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WestFAST News

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Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$3 Billion for Lead Pipe Replacement to Advance Safe Drinking Water as Part of Investing in America Agenda

EPA announces latest round of funding toward President Biden’s commitment to replace every lead pipe in the nation, protecting public health and helping to deliver safe drinking water.

EPA May 2nd, 2024

Today, May 2, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency **announced \$3 billion** from President Biden’s Investing in America agenda to help every state and territory identify and replace lead service lines, preventing exposure to lead in drinking water. Lead can cause a range of serious health impacts, including irreversible harm to brain development in children. To protect children and families, President Biden has committed to replacing every lead pipe in the country. Today’s announcement, funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and available through EPA’s successful Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), takes another major step to advance this work and the Administration’s commitment to environmental justice. This funding builds on the Administration’s **Lead Pipe and Paint Action Plan** and EPA’s **Get the Lead Out Initiative**.

Working collaboratively, EPA and the State Revolving Funds are advancing the President’s **Justice40 Initiative** to ensure that 40%

of overall benefits from certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution. Lead exposure disproportionately affects communities of color and low-income families. The \$9 billion in total funding announced to date through EPA’s Lead Service Line Replacement Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program is expected to replace up to 1.7 million lead pipes nationwide, securing clean drinking water for countless families.

“The science is clear, there is no safe level of lead exposure, and the primary source of harmful exposure in drinking water is through lead pipes,” **said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan**. “President Biden understands it is critical to identify and remove lead pipes as quickly as possible, and he has secured significant resources for states and territories to accelerate the permanent removal of dangerous lead pipes once and for all.”

President Biden’s **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law** invests a historic \$15 billion to identify and replace lead service lines. The law mandates that 49% of funds provided through the DWSRF General Supplemental Funding and DWSRF Lead Service Line Replacement Funding must be provided as grants and forgivable loans to disadvantaged communities, a crucial investment for communities that have been underinvested in for too long. EPA projects a national total of 9 million lead services lines across the country, based on data collected from the updated 7th Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment. The funding announced today will be provided

specifically for lead service line identification and replacement and will help every state and territory fund projects to remove lead pipes and reduce exposure to lead from drinking water.

The Lead Service Line-specific formula used to allot these funds allows states to receive financial assistance commensurate with their need as soon as possible, furthering public health protection nationwide. The formula and allotments are based on need — meaning that states with more projected lead service lines receive proportionally more funding.

Alongside the funding announced today, EPA is also releasing a [new memorandum](#) that clarifies how states can use this and other funding to most effectively reduce exposure to lead in drinking water. Additionally, EPA has developed [new outreach documents](#) to help water systems educate their customers on drinking water issues, health impacts of lead exposure, service line ownership, and how customers can support the identification of potential lead service lines in their homes.

The Biden-Harris Administration’s ambitious initiative to remove lead pipes has already delivered significant results for families across the nation. Today’s latest funding will ensure more families benefit from these unprecedented resources, and support projects like these:

- West View Water Authority in **Pennsylvania** has received \$8 million through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to replace 750 lead service lines in underserved areas of the community — primarily in **Allegheny County**. Of that funding, more than \$5.4 million is forgivable, reducing the overall financial burden on ratepayers and the community.
- In **Tucson, Arizona**, the city received \$6.95 million in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds to develop lead service line inventories for their nine public water systems. The city will use this inventory to develop a plan to replace lead service lines in the community and improve drinking water quality for residents — many of whom live in low-income and disadvantaged communities.

- Located in between Chicago and Milwaukee, the community of **Kenosha, Wisconsin** has been at the forefront of the state’s efforts to remove 5,000 lead service lines in their community. To accelerate lead service line removal, Kenosha is working with EPA’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law-funded Water TA team to help customers self-inventory their service line material and apply for federal funding to remove and replace lead service lines.
- The **Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians**, located across western **North Carolina**, has been selected to receive support from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law’s lead service line replacement funds to conduct service line inventories and prepare preliminary engineering reports for five of the public water systems on their land.

