Earth Day 2000

President Clinton and Vice President Gore:
A Healthy Environment for the 21st Century

Introduction

Preserving America's Natural Treasures

Clean Air, Safe Water, Healthy Communities

Meeting the Challenge of Global Warming

Protecting Our Precious Wildlife

Building Sustainable Communities

Safeguarding Our Oceans and Coasts

Protecting the Global Environment

Growing Green Business

Greening the Government

Enforcing Our Nation's Environmental Laws

The Challenges Ahead

Ten Communities: Profiles in Environmental Progress

Environmental Actions by President Clinton and Vice President Gore

AUTHENTICATED U.S. GOVERNMENT INFORMATION GPO

Whole Document (9.2 Mb)

State by State: How the Administration's Initiatives Are Helping (260 Kb)

Over the past seven years, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have significantly strengthened protections for the environment and public health, and won new resources to help states and communities protect their water, land and coasts. Please view the report PDF file to see some of the benefits that each state has received. Non-pdf files for each state will be posted here on April 14.

- Earth Day Letter
- CEQ Earth Day 2000 Report
- Presidential Budget Initiatives
- State by State
- Earth Day Activities
- Earth Links
- EPA Kids Explorers' Club
- Earth Day 2000 Home Page

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Earth Day 2000

APRIL 2000

In 1970, many of America's rivers and lakes were dying. Our city skylines were disappearing behind a shroud of smog. Toxic waste threatened countless communities. And our cherished national symbol — the bald eagle — seemed destined for extinction. A handful of citizens decided it was time to fight back. They called the very first Earth Day, and millions across America turned out. The battle for our environment had begun.

Thirty years later, the first Earth Day of a new millennium will dawn on a nation transformed. Twice as many of our rivers and lakes are now safe for fishing and swimming. Millions more Americans enjoy clean air and safe drinking water. Many of our worst toxic dumps have been cleaned up. Nearly 100 million more acres are permanently protected as wilderness. And the bald eagle thrives once again.

Under the leadership of President Clinton and Vice President Gore, America is doing more than ever to ensure a safe, healthy environment for our families, and for future generations. Over the past seven years, the Clinton-Gore Administration has built an unparalleled record of environmental and public health protection. The Administration has:

- adopted the strongest air quality protections ever, cleaned up three times as many Superfund sites as the two previous Administrations combined, and strengthened drinking water protections for millions of Americans;

- preserved and restored natural treasures from the Florida Everglades to the California redwoods, putting the Administration on track to protecting more land in the lower 48 states than any Administration since the time of Theodore Roosevelt;

- made record investments in public transit, helped hundreds of communities clean up and redevelop brownfields, and launched new efforts to help communities fight sprawl, and;

- led the international community in the fight against global warming, the most profound environmental challenge we face.

Above all, this Administration has worked hard to forge sensible new approaches to environmental stewardship. Beginning with the successful effort to break the long stalemate over the forests of the Pacific Northwest, the Administration has promoted collaboration over conflict — helping to make our environment a common ground, not a battleground. In its use of market-based strategies like emissions trading, the Administration has sought to achieve the greatest environmental protection at the least possible cost. And in its innovative approaches to endangered species protection and land conservation, the Administration has forged new partnerships with farmers, other landowners, and city, county and state governments.

At the same time, the President and Vice President have vigorously defended America's hard-won environmental gains against repeated assaults in Congress. In 1995, the new majority in Congress tried to repeal key provisions of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts, and enact sweeping legislation that would have gutted an entire generation of public health protections. In 1996, it was only after two government shutdowns that they abandoned efforts to slash funding for safe drinking water, environmental enforcement, and toxic cleanups. Each of the past three years they have resorted to legislative "riders" in their continuing efforts to sacrifice public lands to private interests. Time and again, the President and Vice President have stood firm and stopped them.

The successes of the past seven years have proven beyond doubt that the American people are fully and firmly committed to protecting our environment. They have proven as well that this goal need hardly come at the expense of our economy. Indeed, it is clearer than ever that a healthy environment and a healthy economy go hand in hand. For today we at once enjoy the cleanest air and water in a generation, and the longest economic expansion in our nation's history.

On the 30th anniversary of Earth Day, Americans can look back with pride and gratitude for all we have accomplished as a nation. And as we venture into the 21st century, we can look forward knowing that America is better prepared than ever to meet the environmental challenges ahead.

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Earth Day Activities • **Earth Links** • **EPA Kids Explorers' Club**
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Earth Day 2000 Home Page •

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Earth Day 2000

Preserving America's Natural Treasures

"Working together, we can ensure that not only our generation, but each generation to come, will have the resources to leave an even better land for those who follow"

President Bill Clinton
March 4, 1999

Photo: Grand Canyon, Arizona, January 2000

At the beginning of the 20th century, President Theodore Roosevelt dedicated our Nation to "the great central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us."

At the dawn of a new century, President Clinton and Vice President Gore are fulfilling this vision, and ensuring that future generations of Americans have the resources to carry on this legacy in the years ahead. Under their leadership, the Administration has strengthened protection for millions of acres of federal lands; saved and restored natural treasures from Florida's Everglades to California's ancient redwoods; helped hundreds of communities across the country protect parks, farms, and other local green spaces; and forged partnerships with landowners to restore and preserve the natural values of America's private lands.

With new initiatives now underway, including the President's plan to protect roadless areas within our national forests, the Administration is on track to protecting more land in the continental United States than any Administration since the time of Teddy Roosevelt.

Creating Monuments for All Time

One of the tools that can be used to preserve America's natural heritage is the Antiquities Act, which authorizes the President to create national monuments on federal land to protect "objects of historic and scientific interest." The Act was first used by President Theodore Roosevelt, who created the Grand Canyon National Monument — the core of what later became Grand Canyon National Park. President Clinton has employed the Antiquities Act to protect more land in the lower

48 states than any President in history, creating or expanding five national monuments:

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah — 1.7 million acres of some of the most remote country in the continental United States, with spectacular red rock canyons, stone arches, brilliantly colored cliffs, and the remnants of three major prehistoric cultures.

Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument in Arizona — Just over 1 million acres of deep canyons, mountains, and buttes on the north rim of the Grand Canyon containing ancient artifacts and diverse wildlife, including rare species such as the California condor and desert tortoise.

Agua Fria National Monument in Arizona — A 71,100-acre site featuring some of the most extensive prehistoric ruins in the American Southwest, including spectacular petroglyphs, terraced agricultural areas, and rock pueblos once inhabited by communities of several thousand.

California Coastal National Monument — A biological treasure encompassing thousands of islands, rocks and reefs off the California coast that provide critical feeding and nesting grounds for marine mammals and seabirds, including the threatened brown pelican and southern sea otter.

Pinnacles National Monument in California — A 7,900-acre expansion of the Pinnacles Monument to help preserve its unique geologic formations, its watershed, and important habitat for species including golden eagles, prairie falcons, and red-tailed hawks.

Defending the World's First National Park

Photo: Glacier National Park, September 1997

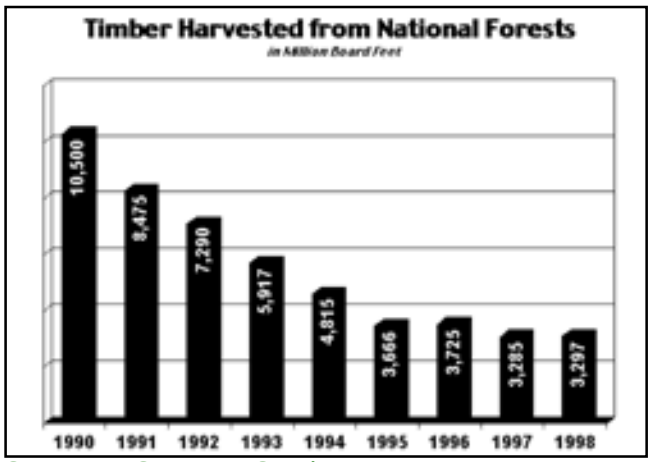
Yellowstone National Park, created in 1872, is known around the world for its spectacular wildlife and geysers. But a massive gold mine proposed not far from the park threatened Yellowstone with toxic runoff and other environmental harm. In 1996, President Clinton announced a $65 million agreement with Crown Butte Mines that halted the proposed New World Mine, ending the threat to Yellowstone.

Last year, the President announced another major step to protect the greater Yellowstone ecosystem: acquisition of the 9,300-acre Royal Teton Ranch adjoining Yellowstone. Protection of these lands preserves critical winter range for

the park's bison and protects underground geothermal resources that feed the park's world-famous geysers.

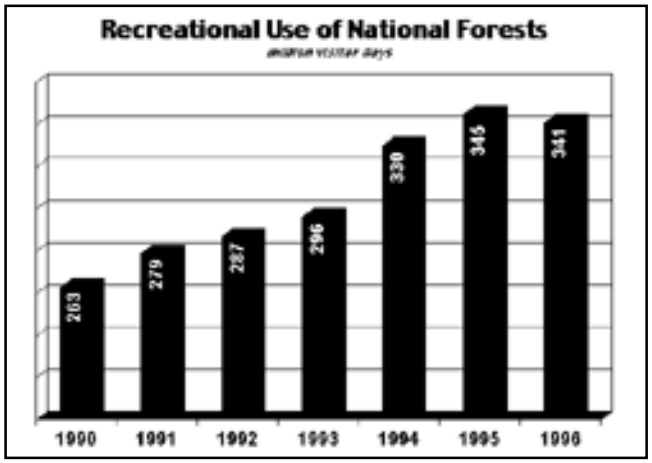
Restoring Balance to Our National Forests

In 1994, the Clinton-Gore Administration broke the long stalemate over the Northern Spotted Owl with the Pacific Northwest Forest Plan, striking a balance between the preservation of old-growth stands and the economic needs of timber-dependent communities. Building on that success, the Administration has worked to improve management of all our national forests with a new science-based agenda that strengthens protections for water quality, wildlife and recreation while reforming logging practices to ensure steady, sustainable supplies of timber and jobs.



