

An aerial photograph of a rugged, mountainous landscape. The terrain is characterized by brown and tan hues, with numerous ridges and valleys. A large, dark green reservoir is visible in the lower-left corner, partially obscured by a black shadow. The overall scene depicts a natural, mountainous environment.

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

EDGI Environmental Data
& Governance Initiative

A Letter from Our Advisory Committee

Friends,

For all of us, 2025 was quite a year. This government's attacks on our systems of governance were dire, yet our determination has only grown. Throughout 2025, EDGI focused on rapidly responding to immediate threats while advancing our long-term goal of building more just environmental governance through the environmental right to know. We preserved reams of data and built tools to access it, documented and

analyzed federal environmental data and information suppression and spin, published research on the destruction of environmental oversight and its impacts, and expanded our network to become a leader in a much larger data and information advocacy movement.

Coming into 2025, we were prepared. For nearly 10 years, we've been building our monitoring and analysis systems while steadily growing our network across the field. In November 2024, we launched an

environmental data coalition, the Public Environmental Data Partners (PEDP), to coordinate efficient data and tools archiving. Primed for responsiveness, we were able to move quickly when federal attacks on environmental data, information, and policies hit like a firehose.

With infrastructure and partnerships in place, EDGI solidified its position as a place where researchers and analysts can channel their energy and expertise into action. In 2025, EDGI welcomed more volunteers than any year since 2017. Our volunteers across disciplinary backgrounds produced more analytical reports than ever before, and our work was covered in 191 stories in outlets from *The New York Times* to *TIME*. EDGI's leadership in the field of environmental data governance is evident not only in this volunteer engagement and coverage, but also in our central role convening PEDP and directing funding to other organizations to build this movement.

In 2026, we are making strides toward building a better future for environmental governance. Our long-term objective to protect and improve the integrity, utility, and public oversight of environmental data, information, policies, and practices guides our work. We're currently

expanding access to our archives and analyses by building data hubs, searchable repositories, and tools to help groups leverage our work in their advocacy. We're also building blueprints for federal policies and infrastructure and conducting critical research to ensure our interventions are grounded in theory, practice, and above all, justice.

Reflecting on the last year and the year ahead, we feel immense gratitude and hope. We are grateful for the EDGI community and especially our volunteer members who have chosen EDGI as their avenue to leverage their expertise, produce high quality research, and stand up for our environment and our democracy. The vibrancy, dedication, and diligence of our community and broader network give us hope that we will use this crisis to spur more thoughtful, just, and robust environmental governance in the months and years ahead.

Thank you for being a part of our community and a part of the change we are making.

In Solidarity,

EDGI Advisory Committee

Mission & Approach

EDGI is an action-oriented research collaborative dedicated to strengthening the Environmental Right to Know (ERTK). To us, ERTK means:

- People should be able to know and make decisions about environmental conditions of concern affecting their livelihoods and maintain rights of consent, refusal, and self-determination in environmental decision-making.
- The collection and stewardship of environmental information should equip people, communities, and workers to protect their health and support the flourishing of surrounding ecosystems.
- All people, but especially minoritized communities who experience disproportionate harms, should have equitable access to comprehensive and legible environmental information in order to seek redress for past and accumulated harms, if they so desire, and build relations that emphasize responsibility and accountability.

We apply three key strategies to work towards this mission:

Information: We develop, envision, and critique practices and tools to generate, analyze, steward, and improve environmental data and information. We take a feminist approach to contextualize information with its social, political, and personal histories; question how different types of knowledge are perceived as more legitimate than others; and respond in ways that value diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

Boundary Org: We connect across organizations and agencies to demonstrate problems and solutions for better environmental governance and are a trusted partner and resource to diverse groups, including minoritized communities, communities of practice, academics, and civil servants.

Network: We foster a thriving, cross-disciplinary network of activists, researchers, and the wider community envisioning how environmental information can support governance and be governed democratically in a manner that promotes environmental data justice. We cultivate spaces that promote non-hierarchical and open engagement with integrity.