To view more stories about how the unprecedented investments from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law are transforming communities across the country, visit EPA’s [Investing in America’s Water Infrastructure Story Map](#). To read more about some additional projects that are underway, see EPA’s recently released [Quarterly Report on Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funded Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF projects](#) and explore the [State Revolving Funds Public Portal](#).

Today’s allotments are based on EPA’s updated 7th Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment (DWINSA) including an assessment of newly submitted information. To date, this is the best available data collected and assessed on service line materials in the United States. Later this summer, EPA will release an addendum to the 7th DWINSA Report to Congress which will include the updated lead service line projections. EPA anticipates initiating data collection, which will include information on lead service lines, for the 8th DWINSA in 2025.

For more information, including state-by-state allotment of 2024 funding, and a breakdown of EPA’s lead Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, please visit [EPA’s Drinking Water website](#).

April 2024 was Earth's Warmest on Record

April was also the 11th-consecutive month of record-breaking global warmth.

NOAA May 14th, 2024



People relax at the Holzmarkt complex on the bank of the Spree River during unseasonably warm weather on April 07, 2024, in Berlin, Germany. Temperatures broke record highs over the weekend in some parts of the country. Overall, April 2024 was Europe's second-warmest April on record. (Image credit: Getty Images)

Last month continued our planet's feverish pace to the year, with April 2024 ranking as the warmest April on record.

April was also the 11th month in a row of record-warmth for the world, according to scientists and data from NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information.

Climate by the numbers

April 2024

The average global temperature in April was 2.38 degrees F (1.32 degrees C) above the 20th-century average of 56.7 degrees F (13.7 degrees C), making it the warmest April in the global climate record. April 2024 also marked the 11th-consecutive month of record-high global temperatures.

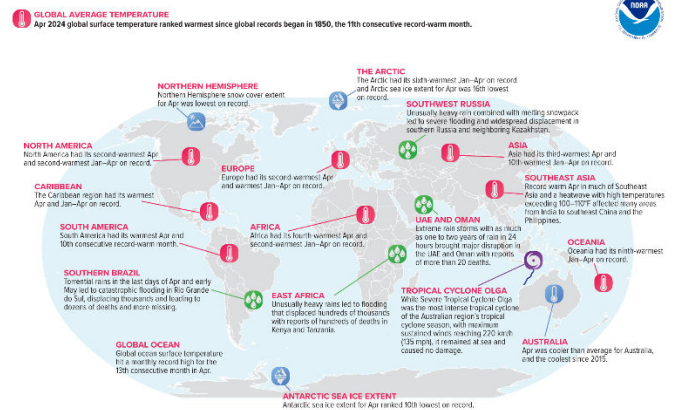
Regionally, South America had its warmest April on record, and Europe had its second warmest. Meanwhile, much of Australia, Scandinavia and northwest Russia were cooler than average.

Year to date (YTD) | January through April 2024

The YTD global temperature ranked as the warmest such period on record at 2.41 degrees F (1.34 degrees C) above the 20th-century average.

According to NCEI's Global Annual Temperature Rankings Outlook, there is a 61% chance that 2024 will rank as the warmest year on record and a 100% chance that it will rank in the top five of warmest years recorded.

Selected Significant Climate Anomalies and Events: April 2024



An annotated map of the world plotted with the most significant climate events of April 2024. See the story below as well as the report summary from NOAA NCEI at <http://bit.ly/Global202404> (Image credit: NOAA NCEI)

Other notable climate events in the report

- **Earth's sea ice coverage was low at both poles:** Globally, April 2024 saw the 10th-smallest April sea ice extent (coverage) in the 46-year record. Arctic sea ice extent was 80,000 square miles below average, while Antarctic sea ice came in at 290,000 square miles below average.
- **Activity in the tropics was below average:** Two named storms formed in April, which was below the 1991–2020 average of four. The sole major storm was Severe Tropical Cyclone Olga, which brought high surf conditions to northwestern Australia. The only other storm during the month was Tropical Cyclone Paul that remained off the coast of northeastern Australia.

