

Environmental Data Users - Public Data User Impact Snapshots

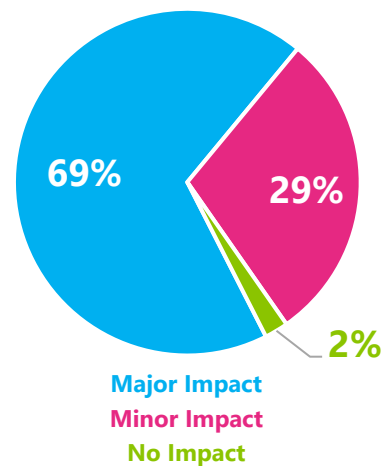
From the SSRS 2026 EMERGE survey¹, supported by the Knight Foundation, this brief examines how environment, climate, and energy data users rely on federal statistical data.

In 2025, government shutdowns, budget cuts, and layoffs impacted on the collection and dissemination of federal data. **Nearly all** environment, climate, and energy public data users report major (69%) or minor (29%) impacts to their work due to federal data changes.

“My organization relied on data from the **Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool**. When the news broke that it was being **removed from public access**, my team had to **scramble to save and archive** data. If we did not do that, we would have **lost our ability to work**.”

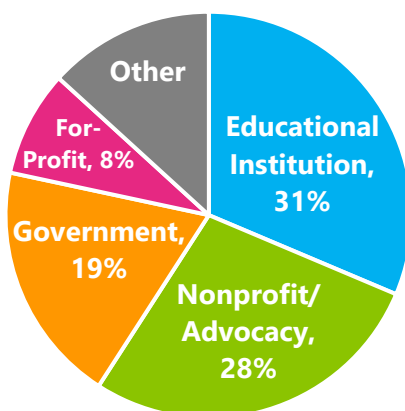
- **Environment, Climate, and Energy Public Data User**

Impact of Federal Statistical Data Changes



Environment, climate, and energy data users most often work for educational institutions (31%), nonprofits (28%), government (19%), or for-profit companies (8%). Changes targeting these settings can affect environmental calculations and outcomes.

Work Settings that Leverage Federal Environmental Data



“**Cross-sector partnerships** like Climate TRACE and Carbon Mapper could provide **alternative data** in cases where it can be validated or calibrated with historical data from the now-discontinued reference sources. And some **states have started acting** to collect and releasing data of their own (see NY’s new state-level GHG reporting program). But these partnerships and state-level data **programs will vary** in their underlying methodologies, reporting scopes/requirements, and data quality. There’s **no guarantee** that the data they produce will be **as valuable (or even usable) as the original data**, as a result.” - **Environment, Climate, and Energy Public Data User**

¹ The SSRS EMERGE program surveyed 521 online respondents from February 6 through March 9, 2026 through a nonprobability convenience sample. <https://ssrs.com/emerge-initiative/>