brownfields

b. Versions from February 17, 2025 and February 25, 2025

23. A link to the Spanish language version of DOE's "About the Solar Technologies Office" webpage was removed from the top of the English version.

a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250217151003/20250225084447/https://www.energy.gov/eere/solar/about-solar-energy-technologies-office

b. Versions from February 17, 2025 and February 25 2025

24. The EPA removed all reference to its Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions Advisory Council from its page for "Advisory Committees at EPA."

a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250417163917/20250524223759/https://www.epa.gov/faca/all-federal-advisory-committees-epa

b. Versions from April 17, 2025 and May 20, 2025

25. Several links to diverse affinity groups were removed on the EPA's page for "What Kind of People Work at EPA?" including those for African Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, Native Americans, and LGBTQ+ scientists at EPA.

a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250112015036/20250123161059/https://www.epa.gov/careers/what-kind-people-work-epa

b. Versions from January 12, 2025 and January 23, 2025

26. The White House Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) was removed from the White House website.

a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20241219201506/20250311045245/https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/

b. Versions from December 19, 2024 and March 11, 2025

27. EPA's flagship Environmental Justice Mapping and Screening Tool (EJScreen) was removed, including its landing page, most technical information and additional resources, the main pages for using the tool, pages to download the data for offline use, and servers that distribute the spatial data behind the tool.

a. Landing page:
https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250123032204/20250206062828/https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen

   i. Versions from January 23, 2025 and February 6, 2025

b. Additional resources:
https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250123044535/20250207000044/https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen/learn-use-ejscreen

   i. Versions from January 23, 2025 and February 7, 2025

c. Download the data:
https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250124121127/20250205210931/https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen/download-ejscreen-data

   i. Versions from January 24, 2025 and February 5, 2025

28. Access to the CDC's Environmental Justice Index has been restored since it was taken down, with a banner that the "Trump administration rejects gender ideology" and that the information on the page "does not reflect biological reality."
    a. Version from July 17, 2025
29. The US Global Change Research Program has been removed.
    a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250627072714/20250630172322/http://globalchange.gov
    b. Versions from June 27, 2025 and June 30, 2025
30. NOAA's climate.gov began redirecting to noaa.gov/climate, with a banner explaining, "… you have been redirected to NOAA.gov. Future research products previously housed under Climate.gov will be available at NOAA.gov/climate and its affiliate websites."
    a. Version of noaa.gov/climate from June 28, 2025
31. Every resource that had been available on climate.gov's "Teaching Climate" repository was removed in early April.
    a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250313021913/20250506143221/https://www.climate.gov/teaching/all
    b. Version from March 13, 2025 and [May 6, 2025](May 6, 2025)
32. Information about three federal statutes was added to NOAA's climate.gov "About" page, detailing that NOAA had a statutory obligation to "provide reliable, useful, and readily available information on a continuing basis" about climate change.
    a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250304042131/20250313021931/https://www.climate.gov/about
    b. Versions from March 4, 2025 and March 13, 2025
33. Information about NOAA's statutory authority to collect and analyze climate data and disseminate climate change information to the public was added to NOAA's Climate Program Office homepage.
    a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250313220008/20250401203312/https://cpo.noaa.gov/about-cpo/
    b. Versions from March 13, 2025 and April 1, 2025
34. DOT's Climate and Sustainability subdomain was removed from public access.
    a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250122060957/20250204231053/https://www.transportation.gov/priorities/climate-sustainability
    b. Versions from January 22, 2025 and February 4, 2025
35. The Department of Agriculture (USDA) deleted extensive climate change webpages, reports, data, and tools including a page for "Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry."

a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250120225716/20250203054129/https://www.farmers.gov/conservation/climate-smart
   b. Versions from January 20, 2025 and February 3, 2025
36. In the first six months of the second Trump administration, the only change to EPA's "Climate Change" website homepage has been the removal of the term "climate equity;" all other information and links remain intact.
   a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250120034247/20250625205420/epa.gov/climate-change
   b. Versions from January 20, 2025 and June 25, 2025
37. The only change to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) "Climate Change" homepage has been the removal of a reference to environmental justice.
   a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250107092545/20250602083548/https://www.blm.gov/about/how-we-manage/climate-change
   b. Versions from January 7, 2025 and June 2, 2025
38. There have been no visible alterations to the main body of DOE's "Climate Change" homepage.
   a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250121192246/20250707172034/https://www.energy.gov/climate-change
   b. Versions from January 21, 2025 and July 7, 2025
39. FEMA renamed its "Climate Resilience" webpage to "Future Conditions."
   a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20241223225240/20250123155753/https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/climate-resilience
   b. Versions from December 23, 2024 and January 23, 2025
40. On EPA's "Sustainable Communities Accelerator Network" homepage, the phrase "climate change and environmental justice" was replaced with "disaster resilience, community engagement," but a reference to climate action plans was retained.
   a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250130083928/20250210015716/https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/sustainable-communities-accelerator-network
   b. Versions from January 30, 2025 and February 10, 2025
41. On the EPA's webpage for "Creating Resilient Water Utilities" mentions of "climate change" were replaced with "near- and longer-term weather variability."
   a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250103231917/20250122234642/https://www.epa.gov/crwu/
   b. Versions from January 3, 2025 and January 22, 2025
42. On the DOT "Sustainability Resilience Pilots" webpage, the phrase "global climate change" was replaced with "future environmental conditions" and all other instances of "climate" were removed.

a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250304215943/20250307213851/https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/sustainability/resilience/pilots/
b. Versions from March 4, 2025 and March 7, 2025

43. EPA's page for "Natural Disasters and Underground Storage Tanks" deleted a paragraph and linked resources under the header "Changing Climate."
   a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250210015759/20250216130907/https://www.epa.gov/ust/natural-disasters-and-underground-storage-tanks
   b. Versions from February 10, 2025 and February 16, 2025

44. The Envirofacts Greenhouse Gas Overview page on EPA's website became inaccessible.
   a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250402073029/20250617210956/https://www.epa.gov/enviro/greenhouse-gas-overview
   b. Versions from April 2, 2025 and June 17, 2025

45. FEMA's "Flood Mitigation Assistance Program" page shows a message stating that "FEMA.gov is being updated to comply with President Trump's Executive Orders. Thank you for your patience and understanding."
   a. Version from February 28, 2025

46. NOAA redirected its flagship climate information website, climate.gov, to its noaa.gov/climate website, citing compliance with EO 14303 "Restoring Gold Standard Science" as a prompt for the change.
   a. Version from June 28, 2025

47. EPA's EJScreen was removed from public access.
   a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250123032204/20250206062828/https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen
   b. Versions from January 23, 2025 and February 6, 2025

48. EPA removed its environmental justice website.
   a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250213023025/20250215130824/epa.gov/environmentaljustice
   b. Versions from February 13, 2025 and February 15, 2025

49. The HHS removed its OCCHE website.
   a. https://web.archive.org/web/diff/20250124115530/20250130081333/https://www.hhs.gov/ash/ocche/index.html
   b. Versions from January 24, 2025 and January 30, 2025