More > [Access NOAA's global April climate report and download the images.](#)

During Infrastructure Week, Biden-Harris Administration Announces Projects to Strengthen Rural Infrastructure and Create Jobs Across the Nation

Projects Will Help Nearly 575,000 People Access Reliable Electricity and Clean Drinking Water.

USDA May 14th, 2024

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that USDA is funding [47 projects](#) in 23 states to improve access to reliable electricity and clean drinking water for more than one million people and create good-paying jobs across the nation. The announcement was made during President Biden's Infrastructure Week which highlights the progress the Biden-Harris Administration has made to improve American infrastructure through historic funding packages such as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act.

The investments advance President Biden's *Investing in America* agenda, a key pillar of Bidenomics, to grow the American economy from the middle out and bottom up.

Today's announcement was made at the White House's Community in Action: Building a Better America event. The Secretary also announced the [availability of \\$1 million](#) in grants through USDA's Rural Community Development Initiative to organizations who will help Puerto Rico Rural Partners Network communities access critical funding to recover from Presidentially declared disasters. This announcement also comes on the heels of the [Two-Year Anniversary of the Rural Partners Network](#) which has facilitated nearly \$2.8 billion in investments across 36 [community networks](#) in 10 states and Puerto Rico.

“When USDA invests in rural communities, we are supporting hard work that sends a ripple effect

across our country,” Secretary Vilsack said. “That’s why we champion rural people by investing in critical infrastructure that will build a more resilient power grid and ensure safe drinking water for hundreds of thousands of people living and working in rural areas. The investments we’re announcing today demonstrate the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to ensuring that people who live and work in rural areas have every opportunity to succeed — and that they can find those opportunities right at home.”

USDA is investing \$671 million to support projects in 23 states that will lower electric bills for rural families and businesses, while ensuring they have access to clean water, which is essential to the health of every community.

Through projects financed by USDA's [Water and Waste Disposal Loans, Grants and Loan Guarantees](#), the agency is helping state and local governments, private nonprofits and federally recognized Tribes build and improve rural wastewater systems.

The funding will enable rural communities to expand access to clean and reliable drinking water, sanitary waste disposal and storm water drainage. For example:

- In New York, the village of Champlain will use funding to replace its water main. This improvement will help expand access to clean water for the residents of Champlain.
- In Nebraska, the village of Hyannis will use funding to replace aging infrastructure including the storage tank, distribution pipe, valves, fire hydrants and meters. Funds also will be used to replace deteriorating parts of the collection system piping. This project will help promote water conservation practices and improve water quality for nearly 150 residents.

USDA is also providing funding through the [Electric Infrastructure Loan and Loan Guarantee Program](#) to help utility providers and electric cooperatives build and improve electric infrastructure, smart-grid technologies and renewable energy systems.

These projects will help ensure everyone in rural areas has access to reliable electricity to increase economic opportunity and quality of life:

- Caney Fork Electric Cooperative will use funding to connect nearly 3,000 consumers and build and improve 253 miles of power lines. This includes \$1,568,000 in smart grid technologies. The cooperative provides electric service to more than 34,000 consumers by facilitating over 4,047 miles of power line in eight counties in central Tennessee.
- Rosebud Electric Cooperative will use funding to connect more than 400 people and build and improve 225 miles of power lines. The cooperative provides electric service to approximately 5,600 consumers by facilitating over 2,374 miles of power line in five counties in south central South Dakota.

Funding in today's announcement will help people living in Alaska, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington and West Virginia.

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and healthcare; and high-speed internet access in rural, Tribal and high-poverty areas. Visit the [Rural Data Gateway](#) to learn how and where these investments are impacting rural America. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and

producers using climate-smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.

