



National Council for Science and the Environment
Improving the scientific basis for environmental decisionmaking

The Impact of the 2014 Midterm Elections on Campus Sustainability

Webinar

Hosted By

Johnson County Community College

Speaker

Dr. Sudeep Vyapari

Associate Executive Director

The National Council for Science and the Environment

The Federal Budget Process

The Federal Budget is Kind Of a Big Deal

“Politics is who gets what, when, and how.” - *Harold Lasswell*

“Budgeting is about values, and it’s about choices.” – *Rep. Rosa DeLauro*

Put another way: budgeting is a manifestation of politics

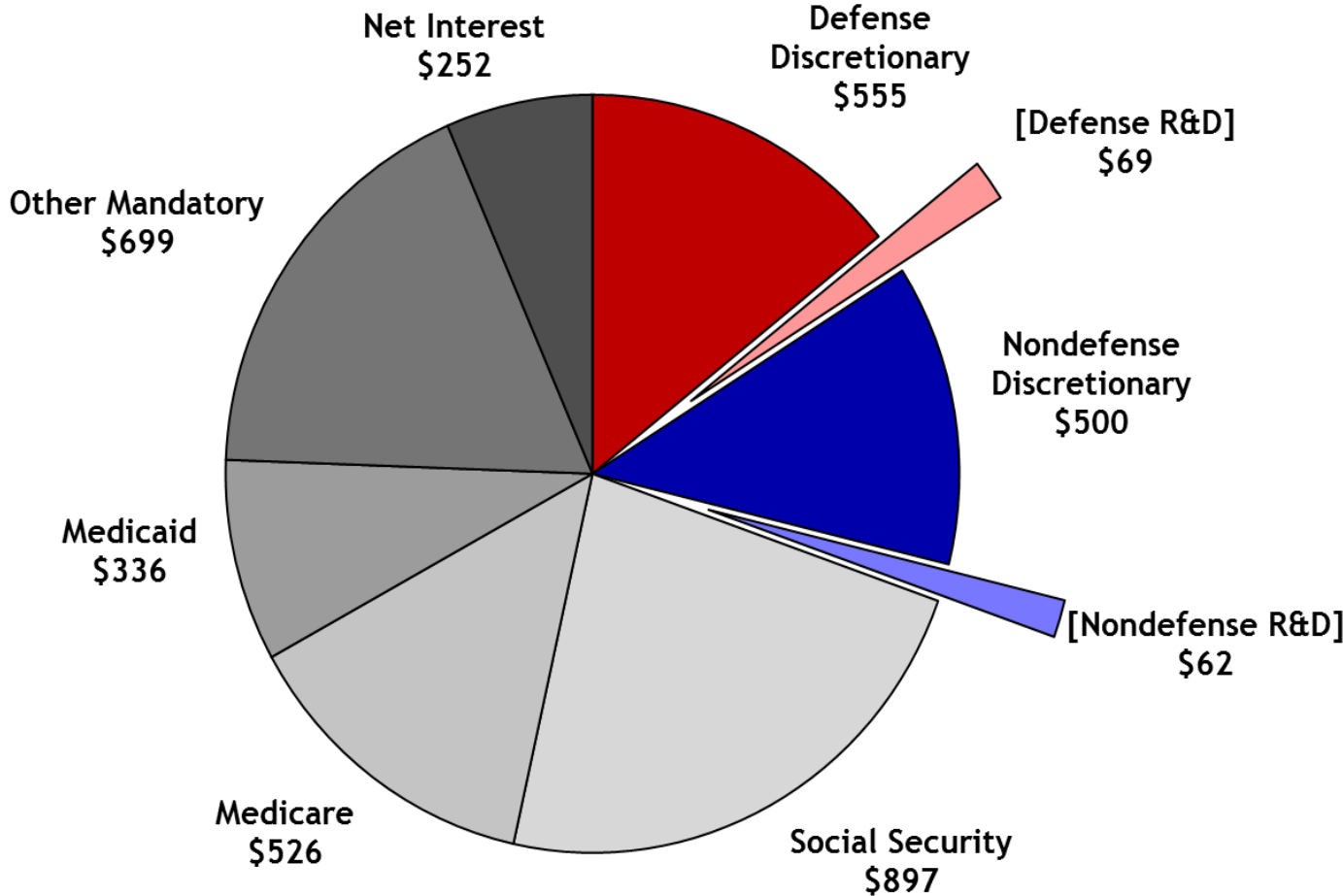
Negotiation between competing interests (and their proxies) in a decentralized system

