



Inspection and Enforcement Priorities

Margaret Osbourne, Deputy Director

Region 6 – Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

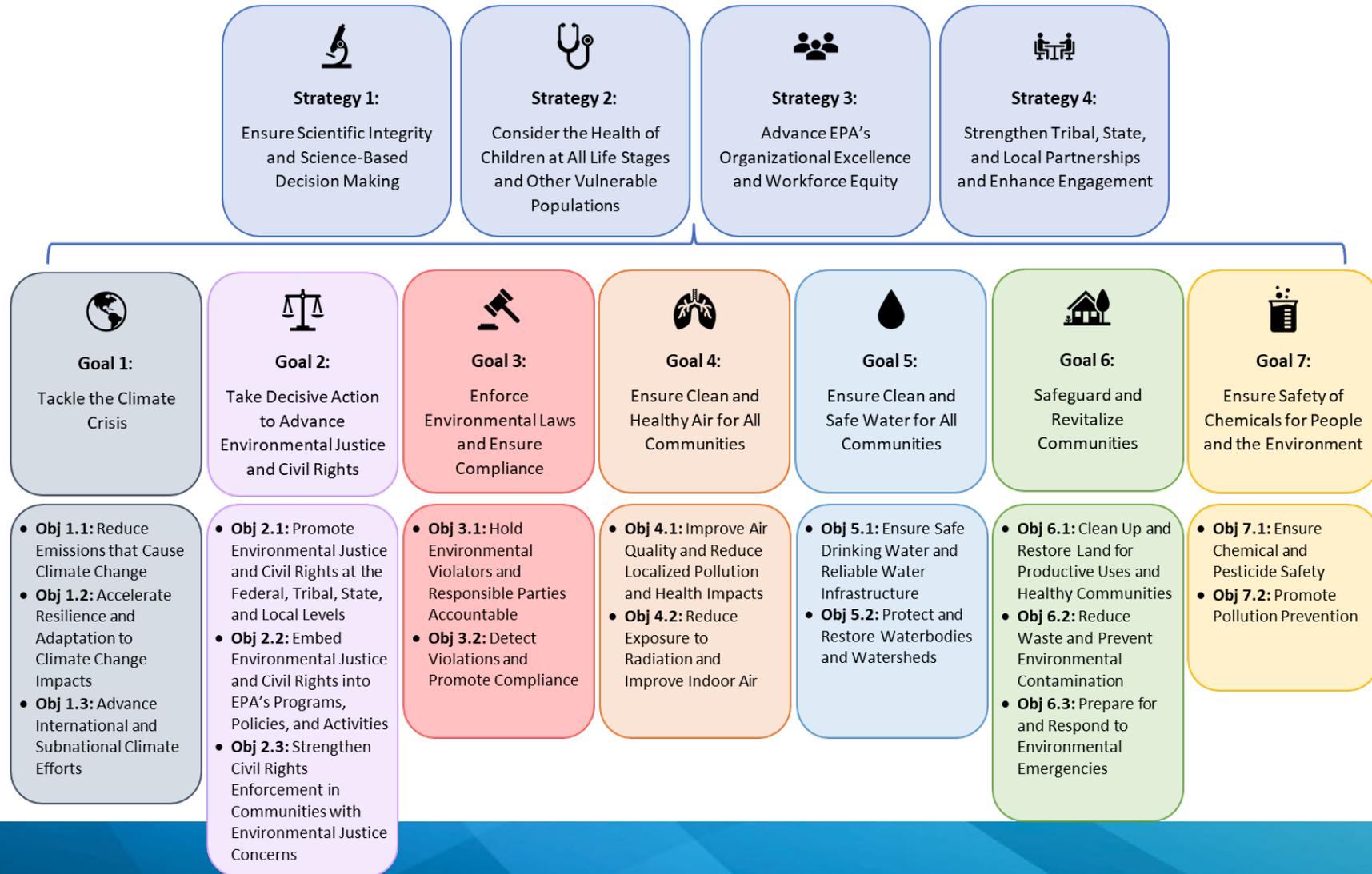
EPA Region 6 (South Central)

**Serving Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas
and 66 Tribal Nations**



FY 2022-2026 EPA Strategic Plan Framework

Mission: To Protect Human Health and the Environment





FY 2024 – 2027
National Enforcement &
Compliance Initiatives

National Enforcement Compliance Initiatives

- **Focus enforcement and compliance assurance resources on the most serious environmental violations**
- **Value of National Initiatives:**
 - Focuses resources
 - Advances EJ goals
 - Prompts action on tough problems
 - Drives compliance
 - Provides transparency and certainty

National Enforcement Compliance Initiatives FY 2024-2027

Mitigating Climate
Change

Addressing
Exposure to PFAS

Protecting
Communities from
Coal Ash
Contamination

Reducing Air Toxics
in Overburdened
Communities

Increasing
Compliance with
Drinking Water
Standards

Chemical Accident
Risk Reduction

Continuing NECIs

Increasing Compliance with Drinking Water Standards

- Originally started in 2020, the next phase will ramp up field presence, pursue strategic enforcement to reduce non-compliance, and offer more compliance assistance to prevent and address public health risks.