Biden-Harris Administration Delivers \$242 Million from President Biden's Investing in America Agenda to Expand Western Water Storage and Conveyance and Ensure Clean, Reliable Drinking Water for Western Communities

Historic investments expected to develop over 1.6 million acre-feet of additional water storage capacity, enough water to support 6.4 million people for a year.

DOI May 30th, 2024

The Department of the Interior today announced a \$242 million investment as part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda that will bring clean, reliable drinking water to communities across the West through five water storage and conveyance projects. The projects in California, Colorado and Washington are expected to add at least 1.6 million acre-feet of additional water storage capacity, enough water to support 6.4 million people for a year. The funding will also invest in a feasibility study in Arizona that is designed to advance water storage capacity once completed.

President Biden's Investing in America agenda represents the largest investment in climate resiliency in the nation's history and is providing much-needed resources to enhance Western communities' resilience to drought and climate change. Through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Reclamation is investing a total of \$8.3 billion over five years for water infrastructure projects, including rural water, water storage, conservation and conveyance, nature-based solutions, dam safety, water purification and reuse, and desalination.

“In the wake of severe drought across the West, the Interior Department is putting funding from President Biden’s Investing in America agenda to work to provide clean, reliable drinking water to families, farmers and Tribes throughout the West,” said **Secretary Deb Haaland**. “Through the investments we’re announcing today, we will expedite essential water storage projects and provide increased water security to Western communities.”

“As drought conditions continue to grip the West, the need for these projects is increasingly evident,” said **Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton**. “These investments will advance projects that bring reliable drinking and agricultural water to residents in need, provide ecosystem benefits, and increase overall water storage.”

The projects receiving funding include:

Arizona

- **Verde Reservoirs Sediment Mitigation Project:** \$8.5 million to continue a feasibility study that will identify alternatives to address water storage lost due to sediment accumulation at Horseshoe Reservoir, manage future sediment accumulation in Horseshoe and Bartlett Reservoirs, and investigate the potential for operational flexibilities that could be created with increased storage capacity. The study will assist in adapting to the impacts of drought and climate change on water supply availability. This feasibility study was authorized by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

California

- **B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project:** \$75 million for the enhancement of off-stream storage capability. The project is in addition to the B.F. Sisk Safety of Dams Modification Project already underway and is in partnership with the San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority. While the Safety of Dams Modification project continues,

Reclamation continues to coordinate with project partners and other agencies, on environmental permitting and geotechnical investigations required for the technical design. Once completed, the project will develop approximately 130,000 acre-feet of additional storage of water that can be delivered to water contractors and wildlife refuges.

- **Sites Reservoir Project:** \$67.5 million for an off-stream storage project that will develop up to 1.5 million acre-feet of new water storage on the Sacramento River system located west of Maxwell, California. The reservoir will deliver multiple benefits including cold water for salmon by using new and existing facilities to move water in and out of the reservoir, with ultimate release to the Sacramento River system via existing canals, a new pipeline near Dunnigan, and the Colusa Basin Drain.

Colorado

- **Arkansas Valley Conduit:** \$90 million to continue construction of a safe, long-term water supply to an estimated 50,000 people in 39 rural communities along the Arkansas River. Once completed, the project will replace current groundwater sources contaminated with radionuclides and help communities comply with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency drinking water standards. The project consists of more than 103 miles of pipeline to deliver up to 7,500 acre-feet of water per year from Pueblo Reservoir. After decades of planning and preparation, the Arkansas Valley Conduit broke ground last year with the investments from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. These funds have been allocated to planning and design work, regulatory compliance, payment to Pueblo Water for conveyance through the city and construction of Boone Reach 1, which is well underway.

Washington

- **Cle Elum Pool Raise Project:** \$1 million to continue to increase the reservoir’s capacity an additional 14,600 acre-feet to be

managed for instream flows for fish. Reclamation, the Yakama Nation, and Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife are partners on the project.