Major impact for R&D and innovation: most basic research, and most university research, is federally funded

Composition of the Proposed FY 2015 Budget

Total Outlays = \$3.9 trillion

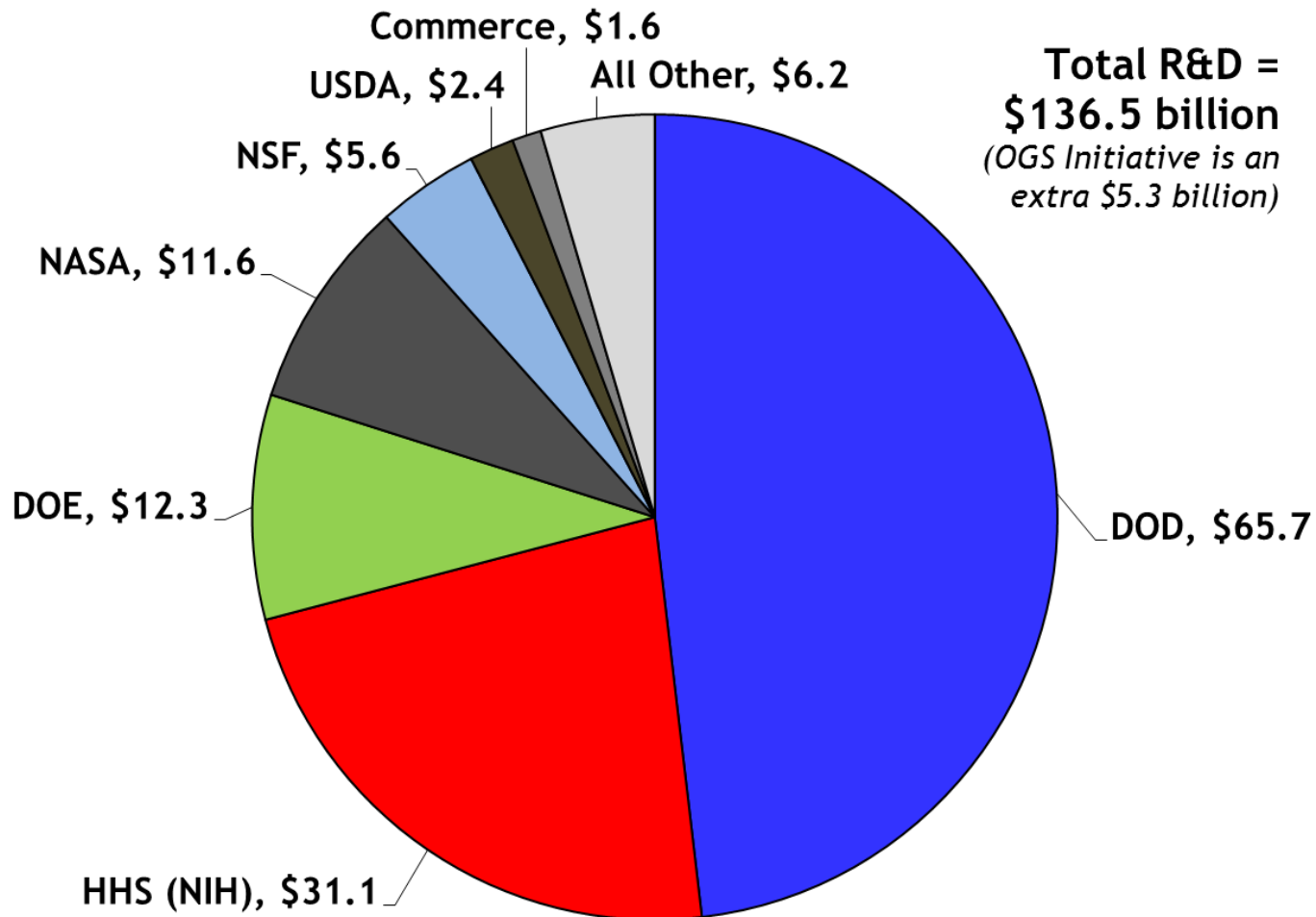
outlays in billions of dollars



Source: *Budget of the United States Government FY 2015*. Projected deficit is \$564 billion. © 2014 AAAS