Our Working Groups in 2025

Website Governance

Our Website Governance working group analyzes federal environmental information and advocates for digital information policies that protect public knowledge, foster scientific literacy and learning, and provide opportunities for public oversight and government accountability. We build civic technologies to monitor changes to federal information and support people to find, interpret, and leverage federal information in their advocacy. We assess the quality and accessibility of federal environmental information, document instances of information suppression and censorship, and advocate for more robust and resilient information policies.

In 2025, we focused our energy on tracking and analyzing changes to environmental governance and providing tools to foster civic engagement and advocacy. We ramped up our website monitoring work to analyze changes to access and content of thousands of federal websites and communicated our findings through a [blog series](#), three [public comments](#), one [synthesis report](#), and our [tracker](#). We also expanded our [Public Comments Initiative](#) with our new [Proposed Rules Resource Hub](#), a database that provides information and resources about select proposed rules to aid the public in writing effective public comments. Across our efforts, we documented, analyzed, and shed light on the pervasive information suppression by the Trump administration and expanded our advocacy to protect the integrity of public information.

Public Environmental Data Partners

In November 2024, EDGI convened a group of organizations to launch the [Public Environmental Data Partners \(PEDP\)](#) coalition, whose mission is to preserve, protect, and expand public access to federal climate and environmental data and tools. PEDP has three pillars of work: data preservation, tools development, and advocacy. Our data preservation pillar identifies, prioritizes, and archives vulnerable federal environmental data and develops best practices for continued data stewardship. Our tools development pillar drives replicas, improvements, and new tools for environmental justice and environmental data visualization and analysis and strategizes around longer-term management of these tools. Our advocacy pillar strategically coordinates goals and responsibilities with groups across the larger data preservation movement and publicly communicates PEDP's mission, especially the importance of federal environmental and climate data.

In 2025, PEDP established our role as the preeminent environmental node in the larger data preservation movement. We have [archived hundreds of climate and environmental datasets](#) across federal agencies and restored public access to 5 federal tools for data visualization and analysis, including [EPA's EJScreen](#). We coordinated and collaborated across the data movement, including bringing leaders together for the Future of Open Environmental Data Infrastructure meeting and facilitating working groups that emerged. We presented our work at New York Climate Week, the Earth Science Information Partners annual meeting, and several webinars and workshops. Toward the end of 2025, we ramped up our policy efforts, analyzing the existing data and information policy landscape and liaising with key stakeholders to advocate for better protections for our federal data.

Policy Monitoring and Interviewing

The Policy Monitoring and Interviewing Working Group analyzes changes to federal environmental, energy, and climate policy and institutions. We focus especially on federal environmental agencies: assessing their expertise, use of science, culture, budgets, regulation, and enforcement. Interviews, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, agency data and documents, and other sources form the basis of our research. We produce in-depth reports, white papers, academic papers, opinion writing, StoryMaps, searchable public repositories, public comments, letters to Congress, and FOIA requests, among other resources. We have also coordinated with or advised other non-governmental groups and government agencies, including working with communities facing cumulative environmental impacts.

In 2025, we initiated an Institutional Research Board-approved interviewing project of current and former federal employees in environmental, energy, climate, and health agencies to determine effects of the current administration. This project—and the working group—grew to include 13 researchers across nine research institutions. In addition to interviewing federal agency employees, our researchers also tracked and analyzed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the second Trump administration. We analyzed the agency's staffing and budget cuts and increasingly politicized rhetoric in two summary reports, published two academic articles, and wrote an op-ed based on the group's research. We also built on our 2024 work with community partner Alaska Community Action on Toxics by launching a new community-led FOIA project. Finally, we continued our partnership with Columbia Public Health School's Toxic Docs to build a public repository of FOIA documents. Across these efforts, we analyzed and responded to the impacts of the current Trump administration on the policies and agencies responsible for protecting the health of people and the environment.

Environmental Data Justice

The Environmental Data Justice (EDJ) working group works with the productive frictions between emerging data justice concerns and long-standing principles of environmental justice, uniting research communities to struggle together across these differences with a commitment to intersectional justice. We are concerned with all forms of environmental harms, particularly corporate and government practices of manipulating and withholding data and government failures to adequately collect and use data. We aspire to move beyond theories of change based primarily on proving environmental harms and instead facilitate collaborative, action-based research that creates civic technologies, environmental data infrastructures, and equitable and transparent data care practices. To this end, our work includes critical assessments of existing models, infrastructures, and practices of data collection, storage, and dissemination, as well as projects that generate alternative kinds of knowledge, technologies, and imaginaries towards more just worlds.