Source: U.S. Forest Service

In a major step to preserve some of America's last wild lands, President Clinton directed the Forest Service in October, 1999 to develop a rule to protect more than 40 million acres of pristine "roadless" areas within the national forests. Final action is expected in late 2000. In addition, the Forest Service has proposed:



Source: U.S. Forest Service Annual Report

- A new roads policy to better manage existing roads within the national forests system, making them safer, more responsive to public needs, and less environmentally damaging.
- A comprehensive planning rule to guide the national forests as they periodically update their management plans to ensure sound stewardship for future generations.

Saving California's Ancient Redwoods

When a family-owned timber company in Northern California was taken over, and the new owners accelerated the logging, the world's largest unprotected stand of old-growth redwoods was suddenly threatened. The Clinton-Gore Administration forged an agreement, and secured $250 million in federal funds, to preserve the 7,500-acre Headwaters Forest — saving trees up to 2,000 years old and critical habitat for threatened and endangered species. The agreement also provided for a comprehensive plan to protect wildlife habitat and ensure sustainable logging on the company's surrounding timberlands.

Restoring the Florida Everglades

In 1996, Vice President Gore launched a long-term strategy to restore an extraordinary but endangered natural treasure — the Florida Everglades. In close partnership with the state of Florida and other stakeholders, the Administration has worked to acquire and protect critical lands, improve water quality,

Photo: Florida Everglades, December, 1997

restore endangered species, accelerate scientific research, and increase fresh water flows to Everglades National Park. The effort represents the most ambitious environmental restoration project ever attempted.

Last year, the Administration and the state of Florida proposed a major undertaking critical to the project's success — a $7.8 billion plan to rebuild the region's water system to more closely mimic nature's design. The plan would nearly double the amount of fresh water available in South Florida, ensuring clean, plentiful flows for the Everglades and adequate supplies for cities and farms.

Restoring the San Francisco Bay-Delta

In 1995, the Administration reached a landmark agreement with the state of California that is laying the groundwork for a lasting solution to the state's perennial water conflicts. Under the CALFED agreement, the federal and state governments are undertaking interim measures to restore San Francisco Bay and the adjoining Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, while ensuring adequate water supplies for cities and farmers. Since 1997, the Administration has secured $190 million in federal funds for environmental restoration through the Bay-Delta program. CALFED's proposal for a long-term plan to balance environmental, urban, and agricultural needs is due later this year.

Protecting and Restoring Our National Parks

America's national parks are drawing record numbers of visitors, and the Administration is undertaking new initiatives to ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy them in all their splendor.

On Earth Day 1999, Vice President Gore announced a long-term strategy to restore pristine skies and unspoiled views to national parks and wilderness areas by reducing pollution from power plants, cars, and factories hundreds, even thousands of miles away. In several major parks, new transportation plans emphasizing the use of public transit and clean fuels are helping to reduce congestion and pollution. A clean-fueled shuttle bus system at Acadia National Park carried over 140,000 passengers in its first summer of operation, and similar shuttles will soon be introduced at

Zion National Park.

In Yosemite Valley, a new master plan will ease crowding and restore developed areas to natural conditions. At the Grand Canyon, new rules for sight-seeing flights will help restore the natural quiet, and a planned light rail system will ease congestion. Throughout the park system, entrance and recreation fees are now being reinvested directly in the parks to help meet critical maintenance needs and put our national parks on firmer financial footing.

Protecting the California Desert

The California Desert Protection Act, signed by President Clinton in 1994, provided new or enhanced protection for 6.6 million acres of spectacular landscapes in the Mojave and Colorado Deserts of Southern California. The new law created the 1.4 million-acre Mojave National Preserve; expanded Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Monuments, and redesignated them as national parks; and provided wilderness protection for 3.6 million acres of Bureau of Land Management lands.

Stemming the Loss of Precious Wetlands

Wetlands play a vital role in sustaining wildlife, filtering pollutants from our water, and protecting communities from flooding. Yet more than half the historic wetlands in the continental United States have been lost.

To help reverse this loss, the Administration has undertaken major reforms of wetlands regulation. New "nationwide permits" adopted this year by the Army Corps of Engineers require rigorous review of any project affecting more than half an acre of wetlands. Apart from protecting wetlands, the new permits will substantially decrease development within floodplains, preventing serious threats to life and property.

In addition, the President’s Clean Water Action Plan sets a nationwide goal of a net increase of 100,000 acres of wetlands a year beginning in 2005.

National Park Service Operating Budget
(in millions of dollars)

1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000 Estimated	2001 Proposed
984	1,094	1,082	1,081	1,155	1,246	1,284	1,364	1,454

Forging Conservation Partnerships with Farmers

Most of the land in the United States is in private hands, and the nation’s economic and

environmental well-being rests in part on keeping these lands healthy. Through a range of initiatives, the Administration has forged innovative partnerships with farmers and other landowners to encourage voluntary conservation efforts and strengthen rural economies.

The Wetlands Reserve Program provides technical and financial assistance to property owners who enter into permanent or long-term agreements to restore and maintain wetlands. The Conservation Reserve Program provides annual payments to farmers who remove environmentally sensitive lands from production and improve them by restoring wildlife habitat, planting windbreaks, or creating streamside buffers. The Administration's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program greatly expanded these efforts by encouraging states to commit matching funds targeted to urgent conservation needs, such as restoring Chesapeake Bay and Pacific Northwest salmon. Agreements have been signed with Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington, and others are in the works.

Through these programs, the Administration has helped stabilize farm income while securing conservation improvements on more than 32 million acres of private land nationwide. The President's budget for the coming year proposes a $1.3 billion Farm Conservation Initiative to significantly expand conservation partnerships with farmers, ranchers and other landowners.

Preserving Natural and Historic Sites

Over the past seven years, the Clinton-Gore Administration has protected scores of natural and historic sites around the country by securing over $2.5 billion through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Much of the funding has been used for federal acquisition of threatened lands, and the remainder has gone to states and communities to help them protect local green spaces. Major priorities have included completing the Appalachian Trail, protecting Civil War battlefields, and preserving New Mexico's majestic Baca Ranch.

To continue these efforts in the years ahead, the President's Lands Legacy initiative proposes permanent funding of at least $1.4 billion a year, with more than half dedicated to state and local conservation efforts.

Preserving America's Lands Legacy

With $2.5 billion secured through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Clinton-Gore Administration has protected more than 300 natural and historic sites (see map), and helped states and communities protect hundreds of other sites around the country. The President's Lands Legacy initiative would provide permanent funding of $1.4 billion a year to continue these efforts in the years ahead.

Lands Legacy Budget
(in millions of dollars)

1999	2000 Estimated	2001 Proposed
473	727	1,400

Licking County, Ohio
Building Conservation Partnerships on the Farm

With grain prices bottoming out and erosion damaging their 90-acre farm, Nancy and John Schaller of Licking County, Ohio, knew they had to do something to protect their income and their land.

After investigating the voluntary Conservation Reserve Program, run by the Department of Agriculture, the Schallers decided to enroll 50 acres. By agreeing to take the land out of production, they qualified for an annual "rental" payment from USDA, which helped pay to plant white pines and black oaks on the idled cropland. A healthy woodland has now grown, ending the

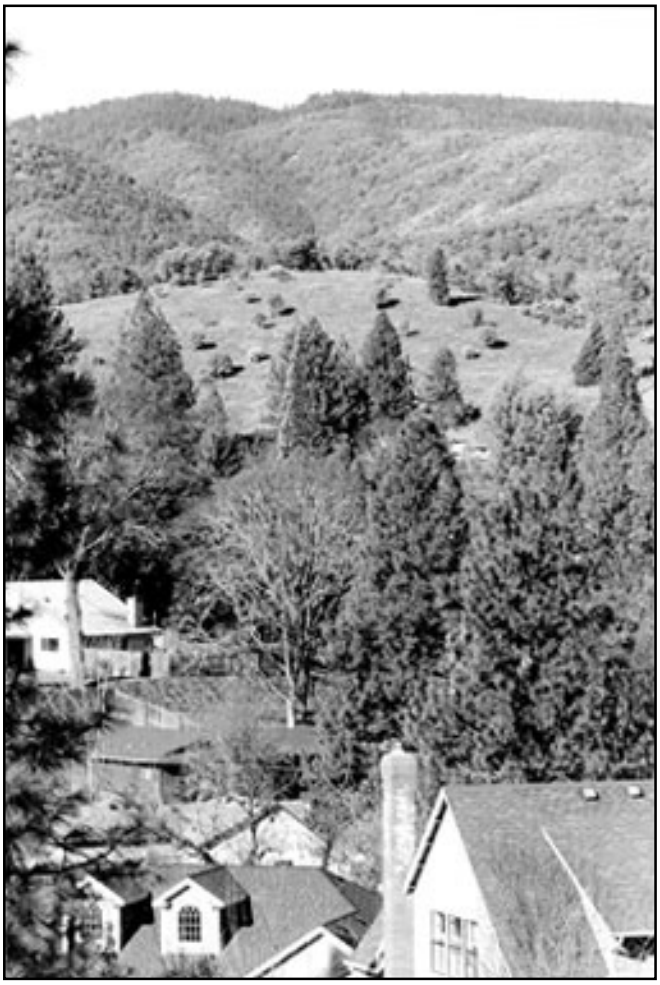
erosion and improving the creeks running through the farm.