Total R&D by Agency, FY 2015

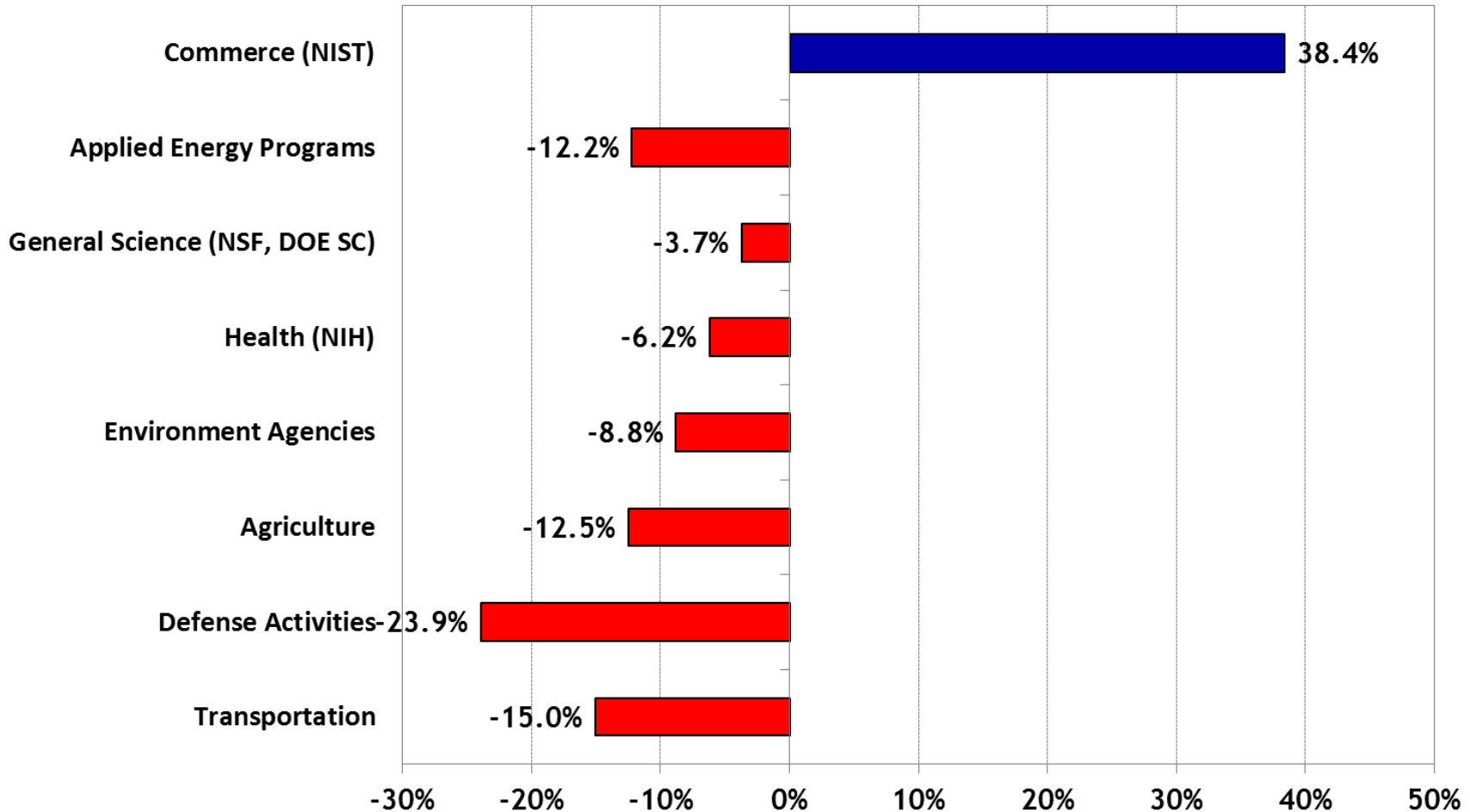
budget authority in billions of dollars



Source: OMB R&D data, agency budget justifications, and other agency documents and data. R&D includes conduct of R&D and R&D facilities. © 2014 AAAS