Our main project is Environmental Enforcement Watch (EEW), which explores open environmental datasets in partnership with community groups using data science tools. In 2025, EEW welcomed over a dozen new members. With this expanded capacity, we launched a State of Environmental Protection series analyzing federal policy impacts to air and water and performed an analysis of data centers' impacts on nearby communities. EEW also produced summary reports on the impacts of EPA environmental justice grants cuts and of presidential exemptions to the Clean Air Act. Members published two academic articles and wrote two public comments based on the group's work. Throughout these efforts, EEW centered its goal to develop a community of practice around environmental data justice and bring attention to the relationship between the lack of environmental enforcement, environmental racism, and other interrelated forms of oppression.

“One of EDGI’s greatest strengths is our ability to look broadly at environmental issues across the federal government. From enforcement of environmental regulations, to data transparency, to employee experiences, EDGI offers a lens into what is currently happening across different agencies and with a wide range of environmental and health topics.”

Alissa Cordner, EDGI volunteer & professor of sociology



Highlights from 2025

- Monitored over 5,000 web pages on climate change and environmental justice and identified and cataloged over 900 important changes to add to our [Federal Environmental Web Tracker](#).
- Participated in the 2025 End of Term Web Archive.
- Expanded our [Public Comments Initiative](#) with the following: 1) a **Proposed Rules Resource Hub** collating resources about specific proposed rules; 2) a **Proposed Rules Database** of every proposed rule published in the Federal Register; and 3) a public comment writing workshop on the proposed rescission of the Endangerment Finding.
- Through Public Environmental Data Partners, archived more than [300 federal datasets](#); created a [map of environmental justice grants](#) made under the Inflation Reduction Act; and restored public access to [key data tools](#) including the [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#), [EPA's EJScreen](#), and [FEMA's Future Risk Index](#).
- With our partner Alaska Community Action on Toxics, launched a new **Community-led FOIA** project and developed state-by-state guides for how to submit FOIAs in all 50 states.
- Submitted [three public comments](#) on state and federal rulemaking processes, including EPA's proposed reconsiderations of the [Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program](#) and [Endangerment Finding](#).
- Wrote op-eds on [EPA pollution regulations](#), [climate data](#), and [EPA staffing](#) under this administration.
- Published [five academic papers](#) and one academic poster on EDGI's work, including a paper on the history of [children's health and environmental justice](#) at the EPA.
- Published more summary reports than any other year in EDGI's existence, including the following:
 - [Climate of Suppression: Environmental Information Under the Second Trump Administration](#) tracks changes to federal websites in the first six months of Trump 2.0.
 - [Burning Down the EPA: Documenting the Second Trump Administration's Historic Assault](#) analyzes staff and budget cuts to the EPA in the first six months of Trump 2.0.
 - [The Cost of Cuts to EPA's Environmental Justice Grants](#) examines the effects of these grants cuts made under Trump 2.0.
 - [Even More Permission to Pollute? Impacts of Presidential Exempts to Clean Air Act Provisions](#) analyzes potential public health impacts of these exemptions.
 - [Zeldin's Spin Machine: Political Gaslighting in the EPA's Public Communications](#) examines political gaslighting in the early messaging of the EPA under Trump 2.0.
- Received coverage of our work **across 191 articles**, by major outlets like *The New York Times*, *CNN*, *NPR*, *TIME*, *The Washington Post*, *AP*, *The Guardian*, *BBC*, *CBC*, *Le Monde*, *The New Yorker*, *Bloomberg*, and *Forbes*, as well as niche outlets like *Grist*, *Politico*, *The Verge*, *Undark*, *The New Republic*, *Wired*, *Yale Environment 360*, *Salon*, *Science Magazine*, *Inside Climate News*, *E&E News*, and *Truthout*.