Nancy, now widowed, enjoys the deer, pheasant, groundhogs and birds that now call the area home. She's so pleased with the program she's re-enrolled her land for another 10 years.

"The Conservation Reserve Program was perfect for the Schallers," said Steve Berk, who runs the Licking County office of USDA's Farm Service Agency. "Not only does the program give landowners an alternative to continual use of the land, but it improves water quality and enhances wildlife habitat. It's an inexpensive way for the taxpayers to make a great difference."

About 50 other Licking County farmers have enrolled a total of more than 1,500 acres in the program, receiving payments comparable to the rent they would receive from another farmer. "This program isn't a windfall for anyone," said Berk. "No one's getting rich off the government. It's just a great program that actually accomplishes what it sets out to do."

Jacksonville, Oregon
A Town Rallies to Save Its Open Space



As in many other communities across the country, the people of Jacksonville, Oregon, are serious about protecting open space.

Even the fifth graders in this town of 2,000 are pitching in. They surveyed residents and found that 90 percent favor increased land preservation. They talked a local woman into donating land for a new park-and-trail system. They even convinced a neighboring town to donate 10 acres.

But what really got the ball rolling, said Phil Gahr, past president of the Jacksonville Woodlands Association, was a $40,000 grant from the federal government's Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) state conservation grant program. The grant was combined with $100,000 raised elsewhere to purchase the 70-acre Britt Woods and save it from development.

Building on that success, the community has now raised enough funds to purchase and permanently protect some 300 acres in all. Nationwide, the

Photo: Jacksonville, Oregon

Administration has awarded $55 million in grants for 817 state and local projects, helping communities in all 50 states save open space and create new parks.

"This is a perfect example of the powerful things that can happen with just a little bit of money," said Gahr. "There are key events that give the community confidence that this will work. Securing the LWCF grant was a significant turning point. Now we're using that victory as impetus to preserve more land."

This chapter in PDF format (1.2 MB)

- Earth Day Letter
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Earth Day 2000

Clean Air, Safe Water, Healthy Communities

"As we embark on a new millennium...surely it is our sacred boligation to ensure that each and every child, from the first breath on, will be drawing the cleanest, purest, healthiest air we can provide."

President Bill Clinton
December 21, 1999

Photo: Maury Elementary School, Washington, D.C., December 1999

Thirty years ago, city skylines were disappearing behind a veil of smog, and many of America's rivers were open sewers, so polluted they sometimes burst into flame. In barely over a generation, we have reversed decades of degradation. Tens of millions more Americans now have clean air and drinking water. Twice as many of our rivers and lakes are now safe for fishing and swimming. We have cut lead levels in our children's blood by 70 percent, and toxic emissions from factories by nearly half.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore have launched a new generation of environmental and public health protections to continue this progress and to meet new challenges unforeseen in 1970. Under their leadership, the Administration has adopted the toughest clean air standards ever; strengthened drinking water protections; accelerated toxic waste cleanups; expanded our communities' right to know about toxic releases; and taken special steps against environmental health risks to children.

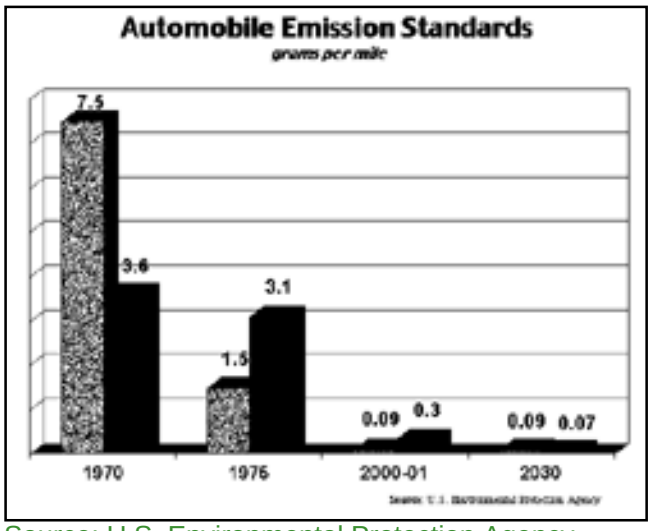
Together, these measures are helping to move America closer to the day when we can fulfill every citizens' right to clean air, safer water, and a healthy neighborhood.

Cleaning Up Auto Emissions

Last December, President Clinton took the boldest steps in a generation to improve air quality and protect public health by reducing pollution from cars and other vehicles.

Although air pollution has been cut 30 percent since 1970, even as economic output has more than doubled, these gains are threatened because Americans drive more than ever and increasingly

favor higher-polluting SUVs, minivans and other light-duty trucks. To keep America on track to meeting its air quality goals, the President announced tough new tailpipe emissions standards that will produce the cleanest cars ever — and for the first time require SUVs and minivans to meet the same pollution standards as passenger cars. The new measures, to be phased in from 2004 to 2009, also will reduce sulfur levels in gasoline by 90 percent.



Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

When fully implemented, these measures will result in cars that are 77 percent cleaner and light-duty trucks that are up to 95 percent cleaner than those on the road today — the equivalent of removing 164 million cars from the road. Improved air quality will prevent up to 4,300 premature deaths and 173,000 cases of childhood respiratory illness each year.

Tough Standards for Soot and Smog

In 1997, after exhaustive scientific study, the Administration adopted strong new national standards for soot and smog — two air pollutants that pose significant health risks for millions of Americans. Soot, or particulate matter, comes largely from power plants and industrial facilities. Smog, or ground-level ozone, is the haze of chemicals from car exhausts and smoke-stack emissions that shrouds many cities on hot summer days. The new standards set broad national goals to guide other federal air quality efforts and to guide states in developing strong, enforceable air quality plans. The standards could prevent up to 15,000 premature deaths a year and improve the lives of millions who suffer from respiratory illnesses. Although the new standards have been delayed by litigation, the Administration continues to pursue the case in court.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

Safeguarding our Drinking Water

Americans enjoy the safest drinking water in the world. Ninety-one percent of Americans receive tap water from drinking water systems meeting federal public health standards. To ensure that our families have healthy, clean tap water, President Clinton proposed and signed legislation in 1996 to strengthen

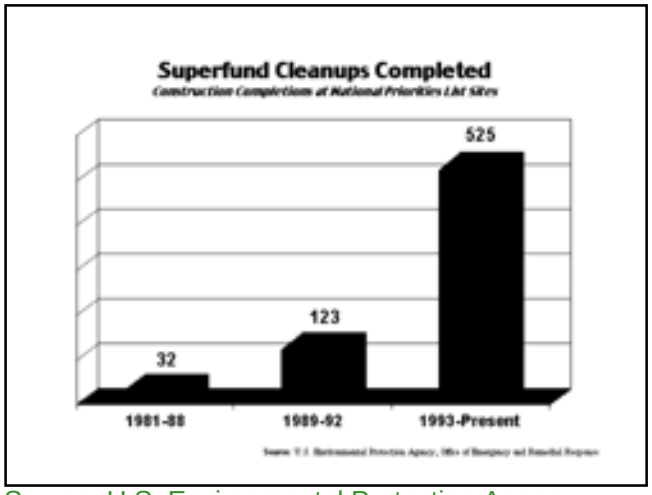
the Safe Drinking Water Act. In implementing the new law, the Administration has:

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency OCEPA

- required America's 55,000 water utility companies to provide regular reports to their customers on the quality of their drinking water;
- required improved filtration and monitoring of water systems nationwide to protect against cryptosporidium, other disease-causing microbes, and potentially harmful byproducts of the water treatment process, preventing up to 460,000 cases of waterborne illness a year, and;
- secured funding for the new Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, which to date has provided $1.9 billion in low-interest loans to help communities upgrade their water treatment systems.

Accelerating Toxic Waste Cleanups

The Clinton-Gore Administration has dramatically accelerated the cleanup of the nation's worst toxic waste sites, freeing scores of communities from environmental threats and economic blight. Having inherited a flawed Superfund program mired in litigation, the Administration instituted three rounds of reforms to make cleanups faster, fairer, and more efficient. Since 1993, 515 cleanups have been completed — more than three times as many as in the previous 12 years. Cleanup is completed or underway at more than 90 percent of all Superfund sites. In this year's budget, President Clinton secured $1.4 billion to continue progress toward the Administration's goal of cleaning up 900 Superfund sites by 2002.

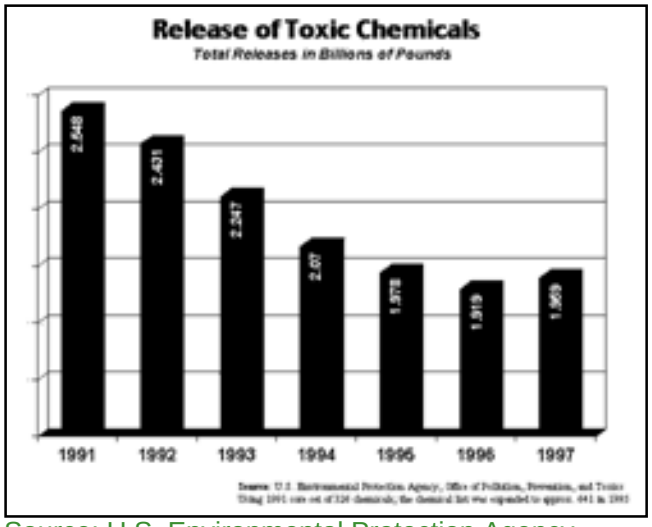


Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Emergency and Remedial Response

Strengthening the Public's Right to Know

One of the most powerful tools against pollution is information — letting people know what is being put into their environment. The Clinton-Gore Administration has taken several steps to expand communities' right to know about toxic releases to air, water and land.