Chemical Accident Risk Reduction

- Beginning in 2017, this initiative seeks to reduce risks to human health and the environment by decreasing the likelihood of chemical accidents.
- Under this NECI, we will focus on inspecting and addressing non-compliance at facilities using anhydrous ammonia and hydrogen fluoride.

New NEICs

Mitigating Climate Change

Addresses 3 major contributors to climate change:

- Methane emissions from oil and gas facilities
- Methane emissions from landfills
- The use, importation, and production of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)

Addressing Exposure to PFAS

Focus on implementing EPA's PFAS Strategic Roadmap

Holding responsible those who significantly contributed to the release of PFAS into the environment.

Protecting Communities from Coal Ash Contamination

Will focus on conducting investigations at coal ash facilities impacting vulnerable or overburdened communities.

Taking enforcement, as appropriate, at facilities not in compliance with the law and protecting and cleaning up contaminated groundwater, surface water, and drinking water resources.

Reducing Air Toxics in Overburdened Communities

3 Goals are:

- Identify overburdened communities in each region and the sources of HAP emissions in those communities.
- Reduce HAP emissions in overburdened communities by identifying violations through compliance monitoring activities and resolving these violations through enforcement actions that obtain appropriate injunctive relief and mitigation of past harm.
- Increase communication with affected communities about EPA's enforcement actions.

Enforcement in Overburdened Communities

- “Journey To Justice:” Administrator Regan visited Louisiana in November 2022.
- Pollution Accountability Team Developed. The main tools of the project were:
 - the **Geospatial Measurement of Air Pollution mobile air monitoring unit (GMAP)** from the National Enforcement Investigations Center (NEIC),
 - the **Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft** from the Office of Emergency Management and
 - **Facility inspection teams** – 6 total CAA inspectors (3 teams of 2 inspectors)
- Community meetings in St. John the Baptist, Calcasieu Parishes, and St. James Parish, prior to deploying the PAT in Louisiana.
 - Requested input from the community members about facility targets and routes.
- Focused on facilities with large quantities of volatile organics and air toxics and those with specific emissions of BTEX compounds, sulfur dioxide and ethylene oxide.

Enforcement in Overburdened Communities

- Recent (February 2024) surveillance in Beaumont/Port Arthur
 - Helicopter surveys with IR video camera
 - the **Geospatial Measurement of Air Pollution mobile air monitoring unit** (GMAP) from the National Enforcement Investigations Center (NEIC),
 - **Facility inspection teams** – 6 total CAA inspectors (3 teams of 2 inspectors)
- Community meeting
- Focused on facilities with large quantities of volatile organics and air toxics and those with specific emissions of BTEX compounds, sulfur dioxide and ethylene oxide.



Region 6 Port Initiative FY23-FY24

Activities at Ports

- 2017- 2021 – Region 6 began evaluating compliance at Ports
 - Offshore platform, barge cleaners, dismantling rig case
 - Looked for EPA registered facilities at ports - lacking
 - Suspected ports were unaware of obligations under RCRA
 - Identified port facilities that receive US Coast Guard Certificates of Adequacy, Annex V Garbage, potentially contains hazardous waste.
 - Inspections conducted at the following ports:
 - Galveston
 - Brownsville
 - Houston
 - Port Fourchon
 - Port of Texas City
 - Port of Corpus Christi

Areas of Concern Observed

- Improper storage of Used Oil*
- Crushing florescent blubs and improper storage
- Lack of hazardous waste determinations
- Failure to label containers and tank holding hazardous waste
- Open containers*
- Storage of incompatible wastes
- Received batteries from offshore (universal waste)
- Unauthorized use of EPA ID belonging to other facility
- Importing waste and storage

EPA Region 6 Inspection and Enforcement Activities

- Inspection and Enforcement documents are all posted to our public websites
 - [TX Documents](#)
 - [LA Documents](#)
- [Interactive Map](#) of all 2022 (and soon to be added 2023) activities