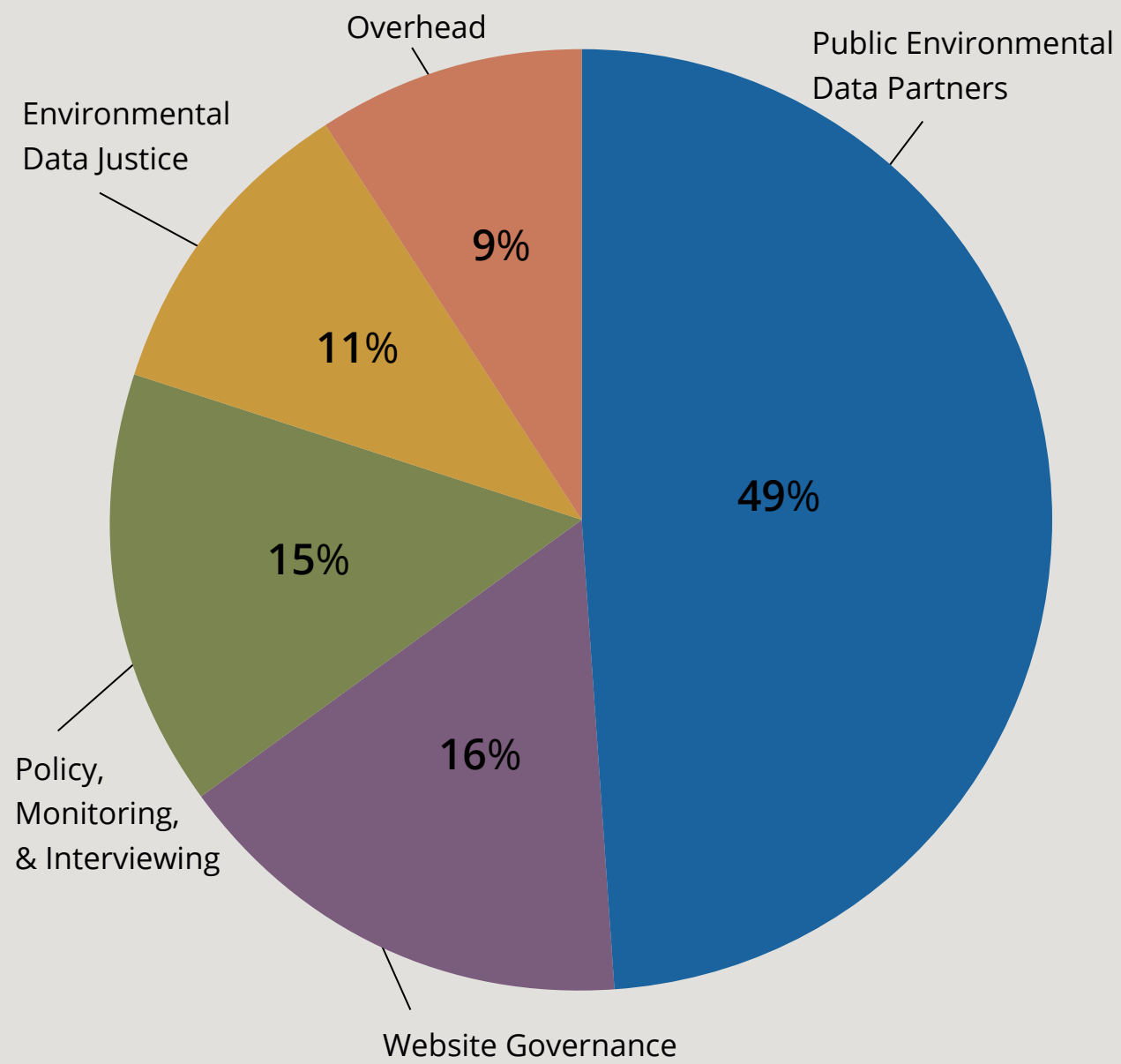


“The past year has shown me how so much of the information published by the federal government can be removed, altered, or concealed at the whim of political leaders. It also has revealed how neither the rule of law nor a shared agreement on facts across scientific institutions is enough to ensure people have continued access to vital public information. We’re tracking these issues and building the groundwork for future appraisals of what is happening.”

