

Reduction of Lead Exposures and Disparities in U.S. Communities: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Strategy Released



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The United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) released a document titled:

Strategy to Reduce Lead Exposures and Disparities in U.S. Communities (October 2022) (“Strategy”)

The two key objectives of the *Strategy* are stated to include:

- How EPA will utilize its statutory regulatory authorities and resources to reduce lead exposure in communities overburdened by pollution
- Promotion of the Biden Administration’s environmental justice and equity policies

The initiatives outlined in the *Strategy* include:

- Reduction of community exposures to lead sources
- Identification of communities with high lead exposures/improvement of health outcomes (i.e., reduction of blood lead levels)
- Facilitate engagement with communities, stakeholders, and interest groups
- Commitment to replace lead pipes and support lead paint removal
- Undertake research to inform efforts to reduce lead exposures and associated health risks

The *Strategy* is intended to complement the previously issued 2018 Federal Action Plan to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposure. The 2018 Plan focused to a great extent on protecting children’s environmental health. However, EPA states that the *Strategy* will emphasize reducing lead exposure in communities with persistent disparities in children’s blood levels.

The *Strategy* acknowledges the prior regulatory actions undertaken by EPA and other federal agencies that have reduced lead exposure in certain settings such as:

- Use of lead in automotive gasoline
- Elimination of lead in paint
- Lead-soldered food containers
- Plumbing water system components (i.e., pipes, fittings, soldered fixtures)

A copy of the *Strategy* can be downloaded [here](#).