The Administration has nearly doubled the number of chemicals subject to reporting, and expanded by 30 percent the number of facilities that must report. Last year, reporting requirements were strengthened for 27 "persistent bioaccumulative" chemicals like mercury, dioxin, and PCBs, which are especially risky because they do not break down easily and are known to accumulate in the human body. In addition, the Administration forged a partnership with the chemical industry and the environmental community to develop better data on the potential health effects of the 2,800 most widely used chemicals.



Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pollution, Prevention, and Toxics. Using 1991 core set of 326 chemicals; the chemical list was expanded to approx. 641 in 1995.

Ensuring Clean Waters Across America

President Clinton launched a major Clean Water Action Plan in 1998 to help fulfill the promise of the Clean Water Act — clean, healthy water for all Americans. To help clean up the almost 40 percent of America's surveyed waterways still too polluted for fishing and swimming, the plan targets the largest remaining threats to water quality: polluted runoff from farms and city streets. The five-year plan encourages community-based cleanup strategies and provides new resources to states, local governments, and landowners to help implement them. Over the past two years, the President has secured $3.9 billion to implement the plan.

Clean Water Action Plan Budget
(in millions of dollars)

1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000 Estimated	2001 Proposed
1,200	1,229	1,420	1,368	1,420	1,679	1,870	1,998	2,431

Making Children's Health a Priority

Children are particularly vulnerable to environmental health threats. Their bodies are still developing. Pound for pound, they eat, drink, and breathe more than adults. And their play puts them in close contact with the environment.

President Clinton signed an Executive Order in 1997 to ensure that these added risk factors are closely scrutinized. The order directs agencies to coordinate their research priorities on children's health, and to ensure that health and safety standards they adopt take into account special risks to children. The Administration has launched outreach campaigns to educate parents, teachers, and health providers about environmental health risks to children. And, to develop better science, the

Administration has awarded grants to nine universities to establish children's environmental health research centers.

Improving Food Safety Standards

To ensure that America's food supply remains among the safest in the world, the Administration has made reducing food-borne illness a national priority. New steps include improved safety standards for meat, poultry, and seafood products, as well as for fruit and vegetable juices. Research, education, and surveillance efforts also have been greatly expanded. In 1996, President Clinton signed the landmark Food Quality Protection Act, setting strict new standards for pesticide residues in food — including the first pesticide standards aimed specifically at protecting children. The Administration is on track to completing reviews for the pesticides posing the greatest potential risk by the end of this year.

Ending Childhood Lead Poisoning

Despite bans on lead-based paint and lead in gasoline, lead remains one of the greatest environmental health threats to children. Nearly one million children under six — one in 20 — have elevated levels of lead in their bodies, posing a risk of serious nervous system disorders such as reduced intelligence, reading and learning disabilities, and behavior problems.

Through grants that help state and local governments identify and remove lead-based paint in older, privately owned, low-income housing, where hazards are most prevalent, the Administration has helped make over 25,000 homes lead-safe. Earlier this year, the Administration launched a new strategy with an ambitious goal of eliminating childhood lead poisoning in America in 10 years. The Administration's proposed budget for the coming year includes $164.5 million to begin implementing this new strategy.

Enviornmental Protection Agency Operating Budget
(in millions of dollars)

1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000 Estimated	2001 Proposed
2,767	2,719	2,853	3,011	3,109	3,330	3,496	3,532	3,917

"No child should have to live near a toxic waste dump. No child should have to drink water contaminated with chemicals. No child should have to eat foods poisoned with pesticides."
President Bill Clinton
March 11, 1996

Camp Verde, Arizona
Fund is a Pipeline to Safe Drinking Water

When the people of Camp Verde, Arizona, discovered high levels of naturally occurring arsenic in their drinking water, they knew they had a problem: Too much arsenic can lead to cancer, diabetes, and other health problems.

But when Camp Verde set out to upgrade its water system, it encountered a second problem: It discovered that financing wasn't readily available for smaller water systems.

That changed in 1996, with the creation of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, which provides low-interest loans to communities to make their water systems safer and more reliable. In 1998, Camp Verde received a $1.3 million loan, enabling the city to install a pipeline to a new, safer water source.

"As a result of this program, we now provide safer drinking water to over 2,000 people," said Stan Bullard, vice president of the Camp Verde Water System. "We would not have gotten this far without the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund."

Richmond, California
A Community Exercises Its 'Right to Know'

Concerned about high rates of cancer and other disease in their largely minority community, concerned residents in Richmond, California, decided to take a closer look at toxic releases from a

nearby oil refinery and other industrial plants.

Photo: Refinery in Richmond, CA

A local group called the West County Toxics Coalition joined forces with Communities for a Better Environment, a statewide environmental group. Exercising their "right to know," they researched data in the Environmental Protection Agency's Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), where companies must file annual disclosure statements on their emissions. Their report, Richmond at Risk, identified the 20 largest industrial polluters in the area, with the Chevron oil refinery topping the list.

Although the cause of the high cancer rates remains unresolved, the report helped lead to a dialogue with Chevron, which agreed in 1994 to close down older portions of its plant and install pollution prevention equipment to achieve zero net emissions from a new reformulated fuel project.

"TRI was essential in providing information, for the first time, on Chevron's emissions," said Henry Clark of the West County Toxics Coalition. "We use the TRI information to gauge whether companies are interested in actually reducing emissions. A good company is committed to making these reductions. Without that information, we would have no clue as to whether their emissions are going up or down. The information allowed us to be able to negotiate with them on emissions reductions."

Anaconda, Montana
'It Was Nothing But A Wasteland'

Golf legend Jack Nicklaus is best known for his eagles and birdies. But he has another talent — his "green" designs help convert waste dumps into picturesque golf courses. So when residents of Anaconda, Montana, decided to transform a 1,500-acre Superfund site into an award-winning golf course, they went straight to the legend.

A century earlier, the site had contained one of the world's largest copper smelters. But long after the smelter closed and the mining jobs disappeared, the land remained gouged with mines, laced with heavy metals, and littered with slag heaps.

Photo of unusable area developed into a golf course.

Working with the local community and with ARCO, the property's owner, the Environmental Protection Agency helped develop a plan to clean up the contamination, restore the landscape, and return it to productive use. Apart from the golf course, the project included a new hiking trail and restoration of a nearby trout stream.

The golf course has proven to be a tourist magnet, spurring higher property values and other business investments, and helping Anaconda transform itself into a popular vacation spot.

"It was nothing but a wasteland," Anaconda resident Rose Nyman told the local paper. "For those of us who saw the transformation, it's just been incredible. No one would believe what it was and what it has become."

Milwaukee, Wisconsin
An Immigrant Community Faces the Hazards of Lead

The sudden hospitalization of a two-year-old boy named Cher awakened Hmong families in Milwaukee to the very real dangers of lead poisoning — and to the government assistance that has helped make their homes safer and their community stronger.

Like many other immigrants, many Hmongs who have come to the United States from their native Laos have settled in aging, low-income housing unaware of the threat from peeling lead-based paint. When Cher became sick and a doctor suspected lead poisoning, tests revealed a lead level in his body many times higher than levels known to impair cognitive function, stunt growth, and cause behavioral difficulties. Cher was immediately hospitalized and the Milwaukee Health Department, through a program supported by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, brought in a skilled contractor to make his home lead-safe.

The Health Department and HUD then worked with the Hmong American Friendship Association to educate the Hmong community about the dangers of lead and to set up a program that dispatches crews to remove lead hazards from homes. The program also trains members of the community to work in the crews as certified lead abatement technicians.

"We learned about the real risk of lead poisoning that our mothers and children face in the older homes that are available in our community," said Lo Neng Kiatoukaysy, the association's executive director. "We have turned dangerous unrecognized lead hazards into opportunities to unify our community, make real change in the lives of children and families, and offer training jobs

that teach valuable skills to our under- and unemployed youth while they earn a paycheck."

This chapter in PDF format (1.3 MB)

- Earth Day Letter
- CEQ Earth Day 2000 Report
- Presidential Budget Initiatives
- State by State
- Earth Day Activities
- Earth Links
- EPA Kids Explorers' Club
- Earth Day 2000 Home Page

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Earth Day 2000

Meeting the Challenge of Global Warming

"In time the nations of the world will arrive at a course that maintains strong and sustainable economic growth, respects the needs and aspirations of all nations, and protects future generations from the threat of global warming."

Vice President Al Gore
November 12, 1998

Photo: Kyota, Japan, December 1997

Global warming is one of the most profound challenges of the 21st century. The world's leading atmospheric scientists agree that the Earth is warming and that human activities are at least partly to blame. They warn that average global temperatures could rise 2 to 6 degrees Fahrenheit over the next century, causing increased flooding and drought, more extreme weather, rising sea levels, and the spread of infectious disease.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore are leading efforts — in the United States and abroad — to protect future generations from these grave risks. At home, the Administration has launched major new initiatives to improve energy efficiency and develop clean, renewable energy sources — steps that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions while saving money and creating jobs. On the diplomatic front, the United States is working with other nations to create cost-effective solutions and to ensure that all nations join in meeting this global challenge.

Sound, common-sense approaches to climate change will help put the United States and other nations on the path to a clean energy future, ensuring a healthier environment while creating new opportunities for strong, sustainable growth.