R&D Change by Budget Function, 2010-2014

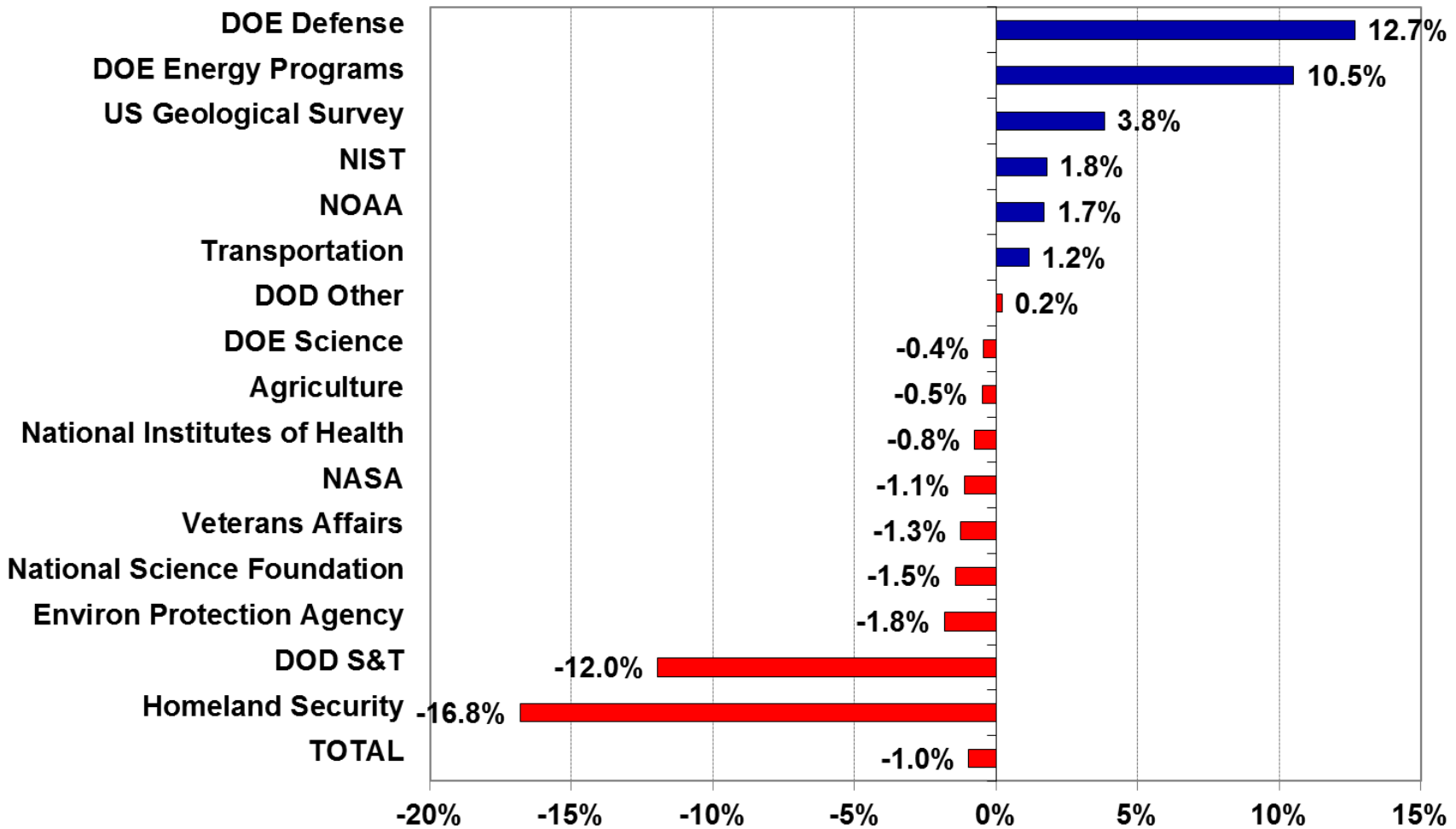
Percent change from FY 2010 in constant dollars



Source: AAAS analysis of historical data and current R&D data, agency budget justifications, and other budget documents. Select DHS programs, now in Justice, were categorized in Defense and General Science in prior years; the above data have been adjusted for comparability. © 2014 AAAS

