



TERMINATION: RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Department of Agriculture

The Administration proposes to eliminate the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program. First begun in 1962, this program has outlived its need for Federal support.

Funding Summary
 (In millions of dollars)

	2010 Enacted	2011 Request	2011 Change from 2010
Budget Authority.....	51	0	-51

Justification

The RC&D Program funds Federal coordinators for 375 Resource Conservation and Development Districts in every State, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Basin. First begun in 1962, the program was intended to build community leadership skills through the establishment of RC&D councils that would access Federal, State, and local funding sources for the community’s benefit. After 47 years, this goal has been accomplished. These councils have developed sufficiently strong Federal, State and local ties and the Administration believes it is no longer necessary to provide Federal funding for council coordinators. This was reinforced by SAVE award suggestions, some of which recommended terminating the RC&D program as coordinators are no longer needed and funds for the coordinators could be better used elsewhere. Moreover, councils are now able to secure funding for their continued operation without assistance from the RC&D program: according to a Department of Agriculture report to the Congress, RC&D supplies only 16 percent of councils’ total administrative and financial funding, with the remaining 84 percent coming from other Federal, State, and non-governmental sources.¹ After several decades, these councils have a proven track record of success, showing that they have outlived the need for Federal RC&D funding.

Citations

¹ Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, *Report to Congress on the Resource Conservation and Development Program* (January 2006).