Forging Strong, Sensible International Agreement

Climate change is a global challenge that requires a global solution. In 1997, with critical leadership from Vice President Gore, representatives of more than 160 nations agreed on the basic architecture of an international strategy to combat global warming. This historic agreement, called the Kyoto Protocol, sets strong, realistic targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from industrialized countries, and establishes flexible, market-based mechanisms to achieve them as cost-effectively as possible.

The Kyoto Protocol remains a work in progress. Through ongoing negotiations, the Administration is working with other nations to turn the treaty's broad concepts into working realities. The Administration also is pursuing an aggressive diplomatic strategy to achieve broader participation by developing countries in this global effort. The President and Vice President are committed to completing the important work begun in Kyoto so this important treaty can be ratified.

Improving Our Scientific Understanding

Our strategy for addressing global warming must be founded on the best possible science. Since 1993, the Administration has secured $11.6 billion for the United States Global Change Research Program, which works to strengthen our understanding of the human and natural forces that influence the Earth's climate, and the potential impacts of global warming. Key priorities have included improved surface and satellite monitoring of changes in temperature and precipitation; expanded research into the effects of climate change on the natural and built environment; and a better understanding of the role of farms, forests, and other natural or managed lands in capturing and storing carbon.

Funding for Technology Programs to Combat Climate Change
(in millions of dollars)

1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000 Estimated	2001 Proposed
603	796	960	788	764	825	1,009	1,095	1,432

Investing in Clean Energy Technologies

New technologies that improve energy efficiency and provide clean, renewable energy hold great promise for curbing greenhouse gas emissions. They also can ease our reliance on imported oil, reduce other forms of harmful air pollution, and provide significant long-term savings for businesses and consumers.

To help spur these advances, President Clinton launched the Climate Change Technology Initiative, a comprehensive program of research investments and targeted tax incentives. Over the past two years, the President has secured more than $2 billion to research and develop clean energy technologies in the four major carbon-emitting sectors of the economy — buildings, transportation, industry, and electricity generation. The President also has proposed $4 billion in tax credits over five years for wind and biomass energy production, and for the purchase of energy-efficient homes and appliances, solar energy systems, electric and hybrid vehicles, and other clean energy products.

Forging Partnerships with Industry

The Administration has forged new partnerships with major industries to promote voluntary, cost-effective efforts that can achieve significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. These include:

Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing — In a joint venture announced in 1998 by President Clinton, the federal government is working with the building industry to develop technologies to make new homes 50 percent more energy efficient, and to make at least 15 million existing homes 30 percent more energy efficient, within a decade. PATH projects are now underway in pilot communities in Denver, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, and Tucson.

Energy Star® — This highly successful partnership helps consumers save energy and save money. Participating manufacturers, utilities, and retailers label energy-efficient products with the Energy Star® logo. More than 3,000 products — from computers to refrigerators to new homes — have qualified for the logo. The partnership has helped spur more than $3 billion in technology investments to date, and will help eliminate almost 40 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions over the next decade.

Energy Star® high-rise in Minneapolis

Climate Wise — This program gives technical assistance to more than 530 manufacturing companies that have entered into partnership agreements with the Federal government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Industries of the Future — This program works in partnership with the nation's most energy-intensive industries — such as aluminum, glass, chemicals, forest products, mining, petroleum refining, and steel — to develop technologies that increase energy and resource efficiency. By 2010, participating industries are projected to avoid emissions of more than 25 million tons, and realize over $5 billion in energy savings.

Growing Clean Energy

Promising new bio-based technologies convert crops, trees, farm waste and other "biomass" into a vast array of fuels and products. These new technologies will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions while enhancing U.S. energy security and creating new economic opportunity for farmers and others. President Clinton issued an Executive Order last year to coordinate federal efforts to spur the development of bio-based technologies and move them from the laboratory to the marketplace. The President also set a goal of tripling America's use of bioenergy and bioproducts by 2010. Achieving this goal could generate $15 billion to $20 billion in new income for

farmers and rural communities, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 100 million tons a year — the equivalent of taking 70 million cars off the road.

Million Solar Roofs

In June 1997, President Clinton launched the Million Solar Roofs Initiative, with the goal of installing solar energy systems on one million U.S. roofs by 2010. Meeting this goal will reduce carbon emissions equivalent to the annual emissions of 850,000 cars, while creating high-tech jobs and increasing domestic production of solar technologies. The initiative is well ahead of schedule: the Department of Energy already has received commitments for close to a million solar roofs. To further spur solar energy technologies, the President has proposed a 15 percent tax credit (up to $2,000) for the purchase of rooftop solar systems.

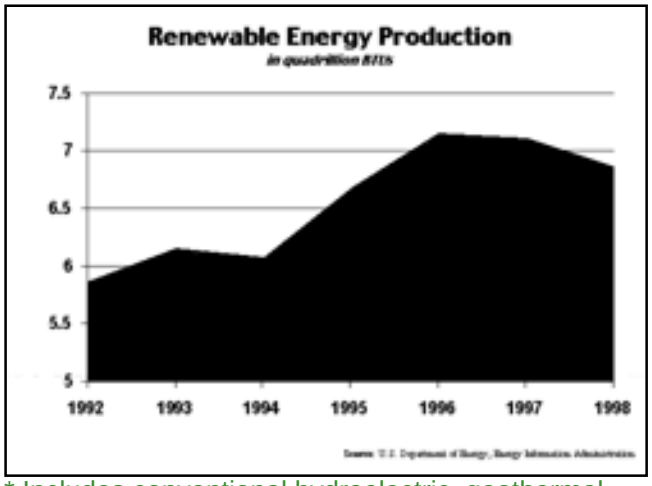
Wind Powering America

Wind is the fastest growing source of energy in the world. Dramatic improvements in wind turbine technology helped spur a 25 percent increase in wind-generating capacity over the last decade. Federal researchers, working in collaboration with private industry, are helping to develop the next generation of wind turbines, which will make wind energy even more competitive.

Currently, the U.S. has an installed capacity of about 2500 megawatts of wind energy — enough to power about half a million homes. The Wind Powering America Initiative, launched last year, sets a goal of generating five percent of U.S. electricity with wind power by 2020.

Saving Energy and Money At Home

Roughly a fifth of the energy consumed in the United States is used to power our homes, nearly all of it for appliances. The Administration has issued new energy-efficiency standards for heating and cooling equipment, water heaters, refrigerators, and clothes washers and dryers. By 2010, these energy conservation measures will have saved consumers more than $40 billion and avoided cumulative greenhouse gas emissions of nearly 190 million metric tons.



* Includes conventional hydroelectric, geothermal, biofuels, solar energy, and wind energy. Source: U. S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration

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Los Angeles, California
Building the ‘Green’ Home of the Future

The walls are super-insulated. Innovative new windows do a better job of keeping the heat and

cold out. Rooftop solar panels provide much of the electricity needed. And the homeowners are saving 50 percent or more on their energy bills.

These homes of the future are here today, in the path-breaking Village Green development in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley. Families began moving into the first 22 of 186 planned homes last year, just about a year after President Clinton visited the site to launch the Administration's Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing (PATH).

Through PATH, federal agencies work with America's building industry to speed the creation and use of advanced technologies that can radically improve the quality, durability, energy efficiency, environmental performance and affordability of the nation's housing. Village Green is one of five PATH pilot projects around the country.

Villege Green, May, 1998

One of PATH's goals is to cut energy use by 50 percent in new homes — and by 30 percent in 15 million existing homes — over the next decade. That could save consumers $11 billion a year energy costs in 2010 and reduce carbon emissions by nearly 24 million tons — the equivalent of taking 20 million cars off the road.

The new homes at Village Green are already demonstrating the environmental and economic benefits of "green" construction. "Village Green," said Los Angeles Councilwoman Ruth Galanter, "is living proof that the building industry can combine new environmental technologies with affordable housing right here in one of the largest housing markets in the nation."

New York, New York
In Central Park, Clean Power for NYPD

Amid the steel and concrete of Manhattan, Central Park has long been a treasured oasis of green. And now, green energy powers the park's only police station.

Without additional electricity, the Civil War vintage precinct house would not have been able to operate digital fingerprinting equipment, or even keep its air conditioner running. But the most obvious source, a new underground power line, would have been costly and disruptive.

The answer was a fuel cell - an ultraclean electric-generating technology that could be installed in

a corner of the station's parking lot. Powered by natural gas from an existing line, NYPD's quiet, efficient

Department of Energy, Robert Porter

fuel cell generates enough pollution-free electricity for the station — and to recharge a fleet of electric vehicles used to patrol the park.

The technology behind the fuel cell was developed through a partnership between the Department of Energy and International Fuel Cells, Inc. of South Windsor, Connecticut. The federal government paid one-third of the installation cost as part of a program to encourage use of this innovative technology, which is supplying clean power to a growing number of energy users across the nation and overseas.

This chapter in PDF format (595 K)

- Earth Day Letter
- CEQ Earth Day 2000 Report
- Presidential Budget Initiatives
- State by State
- Earth Day Activities
- Earth Links
- EPA Kids Explorers' Club
- Earth Day 2000 Home Page

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Earth Day 2000

Protecting Our Precious Wildlife

"The return of the bald eagle is a fitting cap to a century of environmental stewardship...Extinction is not an option — not for the eagle, not for other creatures put here by God."

President Bill Clinton
July 2, 1999

Photo: White House, July 1999

When our Founders selected the American bald eagle as our national symbol, as many as half a million of these majestic birds soared the skies of North America. By the early 1960's, a mere 400 breeding pairs survived in the lower 48 states.