R&D in the FY15 Base Budget

percent change from FY14, constant dollars



Source: AAAS analysis of the FY 2015 President's Budget. Does not include additional funding proposed via Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative. NOTE: Inflation is 1.7%. © 2014 AAAS

Data and Original Presentation Source: Matt Hourihan, Director of the R&D Budget and Policy Program, AAAS

Spending:

Two Spending Categories: Discretionary vs. Mandatory

Mandatory Spending (aka Direct Spending)

Mostly entitlements, mostly on “autopilot”

Potential for high political sensitivity = “third rail”

Discretionary Spending:

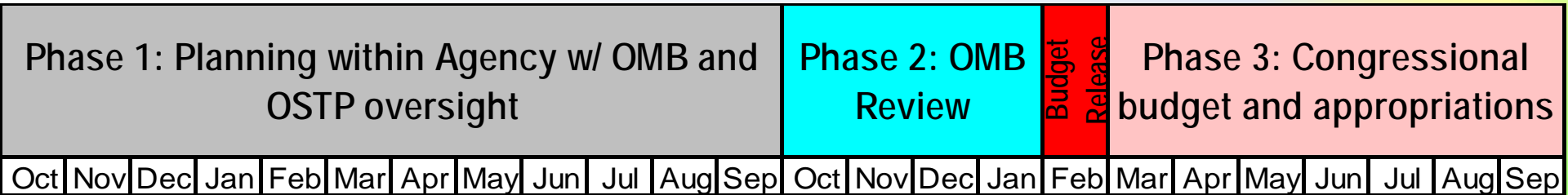
Adjusted annually

Easy (nondefense) targets? i.e. Sequestration

Vast majority of federal R&D is discretionary

Budget Process:

A Typical Federal Budget Process: Three Years, Four Phases



Phase 4: Execute the fiscal year's budget (not shown)

Arranged by fiscal year (October to September)

President's R&D Budget:

What Drives Presidential R&D Budget Formulation?

- ❖ Top-down and bottom-up priorities and politics
- ❖ OMB oversight and OSTP input
- ❖ Technical and political judgment
- ❖ Expert and community input
- ❖ Congressional legislation
- ❖ Big (fiscal) picture
- ❖ Incrementalism



Barack Obama aims high with an air cannon at this year's science fair at the White House.

US BUDGET

Obama shoots for science increase

US president wants to make room for research to grow in 2013 — but faces an uphill battle.

BY IVAN SEMENIUK, MEREDITH WADMAN, SUSAN YOUNG, ERIC HAND, EUGENIE SAMUEL REICH & RICHARD MONASTERSKY

It's not every day you have robots running through your house," Barack Obama quipped last week at the White House science fair, a showcase for student exhibitors that also gave the US president a chance to reiterate a favourite theme. Science and technology, he said, "is what's going to make a difference in this country, over the long haul."

Obama would clearly like to see many more robots, as well as researchers and engineers, running around in the future, a wish reflected in his budget request for fiscal year 2013, released on 13 February. The document's message is one of big ambitions with fewer resources.

A year ago, Obama proposed bold increases for science agencies, but a Congress intent on curbing government spending refused to back many of them. This time, the White House has scaled back in several areas but boosted overall funding for non-defence research and development by 5%, pushing it up to US\$64.9 billion.

"Overall, the budget sustains an upward trend," says John Holdren, director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy in Washington DC. "Because of fiscal restraints, it's not at the rate we preferred."

