



Cato's 'Downsizing Government' project tackles the Army Corps of Engineers

Those interested in cutting federal government waste might enjoy the latest addition to the Cato Institute's DownsizingGovernment.org website. The new section targets the [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#).

Reports Cato's [Chris Edwards](#):

The essay will be of interest to people who follow infrastructure issues, people looking for ways to cut spending, and people curious about the long history of bureaucratic mismanagement in the federal government.

The Corps is a federal agency that is involved in river navigation, flood control, seaport dredging, hydropower generation, beach replenishment, and many other activities. While the Corps has built some impressive structures, many of its projects have been economically or environmentally dubious.

The Corps' activities often subsidize private interests, and they are too often determined by political factors not sound analysis. The agency has a history of distorting its cost-benefit analyses, and it has suffered major engineering failures, such as those contributing to the Hurricane Katrina disaster.

Fortunately, most of the Corps' activities do not need to be carried out by the federal government. The essay discusses those activities that could be either privatized or transferred to state and local governments.