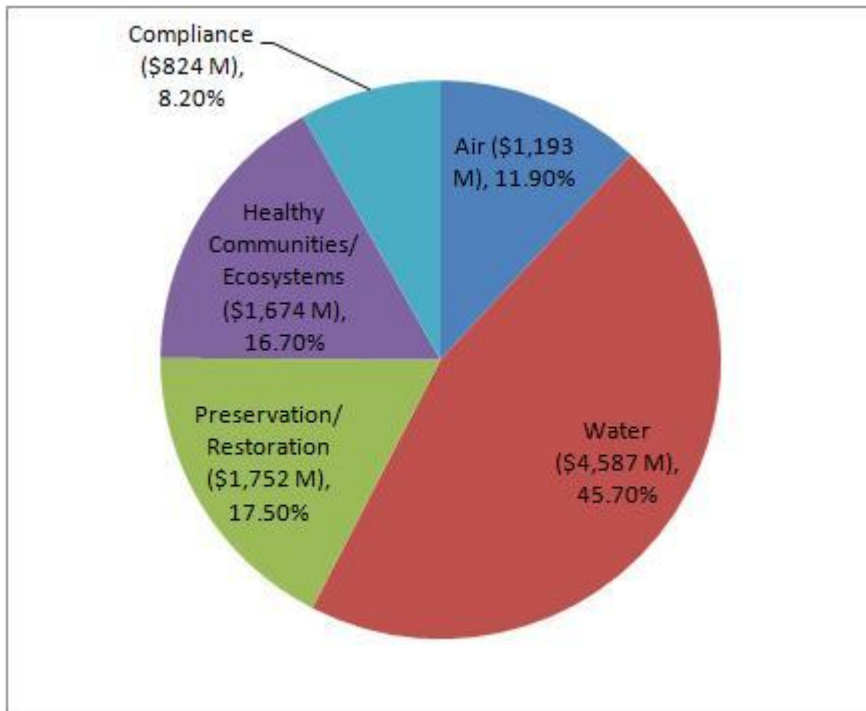


Climate May Be Top Priority, But Water Gets More Money: EPA Announces 2011 Budget Priorities

The Obama Administration today proposed a budget of \$10 billion for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Protecting America's waters is listed as a top priority for the agency – second only to clean air and climate change. However, if you just look at the budget numbers, water comes out on top. 46% (\$4.6 billion) of the total 2011 budget is designated specifically for clean and safe drinking water programs.

Some water related 2011 budget highlights:

- Provides \$63 million for efforts to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay, an increase of 13 million from 2010
- \$17 million for the Mississippi River Basin to respond to non-point source control recommendations of the Nutrients Innovation Task Group and implement recommendations outlined in the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Action Plan
- Provides \$3.3 billion total for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (\$200 million less than in 2010). This will allow States and Tribes to initiate approximately 800 clean water and 500 drinking water projects nationally, continuing a major Federal commitment to water infrastructure investment.
- Includes \$300 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, a decrease of \$173 million from 2010
- Provides \$9.5 million for targeted technical assistance to assist underserved communities in restoring urban waterways for the Community Water Priorities program
- Includes \$45.0 million to strengthen the base state, interstate and Tribal water pollution grant programs
- Includes \$1 billion for various research and development initiatives, including \$4.3 million to study the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing on drinking water, \$17.4 million to study endocrine disruptors and other emerging water contaminants, and \$10.5 million for green infrastructure research



To read a complete summary of EPA's 2011 budget visit:
<http://www.epa.gov/budget/2011/2011bib.pdf>