



The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: Environmental Resilience

by Dakota Thomas

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was signed into law by President Joe Biden Nov. 15, 2021. The bill contains \$1.2 trillion in total funding (\$550 billion of which is new spending) for various infrastructure purposes, including roads and bridges, broadband, drinking water resources, airports, electrical vehicles and more. In this brief, analysts at The Council of State Governments (CSG) break down the \$131 allocated for infrastructure resilience, which includes \$47 billion for general resilience purposes, \$63 billion for water infrastructure and \$21 billion for pollution remediation.

Environmental Resilience

Under the broad category of “resilience” funding, the IIJA makes the following investments:

- Funds remediation of [abandoned fossil fuel sites](#) - **\$16.5 billion**
- Creates competitive grants for state and local government projects that reduce the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the National Flood Insurance Program - **\$3.5 billion over five years**
- Invests in technical [carbon capture and removal infrastructure](#), demonstration and deployment. This includes pilot and demonstration programs for carbon capture and funding for CO2 pipelines and geologic storage site development and permitting - **\$3.5 billion**
- Funds the [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities](#) (BRIC) Program which replaces the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program and will fund state and local government efforts to increase the resilience of critical infrastructure, including transportation, energy, water supply and communications - **\$1 billion over five years**
- Implements the [Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation](#) (STORM) Act, which lets state and local governments create resilience revolving loan funds for infrastructure projects - **\$500 million over five years**
- Implements [natural climate solutions and resilience](#), which includes an increase in funding to address the backlog in reforestation on federal lands and funding for wildfire risk reduction, ecosystem conservation and coastal resilience.

Electrical infrastructure is another major funding area in the IIJA, with set asides for resilience from cyberattack and natural disasters. CSG researchers previously provided a full analysis of electrical grid investments and electric vehicle infrastructure [in this brief](#). Some key components in that funding category include: \$73 billion in funding for power grids and utility improvements,

\$12.5 billion for electric vehicle chargers and buses, \$8 billion for hydrogen power hubs and \$3.5 billion for weatherization efforts.

Water Infrastructure

Water Infrastructure receives \$63 billion in funding through the IIJA, with \$8 billion designated for western state water infrastructure. This includes [funding for](#) the:

- Clean up of man-made chemicals known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances - **\$10 billion**
- Clean Water State Revolving Fund - **\$11.5 billion over five years**
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund - **\$11.5 billion over five years**
- Environmental Protection Agency to remove and replace lead service lines - **\$15 billion**
- [Western state water infrastructure](#), including \$2.5 billion for storage, recycling and reuse - **\$8 billion**

The bill also sets aside money for clean drinking water for tribal communities.

Pollution Remediation

The IIJA includes \$21 billion [for pollution remediation](#) to clean up Brownfield¹ and Superfund sites², abandoned mines and old oil and gas wells that need to be plugged. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a \$1 billion investment to initiate cleanup and clear the backlog of 49 previously unfunded Superfund sites and accelerate cleanup at dozens of other sites across the country. These sites are in 24 states and territories and across all 10 EPA regions, including communities that have been waiting for investment in cleanup efforts for more than four years.

Cybersecurity

Under the broad heading of resilience, there is approximately \$2 billion for [cybersecurity provisions in the IIJA](#):

- Grants to improve state and local government cybersecurity - **\$1 billion**
- The Rural and Municipal Utility Advanced Cybersecurity Grant and Technical Assistance Program (designed to support public utilities and other eligible entities) - **\$250 million**
- “[A]dvanced cybersecurity applications and technologies for the energy sector” - **\$250 million**
- Cyber Response and Recovery Fund to help public and private entities respond to a significant cyber incident - **\$20 million per year** (funded until 2028)

¹ According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), [Brownfields](#) are locations where expansion, redevelopment or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant. It is estimated there are more than 450,000 brownfields in the U.S.

² [Superfund sites](#) are locations where hazardous waste is dumped, including from manufacturing facilities, processing plants, landfills and mines.

- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate “critical infrastructure security and resilience research, development, test, and evaluation” - **\$157.5 million**
- DHS Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) “risk management operations and stakeholder engagement and requirements” - **\$35 million**
- Office of the National Cyber Director (ONCD) - **\$21 million**

Sources and Resources

- [Statement from The Council of State Governments](#) on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Package
- [Legislative Analysis for Counties](#) and [statement on infrastructure bill passage](#) from the National Association of Counties (NACo)
- [Statement on infrastructure bill passage](#) from the National League of Cities
- Breakdown of the bill’s contents from [CNN](#), [JD Supra](#), and The [Washington Post](#)
- [Estimates of macroeconomic effects](#) of the IIJA from Moody’s Analytics
- White House [Fact Sheet](#)
- Full text of the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act here](#)