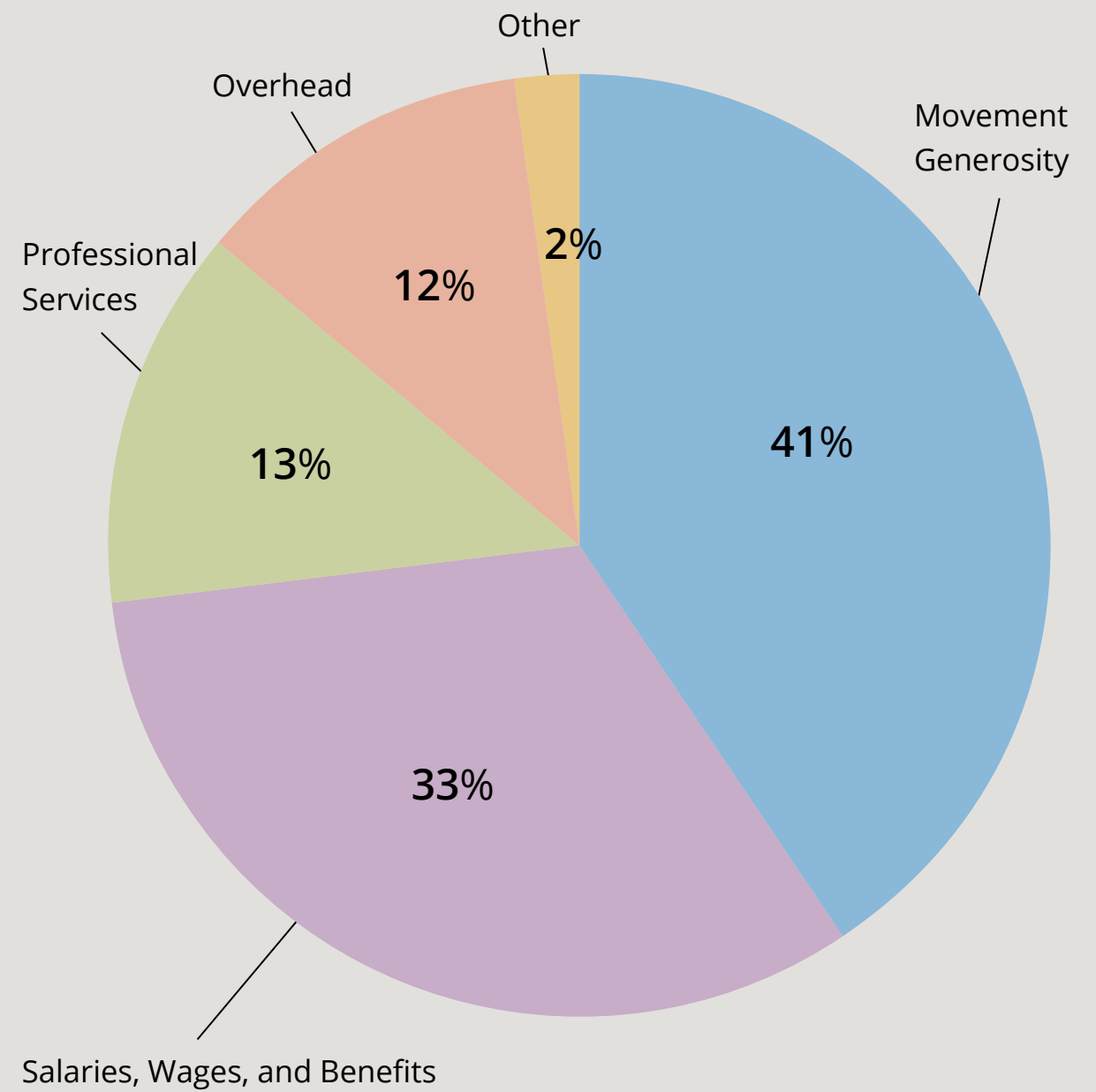
Alejandro Paz, EDGI volunteer & university librarian

Financials

Revenues



Expenses



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