Today, the bald eagle is back. In ceremonies last summer on the South Lawn of the White House, President Clinton announced the first step in formally removing the eagle from the endangered species list. The dramatic comeback of the eagle, the American alligator, the gray whale and others is testament to the success of the Endangered Species Act, and to America's determination to protect and restore our native wildlife.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore have strengthened these efforts by creating and expanding national wildlife refuges, and by committing more resources to protecting wildlife on other federal lands. But the survival of many species depends more on the health of America's private lands. That is why the Administration has worked so hard to forge partnerships with landowners, pioneering innovative approaches that provide them the flexibility and certainty they need to make productive use of their lands, while ensuring that America's wild plants and animals can flourish.

Restoring Threatened and Endangered Species

The Endangered Species Act, one of American's landmark environmental laws, is our last line of defense against species extinction. Its goal is no less than the preservation of our nation's biodiversity. Although the number of species listed under the Act as threatened or endangered continues to rise, the Clinton-Gore Administration has made significant strides in more quickly assessing the status of individual species and developing plans for their recovery.

Perhaps the greatest measure of the Act's success is the growing number of species once declared threatened or endangered that are no longer in danger of extinction. Since 1978, 35

species have recovered sufficiently to be "downlisted" from endangered to threatened or removed from the list entirely — 15 in the last seven years. The Administration has proposed "downlisting" or "delisting" another 12 species. In addition to the bald eagle, notable successes include:

American Peregrine Falcon. Thirty years ago, only 324 nesting pairs survived. Thanks to the banning of DDT, captive breeding, reintroduction efforts, and the protection of nest sites — the same kinds of efforts that brought back the bald eagle — there are now 1,650 breeding pairs. The falcon came off the endangered species list last year.

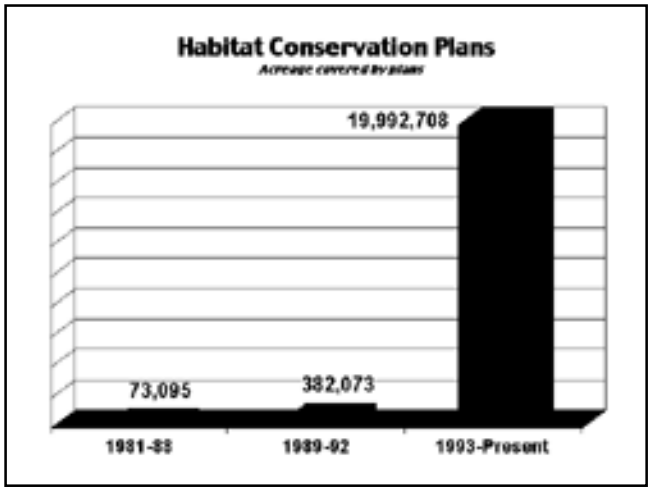
The Aleutian Canada Goose. With populations up from only a few hundred in the mid-1970s to about 32,000 birds today, final action to remove the bird from the endangered species list could come later this year.

Tinian Monarch. A small flycatcher found only on the island of Tinian in the Northern Mariana Islands, this bird has expanded its population from 50 or fewer after World War II to approximately 57,000 today. Its "delisting" is pending.

Forging Partnerships to Protect Habitat

Seventy percent of the United States outside Alaska is in private hands, so successful efforts to maintain and restore the nation's wildlife must include landowners. The Clinton-Gore Administration has pioneered the use of collaborative approaches under the Endangered Species Act to help balance habitat preservation with economic development.

One of the most valuable tools is the habitat conservation plan — a voluntary long-term agreement between the government and a landowner that helps ensure survival of threatened and endangered species while allowing productive use of the land. Prior to 1993, only 14 such plans existed. The Administration has since forged another 246 plans protecting more than 20 million acres and 200 threatened and endangered species. Other reforms undertaken by the Administration to protect habitat while permitting property owners flexibility in managing their land include "safe harbor" and "candidate conservation" agreements.



Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Returning Wolves to Yellowstone

One of the most dramatic stories of species recovery in the United States is the return of the gray wolf to Yellowstone National Park. Once widely viewed as a threat to humans and livestock, wolves were hunted nearly to extinction by the mid-1900's. In 1995, the Administration began a

program to reintroduce wolves to Yellowstone, where they were long an integral part of the ecosystem, helping to maintain stable, healthy populations of elk and other large prey. The reintroduced population of 10 has now grown to nearly 120, including eight breeding pairs. A similar program begun in 1998 is now reintroducing the Mexican gray wolf to Arizona and New Mexico.

Saving Salmon in the Pacific Northwest

Salmon have long been integral to the culture and economy of the Pacific Northwest, but the prodigious runs that once filled the region's rivers have declined dramatically over the past century. The Administration is working closely with state, tribal, and local leaders on plans to restore salmon in coastal rivers and in the Columbia-Snake River basin. The goal is a long-term strategy, built on sound science and strong regional consensus, that ensures the health of both the region's economy and its environment.

The successful negotiation last year of a new Pacific Salmon Treaty with Canada will help achieve this goal through expanded scientific cooperation, habitat restoration, and new controls over salmon harvest in U.S. and Canadian waters. In this year's budget, President Clinton secured $25 million to begin implementing the treaty, and $58 million for a new Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, which provides resources for states and tribes to protect and rebuild coastal salmon stocks. For the coming year, the President is proposing $100 million for the coastal salmon fund, and $190 million for other salmon recovery efforts in the Pacific Northwest.

Strengthening Our Refuge System

The National Wildlife Refuge System is the world's oldest and largest network of lands dedicated to conserving fish and wildlife. To ensure that these lands are well protected, the Administration has increased funding for the refuge system by about 75 percent since 1993. Twenty-three new refuges have been created, and several others expanded, for a total of 521 refuges encompassing more than 93 million acres in all. These efforts include:

- Creation of the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge in West Virginia, the nation's 500th refuge;
- A significant expansion of Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, using funds from a court settlement arising from the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and;
- Transfer of management of 57,000 acres adjoining the Washington's Hanford Reach to the refuge system, protecting critical salmon habitat in the last free-flowing stretch of the Columbia River between the Canadian border and the Pacific Ocean.

Guarding Against Invasive Species

One of the most pervasive but least recognized threats to America's native flora and fauna is the

spread of invasive non-native species. They represent a serious economic threat as well, costing the U.S. economy an estimated $122 billion a year. Examples include the zebra mussel, which has shut down utilities in the Great Lakes by clogging water intake pipes; the leafy spurge, a weed that crowds out native grasses on Western ranchlands; the brown tree snake, which threatens entire bird species on Guam; and the Asian long-horned beetle, which has forced the removal of thousands of trees in Brooklyn and Chicago.

To address this threat, the President issued an Executive Order last year establishing an interagency Invasive Species Council to coordinate federal efforts. The council is developing a comprehensive plan to prevent the introduction of non-native species and to control those already here. Other recent efforts include a ban on the import of untreated wood packing material from China, the source of the Asian long-horned beetle infestation.

Bainbridge, Georgia
Protecting Jobs and Wildlife In the Woods

Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Thanks to a groundbreaking wildlife partnership, the nation's largest private landowner can continue producing jobs and timber in the pine forests of the Southeastern U.S., and the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker stands a much better chance of survival.

Working with the Fish and Wildlife Service, environmentalists, and the state of Georgia, the International Paper Company developed the first habitat conservation plan ever that committed to increasing and improving endangered species habitat on private lands, rather than simply maintaining or relocating existing populations.

Habitat conservation planning is a flexible approach under the Endangered Species Act that helps ensure a species' survival while allowing landowners greater certainty in managing their lands. International Paper's plan is improving habitat across 5,300 acres — creating artificial nesting cavities and new foraging areas — with a goal of significantly increasing the number of woodpeckers on its lands.

"We have been able to continue to harvest timber in this area because the red-cockaded

woodpecker prefers an open territory with low tree density," said Sharon Haines, a sustainable forestry manager at International Paper. "It struck a very good balance between economic viability and species protection."

Environmentalists also are pleased. "This plan demonstrates that it is possible to find common ground where both endangered species and landowners can prosper," said Michael Bean of Environmental Defense, which helped craft the plan.

Petaluma, California
In a Creek Reborn, The Steelhead Are Back

NOAA Fisheries Restoration Center

Adobe Creek was once the major source of drinking water for Petaluma Valley, north of San Francisco, and alive with salmon and steelhead trout. But after years of pollution and neglect, state officials declared it "dead."

Then along came Tom Furrer and his Anglers.

Furrer, an environmental science teacher at Petaluma's Casa Grande High School, decided it was time Adobe Creek was brought back to life. He formed a student group, the United Anglers of Casa Grande, which cleared debris from the dry creek bed, planted thousands of trees along its banks, and spearheaded a successful drive to restore flows that had been diverted. The Anglers also raised funds to build a state-of-the-art fish hatchery

The group faced one last obstacle: a 12-foot culvert that made it impossible for fish to get upstream to spawn. They contacted the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which provided funding and engineering expertise to construct a fish ladder so that fish can get past the culvert and swim upstream.

In 1998, native steelhead were able to reach historic spawning grounds for the first time in over half a century. "To see this project actually come to completion is absolutely thrilling," said Furrer. "After years of hard work by hundreds of students, supported by NOAA and the community, steelhead can reclaim the habitat that was once theirs decades ago."

The Anglers will continue maintaining the fish ladder and monitoring the creek to ensure it remains healthy and alive.