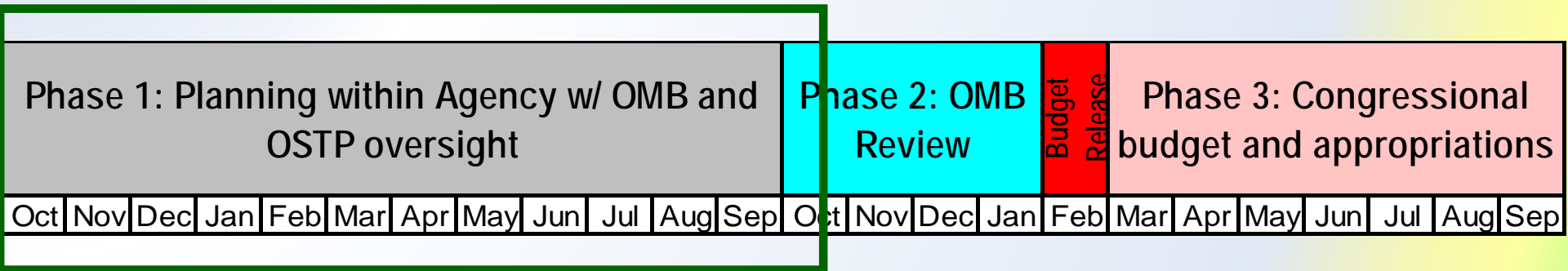
With an election coming this November, House Republicans are unlikely to be generous with the president's request. As in previous years, Congress could delay action on the budget, especially if it decides to wait for voters to weigh in on Obama's presidency before making its decision. And the spectre of a severe across-the-board cut dangles over the government because of an act introduced last year that aims to chop \$1.2 trillion from spending, starting in January 2013.

Here is an overview of what the president's request would mean in key science domains (see "Tough decisions").

BIOMEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland, by far the largest US research agency, sees its budget held level at \$30.7 billion — a far cry from the \$1-billion increase Obama proposed a year ago. Despite the ceiling, Lawrence Tabak, the NIH's ▶

Budget Process:



- Phase 1: Internal agency discussions and planning
 - Strategic plans, staff retreats, program assessments
 - More bottom-up than top down
- OMB is present throughout
 - Early spring: guidance memo
 - Science & Tech: Joint guidance memo from OMB / OSTP (midsummer)
- Agencies deliver budget justifications to OMB (early fall)

Data and Original Presentation Source: Matt Hourihan, Director of the R&D Budget and Policy Program, AAAS



National Council for Science and the Environment

Improving the scientific basis for environmental decisionmaking

- **Not-for-profit organization** dedicated to **improving the scientific basis of environmental decision-making**. It seeks to be a **bridge that spans the divide between science, its applications, and policy**.
- NCSE specializes in programs that **foster collaboration between the diverse institutions and individuals creating and using environmental knowledge to make science useful to policies and decisions** on critical environmental issues.

25th Year celebration in 2015

Over 200 Institutions of Higher Education Affiliate Members



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Council of
Environmental
Deans and
Directors



Community
College
Affiliate
Program

A Program of the National Council
for Science and the Environment



Council of Energy
Research and
Education Leaders



Center for Environmental
Education Research

A Program of the National Council
for Science and the Environment



Energy & Climate Change

15th National Conference and Global Forum
on Science, Policy and the Environment
January 27-29, 2015



EnvironMentors
Explore Your World



National Council for Science and the Environment

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January 26, 2015

**Pre-Conference
National Energy Education
Summit**

*Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Washington
DC at Reagan National Airport*

January 27 - 29, 2015

**National Conference and Global
Forum on Science, Policy
and the Environment
Energy and Climate Change**

*Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Washington
DC at Reagan National Airport*



January 29 - 30, 2015

Winter Program Conferences

*Council of Environmental Deans and Directors
Community College Affiliate Program*

*Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Washington
DC at Reagan National Airport*

April 13 - 14, 2015

**Academic-Federal-Foundation
Dialogue**

*In Collaboration with
GW Sustainability Collaborative*

*Milken Institute School of Public Health
The George Washington University
Washington, DC*



April 15, 2015

Congressional Visit Day

*United State Congress
Washington , DC*

June 22 - 24, 2015

Summer Program Conferences
*Council of Environmental Deans and Directors
Community College Affiliate Program*

*Hosted By
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
University of California, San Diego*





National Council for Science and the Environment

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- Community College Affiliate Program (CCAP) **founded in June 2013** (6 Founding Members)
- January 2014 to Date: Membership grew from **12 – nearly 30**
- First of its kind **Census of Community Colleges** on Interdisciplinary Environment Sustainability (**IES**) **Education** Report published in June 2014. Second phase of research in progress.
- CCAP Elected its inaugural **CCAP Executive Committee in October 2014**
- CCAP and CEDD (**2- and 4-year colleges**) working together on many **initiatives and issues of common concern**. Some issues being addressed are: Curriculum, Gateway courses, Career Pathways, Workforce / Training, Credit vs. Non-Credit Programs, Diversity, STEAM, and Professional Development for Faculty



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Thank You!

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