Today's announcement builds on [\\$152 million announced](#) for these projects last year and \$210 million for these and other storage and conveyance projects announced in 2022. Since the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was signed in November 2021, Reclamation has announced more than \$3.5 billion for more than 530 projects.

Upcoming Events

[Building a Water Rights Database: The Bureau of Reclamation and WestDAAT](#)

June 25, 4pm MT, Virtual

[2024 WSWC Summer \(204th\) Meetings](#)

July 24-26, West Fargo, North Dakota

Other Federal News

[DOE 5/9/24. DOE Appoints Inaugural Board of Directors for Groundbreaking New Foundation](#)

[DOI 5/6/24. Biden-Harris Administration Delivers \\$147 Million from Investing in America Agenda for Drought Resiliency and Water Supply Reliability Across the West](#)

[DOI 5/8/24. Interior Department Announces More Than \\$87 Million for Wetland Conservation Projects and National Wildlife Refuges](#)

[DOI 5/10/24. Biden-Harris Administration Delivers \\$60 Million from Investing in America Agenda for Drought Resilience in the Rio Grande Basin](#)

[DOI 5/16/24. Biden-Harris Administration Delivers \\$520 Million from President Biden's Investing in America Agenda to Revitalize Aging Water Infrastructure and Strengthen Drought Resilience](#)

[DOI 5/21/24. Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$81 Million from President Biden's](#)

[Investing in America Agenda for Drought Resilience in San Joaquin Valley](#)

[DOI 5/28/24. Biden-Harris Administration Delivers \\$179 Million from Investing in America Agenda for Innovative Water Reuse and Drought Resilience Projects](#)

[EPA 5/2/24. EPA Announces Final Rule to Protect Water Quality Where Tribes have Treaty and Reserved Rights](#)

[EPA 5/9/24. Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$41 million in Available Grants to Upgrade Stormwater and Sewer Infrastructure](#)

[EPA 5/15/24. EPA Announces Final Rule to Improve Public Awareness of Drinking Water Quality](#)

[EPA 5/20/24. EPA Outlines Enforcement Measures to Help Prevent Cybersecurity Attacks and Protect the Nation's Drinking Water](#)

[EPA 5/21/24. Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$30.7 million to Support Water Systems in Small and Rural Communities](#)

[EPA 5/21/24. Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$25 Million to Help Provide Small, Underserved, and Disadvantaged Communities with Clean and Safe Drinking Water](#)

[EPA 5/22/24. Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$225 million to Improve Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure for Tribes and Alaska Native Villages](#)

[EPA 5/28/24. Biden-Harris Administration Selects Five Recipients to Receive Nearly \\$15M in Grants to Address Climate-Damaging Hydrofluorocarbons as Part of Investing in America Agenda](#)

[FEMA 5/30/24. Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$300 Million to Strengthen Community Resilience to Flooding as Part of Investing in America Agenda](#)

[NOAA 5/1/24. New NOAA climate action plan emphasizes needs of underserved communities](#)

[NRCS 5/29/24. Biden-Harris Administration to Invest \\$50 Million in Projects that Restore Natural](#)

Functions and Values of Wetlands as Part of Investing in America Agenda

Reclamation 5/9/24. Reclamation finalizes SEIS process to address drought and climate impacts on Glen Canyon Dam and Hoover Dam

USACE 5/13/24. Army Corps of Engineers releases Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2024 Civil Works appropriations

USACE 5/15/24. USACE introduces new Regulatory Request System online application portal

USDA 5/14/24. Biden-Harris Administration Invests \$250M to Reduce Wildfire Risk to Communities across State, Private, and Tribal lands as part of Investing in America agenda

USGS 5/29/24. New Tool Informs Flooding and Sea Level Rise Solutions for San Francisco Bay Area

The Western States Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST) is a collaboration between 16 Federal agencies with water management responsibilities in the West. WestFAST was established to support the Western States Water Council (WSWC), and the Western Governors Association in coordinating Federal efforts regarding water resources.