This chapter in PDF format (438 K)

- Earth Day Letter
- CEQ Earth Day 2000 Report
- Presidential Budget Initiatives
- State by State
- Earth Day Activities
- Earth Links
- EPA Kids Explorers' Club
- Earth Day 2000 Home Page

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Earth Day 2000

Building Sustainable Communities

"In the 21st Century, a livable community will be an economically powerful community...where a high quality of life attracts the best-educated and trained workers...where good schools and strong families fuel creativity and productivity...where the best minds and the best companies share ideas and shape our common future."

Vice President Al Gore
September 2, 1998

Photo: Ashe County, North Carolina, July 1998

Thirty years ago, the fight for clean air, safe water, and healthy land was understood simply as a fight for the "environment." Today, Americans understand that a sound environment is absolutely integral to their hopes for continued prosperity and a better quality of life. A healthy environment is the very foundation of a healthy community.

Through a series of initiatives, President Clinton and Vice President Gore are helping communities across the country take steps that strengthen both the environment and the economy. New programs to clean up and redevelop contaminated urban properties are creating jobs and revitalizing neighborhoods. And increased funding to expand public transit and preserve open space is helping communities forge new strategies against sprawl.

By providing new tools and resources, the Administration is expanding the choices available to communities so they can chart their own path to a more sustainable future.

Livable Communities Initiative

Last year, Vice President Gore launched a new Livable Communities initiative to coordinate and enhance federal programs that can help communities grow in ways that ensure a high quality of life and strong, sustainable economic growth. One of the first steps was creation of a website — www.livablecommunities.gov — that provides citizens with a comprehensive guide to tools and resources available from the federal government. These include programs to encourage "smart growth," ease traffic congestion, preserve historic structures, protect farmland, fight crime, and improve water quality.

The Administration secured increased funding for these efforts this year, and is proposing another increase next year. The new budget proposal includes $700 million in tax credits over five years for

new Better America Bonds, which would generate $10.75 billion for state, tribal, and local investments to save green space, create or restore urban parks, protect water quality, and clean up brownfields.

Revitalizing Brownfields

Brownfields are abandoned properties — often in distressed urban neighborhoods — suffering real or perceived contamination from past industrial use. Cleaning up and redeveloping these sites not only breathes new economic life into inner cities, but also helps preserve green space by easing development pressures on the urban fringe.

The Clinton-Gore Administration has launched several initiatives to accelerate the cleanup of brownfields and remove barriers to their redevelopment. Since 1995, the Administration has removed more than 30,000 of these sites from the Superfund database, relieving potential developers of unnecessary red tape and removing the stigma of contamination. More than 300 communities across America have received nearly $70 million in seed grants, leveraging over $1.6 billion in private investment for cleanup and redevelopment. As an additional incentive, the Administration secured a tax incentive allowing businesses to fully deduct certain brownfields cleanup costs in targeted areas through 2001.

American Heritage Rivers

More than 3 million miles of rivers and streams flow across America, nourishing soil, carrying commerce, sustaining wildlife, and quenching our thirst. In 1997, President Clinton launched the American Heritage Rivers initiative to recognize and reward community-based efforts to restore and protect the environmental, economic, cultural, and historic values of America's rivers.

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVERS

Blackstone & Woonasquatucket Rivers (MA, RI)
Connecticut River (CT, VT, NH, MA)
Cuyahoga River (OH)
Detroit River (MI)
Hanalei River (HI)
Hudson River (NY)
Lower Mississippi River (LA, TN)
New River (NC, VA, WV)
Rio Grande River (TX)
Potomac River (DC, MD, PA, VA, WV)
St. Johns River (FL)
Upper Mississippi River
Upper Susquehanna & Lackawanna Rivers (PA)
Willamette River (OR)

Scores of communities in 46 states and the District of Columbia nominated rivers for designation under the initiative. In 1998, the President named 14 American Heritage Rivers. The rivers — from New York's Hudson to the Lower Mississippi to Hawaii's Hanalei — reflect the extraordinary diversity of America's waterways. Some flow through pristine forest, others the inner city. Some have been largely restored, while others remain heavily polluted. For each river, the Administration has appointed a "river navigator" to help communities identify federal programs and resources that can

assist them in implementing their restoration plans.

Environmental Justice

Historically, low-income and minority communities have borne a disproportionate share of the pollution and other environmental harm associated with America's industrial development. In 1994, President Clinton issued an Executive Order to ensure that low-income citizens and minorities do not suffer an unfair pollution burden, and that all communities have adequate environmental protection. The Order directs each federal agency to "make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse human health effects" its actions may have on low-income and minority populations. It requires agencies to prepare environmental justice strategies and to encourage community participation in their decision-making.

The Administration has also helped spur new investment in low-income and minority communities through its support of brownfields redevelopment, expansion of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, and designation of Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities.

President's Council on Sustainable Development

Launched in 1993, the President's Council on Sustainable Development brought together government, corporate and environmental leaders to develop consensus strategies for meeting America's environmental challenges in ways that promote continued prosperity, social equity, and a high quality of life.

Thousands of people across the country contributed to the Council's deliberations through workshops, conferences, and public meetings. The Council helped create a national network of community groups working to promote sustainable development, and was instrumental in building support within the business community for addressing global climate change. Its third and final report, Towards a Sustainable America, recommended 140 actions addressing issues such as sprawl, climate change, urban renewal, and corporate environmental responsibility. The Council concluded its work last year by co-sponsoring the National Town Meeting for a Sustainable America in Detroit, which brought together community and corporate leaders from across the country to share and learn from each others' experiences.

Promoting Transportation Alternatives

As communities spread further outward and commuting distances grow, roadways become increasingly congested. According to recent estimates, nearly half of peak travel time is under congested conditions, and Americans waste half a billion hours a year stuck in traffic.

To help ease traffic congestion and combat air pollution, the Clinton-Gore Administration has worked to provide communities with a broader range of transportation choices. Since 1993, federal funding for buses, light rail and other forms of transit has risen more than 50 percent, to nearly

$5.8 billion this year. The Administration also has won increased funding for bike paths, high-occupancy vehicle lanes, ridesharing, and other strategies that reduce both congestion and pollution. For the coming year, President Clinton has proposed a record $9.1 billion for public transit and other programs to ease congestion.

Federal Funding for Public Transit
(in millions of dollars)

1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000 Estimated	2001 Proposed
3,799,245	4,579,265	4,606,240	4,049,050	4,382,511	4,843,614	5,388,538	5,748,915	6,321,000

Bridgeport, Connecticut
On Former Brownfield, A Championship Ballpark

Baseball Park

To the record crowds who fill it, the new downtown stadium is a place to cheer on their very own championship baseball team. But the 5,500-seat ballpark is also a shining symbol of Bridgeport, Connecticut's economic revival.

In the early 1990s, Bridgeport was suffering through hard economic times, and nowhere was the decay more evident than at the old Jenkins Valve industrial site at the city's main gateway. Like thousands of other "brownfields" across the country, the site was burdened with industrial contamination that scared off potential investors.

But with seed money from the Administration's brownfields program, the city performed a site evaluation that helped attract a developer. The Zurich Re Corporation invested $11 million in cleanup and redevelopment, and the city and state kicked in another $3 million. In addition to the ballpark, home to the minor-league

Bridgeport Bluefish, the long-idle site will eventually house an indoor ice-skating rink and a new museum.

"This is what urban revitalization is all about. This very site which used to be the scourge of Fairfield County is now the region's most exciting new entertainment venue," said Mickey Herbert, majority owner of the Bluefish. "I'd be genuinely surprised if there's a more dramatic example of success with brownfields reclamation than right here at our ball park."

Valmeyer, Illinois
Moving to Higher Ground, And a More Sustainable Future

The Mississippi River floods of 1993 were the costliest in U.S. history, and few paid a dearer price than the people of Valmeyer, Illinois. Their town was utterly destroyed.

They decided there was only one way to be sure it wouldn't happen again: rebuilding the town on higher ground. And while they were at it, they decided to make the new Valmeyer a model of sustainable development.

One of the places they turned was the Department of Energy, which dispatched a team of experts to help incorporate state-of-the-art technologies into the new homes and the new town's design. The state also pitched in, offering grants of up to $1,700 to homeowners who used energy-efficient windows, low-flow showerheads and toilets, energy-saving heating and cooling systems, and other conservation measures.

These and other measures, including solar power, have cut resident's energy bills about 30 percent. Village Administrator Dennis Knobloch said the school system, police and fire departments, and other government offices, are saving around $80,000 a year.

"We feel the effort put forth at the beginning of the process to involve both state and federal energy departments has really helped to benefit our citizens," said Knobloch, "and we will be reaping those benefits for years to come."

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Earth Day Activities • Earth Links • EPA Kids Explorers' Club
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Earth Day 2000

Safeguarding Our Oceans and Coasts

"Hope, creativity, imagination...[are] the traits that first enabled and inspired explorers to take to the sea....In the 21st century, these traits...must lead us to preserve our living oceans as a sacred legacy for all time to come."

President Bill Clinton
June 12, 1998

Photo: Monterey, California, June 1998

Oceans sustain nearly half of all life on Earth and, in ways we hardly realize, shape our everyday lives. Farmers in the heartland depend on weather systems driven by the interaction of ocean and atmosphere to nourish their crops. People who may never have seen the ocean depend on food from its waters and energy from beneath the seabed. Ocean-going vessels carry the bulk of our world trade, linking us to the global marketplace and keeping our economy strong.

