

THE SUSTAINABILITY REPORT | July 16th 2026

Keeping corporate leaders up to date on how policy decisions in DC are impacting sustainability efforts across the country.

OMB proposes to change Federal grantmaking process

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a proposed rule that rewrites how nearly every federal grant is approved and administered. It would give the agency much more power to cut off funding mid-project if priorities shift, add new restrictions on international research partnerships, and centralize control that used to sit with individual agencies. For groups working on energy and environmental issues, that means federal grants and research funding become less predictable and more vulnerable to political change, even for projects already underway. Public comments closed July 13, and if finalized, the rule would take effect October 1.

Washington, DC Update

The House is moving forward on appropriations (legislation that funds the federal government) and has passed bills that fund Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, and Department of the Interior out of committee. The House has passed several grid-security and energy emergency bills, including the SECURE Grid Act and Energy Emergency Leadership Act. Both the House and Senate are marking up versions of the Water Resources Development Act, a biannual must-pass bill that authorizes water infrastructure.

Want to Learn More

- You can read the proposed rule [here](#).
- You can read a Washington Post article summarizing the concern [here](#).

Engagement Opportunities

- DOE released a draft of its 2026 National Transmission Needs Study for a 60-day comment period, finding a pressing need for new transmission infrastructure driven by data center, manufacturing, and industrial load growth.
 - DOE is seeking feedback through September 7 and will hold roundtables to shape the final study.
- Consider reviewing the Unified Regulatory Agenda, a mandatory lookahead that the Administration must do twice a year. The administration listed close to 700 actions they plan to take over the remainder of the year.