

Environmental Legislation/Agreements

I. Environmental Policy in the United States – Congress passes laws addressing environmental problems. Laws are developed in response to public concern, media coverage, disasters, and scientific information.

A. Types of Environmental Laws

1. Pollution standards or limits
2. Screening of substances before use
3. Evaluation of environmental impact
4. protecting resources from harm
5. Energy conservation

B. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established in 1970 by Nixon. The mission of the Environmental Protection

Agency is to protect human health and the environment.

C. Department of Energy (DOE) – established by Carter to advance the national, economic, and energy security of the United States; to promote scientific and technological innovation in support of that mission; and to ensure the environmental cleanup of the national nuclear weapons complex.

D. Environmental Groups – nonprofit organizations whose mission is to protect and sustain the environment. Sierra Club, Environmental Defense Fund, Natural Resources Defense Council, Zero population Growth, Wilderness Society, Nature Conservancy, National Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation, Worldwatch

Institute, Rocky Mountain Institute, Battenkill Conservancy, Hudson Clearwater, Hudson Riverwatch, Hudson Riverkeeper, Trout Unlimited, Battenkill Watershed Alliance.

- II. Global Environmental Policy – through mostly the work of the United Nations, there are currently more than 170 environmental treaties signed by nations regarding: endangered species, ozone depletion, ocean pollution, global warming, biodiversity, acid precipitation, preservation of Antarctica, and hazardous waste.

MINING

119. Surface Mining Control & Reclamation Act: (1977) requires coal strip mines to reclaim the land
120. Madrid Protocol: (1991) Suspension of mineral exploration (mining) for 50 years in Antarctica

WATER

121. Safe Drinking Water Act: (SDWA, 1974) set maximum contaminant levels for pollutants in drinking water that may have adverse effects on human health
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122. Clean Water Act: (CWA, 1972) set maximum permissible amounts of water pollutants that can be discharged into waterways; aims to make surface waters swimmable and fishable

123. Ocean Dumping Ban Act: (1988) bans ocean dumping of sewage sludge and industrial waste in the ocean

AIR

124. Clean Air Act: (CAA, 1970) set emission standards for cars and limits for release of air pollutants

125. Kyoto Protocol: (1996) controlling global warming by setting greenhouse gas emissions targets for developed countries

126. Montreal Protocol: (1987) phase-out of ozone depleting substances

WASTE

127. Resource Conservation & Recovery Act (RCRA): (1976) controls hazardous waste with a cradle to grave system

128. Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation & Liability Act (CERCLA):

(1980) —Superfund, designed to identify and clean up abandoned hazardous waste dump sites

129. Nuclear Waste Policy Act: (1982) U.S. government must develop a high level nuclear waste site (Yucca Mtn)

LIFE

130. Endangered Species Act: (1973) identifies threatened and endangered species in the U.S., and puts their protection ahead of economic considerations

131. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES): (1973) lists species that

cannot be commercially traded as live specimens or wildlife products

132. Magnuson-Stevens Act: (1976) Management of marine fisheries

133. Food Quality Protection Act: (1996) set pesticide limits in food, & all active and inactive

ingredients must be screened for estrogenic/endocrine effects

GENERAL

134. National Environmental Policy Act: (1969) Environmental Impact Statements must be done

before any project affecting federal lands can be started

135. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants: (2004) Seeks to protect human

health from the 12 most toxic chemicals (includes 8 chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides / DDT
can be used for malaria control)

U.S. Clean Water Act	-Goals: Safe surface waters (fishing, Swimming), to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nations water.
NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act)	-Requires an environmental statement (E.I.S.) for any project which receives federal funding
Energy Policy Act (1992)	-Extends tax benefits to solar and wind energy industries. Provides a subsidy (\$.015 per. Kw-h) to utilities for electricity provided by using renewable resources. -Requires 75% of federally purchased cars and light trucks run on fuels such as natural gas, propane, ethanol, or, methanol. -Prohibits oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, among others.
Clean Air Acts ('62 '65 '65 '70 '77 '90)	-Set standards for six ('The Six') criteria pollutants (National Ambient Air Quality Standards) Particulates (PM), Sulfur dioxide (SO ₂), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Nitrogen Oxides (NO _x)*, Ozone (O ₃), and Lead (PB). -Set Limits on SO ₂ Emitted by coal-fired (burning) power plants. Established SO ₂ pollution permits sold on the Chicago Board of Trade. * NO ₂ = Nitrogen Oxide, N ₂ O= Nitrous Oxide NO= Nitrogen Dioxide.
RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 1975)	-Requires E.P.A. to I.D. hazardous waste and set standards for there management -Provides Guidelines and money-aid for states with established waste management programs. -Also requires all firms that store, treat, or dispose of more than 100 kg.(220 lbs.) of hazardous waste per month to have a permit stating how much wastes are to be managed.
Cercla (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation Liability Act)	- I.D./ Cleanup abandoned hazardous waste dump sites, and linking underground tanks. -"Poulter Ray Principle"

Fifra (Feed, Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodent Control Act, '72, '75, '78, '88)	- Requires all commercial pesticides to be approved by the E.P.A. for general or restricted use.
Lacey Act (1900)	-Prohibits transportation of live or dead animals or their parts across state boarders without a federal permit.
Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act (1934)	-Required waterfowl hunters to buy a federal duck hunting license. -Sale of these permits goes to waterfowl research and purchasing of land for waterfowl refuges. Q.-What type :Economic Solution/Approach" is this?
Endangered Species Act (1973, '82, '85, '88)	- Authorizes the (NMFS) National Marine Fisheries Service to I.D. and list endangered and threatened species. - Authorizes the Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) to I.D. out list endangered/threatened species which are not under the authority of the NMFS. - These species cannot be hinted, killed, collected, or injured in the U.S. (Over 1,000 animals on the list, with approx. 700 animals outside of the U.S.)
Taylor Grazing Act (1943)	-Permit required and fees for use of federal grazing lands. -Limits on number of livestock that could be grazed.
Wilderness Act (1964)	-To preserve large expanses of pristine lands.
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (1968)	-Preservation of and no development of certain rivers.
Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (1977)	-Requires reclamation of lands mined
International Treaties	Antarctic Treaty Cairo Conference on Population and Development Cites Treaty Kyoto Conference Montreal Protocol Rio Earth Summit UN Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm