



# Science Cuts at the DOE Hurt All of Us

*Federal science funding is foundational to America's health, economic success and national security. But reduced staff, frozen grants and other cuts are already limiting the essential work of our science agencies. Further reductions would be even more devastating. Scientists are already seeing the consequences – here are their stories.*



## Impacts of Federal Cuts to the DOE

Work from the Department of Energy supports fossil fuel energy management and clean energy development efforts across the U.S.

Loss of grants and funding means fewer communities will have access to reliable sources of energy and less monitoring of harmful waste byproducts of energy production.

## In Their Own Words

**Cuts to science aren't abstract: they affect lives and livelihoods.  
These scientists know firsthand.**

The community, the State, and the nation depend on subject matter experts like us to ensure that the disposal of this flammable, combustible, corrosive, and/or ignitable RCRA waste... **Our nation's water, air, land and other natural resources may risk being adversely impacted if there aren't enough RCRA-qualified individuals to oversee the waste handling process "from cradle to grave."**

*Fired probationary employee at the Idaho National Laboratory  
responsible for hazardous waste disposal*

Funding for several proposals to measure methane emissions from oil and gas activities, which were selected for funding in December 2024, have been suspended indefinitely. **These actions will delay or even stop any further mitigation of fugitive methane emissions due to fossil fuel extraction.** It will be much more difficult to curtail the growing atmospheric burden of this powerful greenhouse gas.

*Atmospheric Physicist in Academia*

The grant freeze impacted an award I earned on energy infrastructure (carbon management) in an area negatively affected by the energy transition (coal plant closure). **We can no longer engage with stakeholders on how best to deliver the benefits of energy infrastructure.** The three pending awards were at various stages of activation. All three are in limbo. One would have started a new business. One would have created a service center for small businesses. And another would have created a network of researchers.

*Climate Change researcher in Academia*

Department of Energy has requested that DOE scientists (including National Laboratory contractors) not to request any travel to any foreign or domestic meeting with 'climate' in the meeting title, presentation title or session title.

US scientists are being taken away from meetings where decisions are being made and activities discussed. **This is hampering U.S. research and ultimately could lead to lack of US scientific competitiveness: we might end up without the best science in the world.**

*Climate scientist with the federal government*