
ENVIRONMENT

Republicans have slashed the budget of the Department of Environmental Quality by more than 40 percent, gutted state environmental boards, and replaced scientists and professionals with industry and political appointees.

- Instead of working to improve our natural resources, over the past six years Republicans have failed to protect our [coast, rivers, and groundwater](#) by not properly addressing [Gen X](#), leaking [coal ash pits](#), [hog waste lagoons](#), [fracking](#), [offshore drilling](#), and [wetlands](#), regardless of the [coastal impact of climate change](#).
- They fail to protect our [air quality and energy development](#) through reductions in [air quality monitoring](#) and [open burning](#) laws.
- Republican legislators took control of the \$58M fund to offset future environmental damages which the [Atlantic Coast Pipeline](#) may cause, and directed it towards schools instead, to make up for their lack of public education funding.
- They have hindered the development of [wind](#) and [solar](#) energy.
- They have [undermined land conservancy and stewardship](#) through huge budget cuts to trust funds intended to protect natural lands and water quality.
- The [NC tourism industry](#) economically supports residents in all 100 counties, and is dependent on the protection and conservation of our land and waters.