Increasingly, however, we have come to understand that the "boundless" oceans have limits. They cannot provide unlimited fish, nor can they absorb unlimited wastes from human activities. Toxic algal blooms threaten the marine ecology and human health in many coastal areas, and unchecked coastal development can stress ocean and coastal habitats beyond their limits.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore have launched new actions to restore fragile coral reefs, protect our coasts from the risks of offshore oil development, strengthen our national marine sanctuaries, and protect dolphins and other marine mammals. And, to better address the long-term challenges, the President and Vice President launched a national dialogue leading to a comprehensive strategy for strengthening federal ocean policy for the 21st century.

Protecting Critical Areas from Offshore Oil Drilling

Oil and gas recovered from undersea reserves, particularly in the Gulf of Mexico, make an important contribution to America's energy supply. However, long-standing concern over the inherent environmental risks of offshore drilling have led to a series of moratoria of new oil and gas leases off most of the U.S. coast. A five-year plan for the Outer Continental Shelf adopted by the Administration in 1997 designated a limited number of areas for leasing while barring new leasing off most of the coast through 2002.

To provide more lasting protection, the President issued a directive in 1998 extending the moratorium on new offshore leasing for an additional 10 years — through 2012. In addition, the President permanently barred new leasing in existing national marine sanctuaries. These actions do not affect existing leases in federal waters.

Protecting Marine Mammals

Many marine mammal species that suffered dramatic declines through most of the 20th century are now well on their way to recovery. The gray whale, which migrates each year from Alaska to Mexico, is no longer classified as endangered. Humpback whales in the North Atlantic and North Pacific are steadily recovering. And populations of the California sea lion and Atlantic and Pacific harbor seals are now healthy and robust. Some species appear to be more abundant today than at any other time in recent centuries. Administration efforts to continue rebuilding and maintaining healthy marine mammal populations include:

- Leading successful negotiations for an international agreement to protect dolphins in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, and adopting regulations to ensure that only "dolphin-safe" tuna is sold in the United States.
- Leading international efforts to create a 12 million-square-mile whale sanctuary off the coast of Antarctica which, combined with an adjacent Indian Ocean sanctuary, is home to 75 percent of the world's whales, and;
- Instituting a system to protect the endangered North Atlantic Right Whale by requiring ships to report when they enter the whales' habitat so they can receive advice on avoiding collisions.

Strengthening Our National Marine Sanctuaries

America's 12 national marine sanctuaries, encompassing some 11.5 million acres of our coastal waters, are the ocean equivalents of our national parks. From the kelp forests and humpback whales of the Olympic Coast to the rich coral and threatened loggerheads of the Florida Keys, these underwater reserves harbor not only tremendous biological and geologic diversity, but also irreplaceable fragments of our history and cultural heritage. The Clinton-Gore Administration has won significant new resources to better manage and preserve the sanctuaries, increasing their annual budget more than four-fold since 1993. The President is proposing another increase, to $35 million, for the coming year.

Preserving and Restoring Coral Reefs

Coral reefs are among the most exquisite — and endangered — ecosystems on Earth. Often described as rainforests of the sea, coral reefs support an incredible diversity and abundance of undersea life. Yet worldwide, coral reefs are suffering the effects of pollution, development, overfishing, and rising ocean temperatures brought on by global warming.

In 1998, President Clinton signed an Executive Order directing federal agencies to increase research, protection, and restoration of coral reefs in U.S. waters. A Cabinet-level task force created by the Executive Order recently presented its long-term strategy for better monitoring the health of U.S. coral reefs; expanding research into the major causes and consequences of coral reef damage; and strengthening efforts to protect and restore reefs. Federal agencies have adopted the task force's recommendation to designate 20 percent of U.S. coral reefs as protected ecological reserves.

An Oceans Policy for the 21st Century

In June 1998, President Clinton and Vice President Gore convened a National Ocean Conference in Monterey, California, to examine challenges and opportunities in protecting and restoring the oceans. The conference drew together for the first time the full array of interests with a stake in U. S. oceans policy — from government to industry, and scientists to conservationists.

At the conference, the President directed the Cabinet to develop recommendations for strengthening federal ocean policy for the 21st century. In a report entitled Turning to the Sea: American's Ocean Future, the Cabinet recommended nearly 150 actions aimed at protecting, restoring, and exploring America's ocean resources. A high-level task force was appointed to oversee implementation of these recommendations, which include creating new marine protection areas, promoting sustainable use of domestic and international fisheries, and protecting national security and freedom of the seas.

"Oceans are critical, not just to our economy; not just to our food supply; not just to America's trade and security; but to the fabric of life itself. These dark-blue waters are perhaps the single greatest natural treasure on God's Earth."

Vice President Al Gore
June 12, 1998

Monterey, California, June, 1998

Santa Monica, California
Diving Deep to Save an Underwater Forest

Just about every school kid in America has grown seedlings

as a class project. But elementary school children in Santa Monica, California, are trying something different: kelp. And local divers hope to replant the underwater flora in Santa Monica Bay, rebuilding a once-giant kelp forest.

Photo: NOAA Fisheries Restoration Center

An estimated 800 marine species live and feed in the bay's kelp beds. Veteran fishermen know that albacore and yellowtail tuna often gather beneath the sea plant's fronds. But decades of pollution, coastal development, and climatic changes have destroyed more than 80 percent of the underwater forest.

With help from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a local watchdog group called the Santa Monica BayKeeper is spearheading an effort to bring the kelp back. Volunteer scuba divers from the local university plant kelp sprouts at the bay's bottom, then monitor their growth and the marine life they attract. With kelp capable of growing up to two feet a day, the hope is that the forest will quickly spread.

"Diving in the kelp beds and seeing all the life they support is incredible," said Steve Fleischli, executive director of BayKeepers. "But what's really gratifying is seeing the way this community has pulled together, with help from NOAA, to restore this kelp forest. It's one of the most important things we can do to ensure the long-term health of our coast."

This chapter in PDF format (1.1 MB)

- Earth Day Letter
- CEQ Earth Day 2000 Report
- Presidential Budget Initiatives
- State by State
- Earth Day Activities
- Earth Links
- EPA Kids Explorers' Club
- Earth Day 2000 Home Page

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Protecting the Global Environment

"We know that more and more the environmental problems of the United States...or any other nation are not just national problems. They are global ones...More than any time in history, the environmental challenges we face go beyond national borders. And so must our solutions. We must work together to protect the environment."

President Bill Clinton
March 22, 2000

Photo: Braulio Carrillo National Park, Costa Rica, May 1997

When Americans celebrated the first Earth Day 30 years ago, our focus was largely our own backyard — our polluted rivers and dirty skies. Today, we recognize that many environmental challenges know no borders, and that to meet them, we must work closely with other nations.

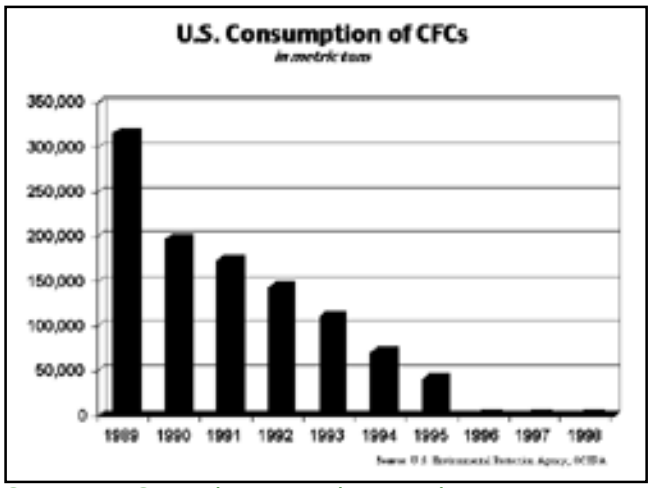
Under the leadership of President Clinton and Vice President Gore, the United States has been at the forefront of international efforts to protect the "global commons" — the oceans, for instance, and the ozone layer. The Administration also has helped forge international agreements, and worked directly with individual nations, to reduce the use of toxic chemicals, preserve endangered species, and protect tropical forests and biodiversity around the globe.

Finally, the President and Vice President have been forceful voices for stronger environmental safeguards in trade and lending policies, to ensure that the new global economy helps promote, rather than undermine, environmental protection worldwide.

Healing the Ozone Layer

One of the most significant threats to the global environment was the widespread use of chemicals that erode the ozone layer, which protects humans and other life on Earth from the sun's harsh ultraviolet rays. The Montreal Protocol, perhaps the most successful international environmental treaty ever, has led to a dramatic reduction in the production and use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other ozone-depleting chemicals. Although previously released chemicals will remain in the atmosphere for many

years, scientists say recent data show that the ozone layer is now on its way to recovery.



Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; OCEPA

The Clinton-Gore Administration has worked aggressively to implement and strengthen the Protocol by:

- Successfully phasing out CFCs by 1996 and other major ozone-depleting substances by 1994, and approving the introduction of more than 300 safer alternatives.
- Investing more than $300 million a year in research on atmospheric chemistry and stratospheric ozone depletion.
- Leading successful negotiations to reduce Chinese production of halons and CFCs faster than required under the Protocol; and leading efforts to bring Russia into compliance with the Protocol by securing financial assistance for the closure of CFC production facilities.
- Securing an accelerated international schedule for the phase-out of methyl bromide, a leading ozone depleter.

Promoting Environmentally Responsible Trade

A new global economy is helping to bring prosperity to other nations, and posing new challenges for ensuring that this new growth is environmentally sound. The President and Vice President have outlined a strategy to ensure that U.S. efforts to expand trade and promote development reflect a strong commitment to achieving environmental protection worldwide.

Last year, the President signed an Executive Order requiring careful assessment and written review of the potential environmental impacts of major trade agreements so that environmental considerations can guide the development of U.S. positions in trade negotiations. The President also issued a White House Policy Declaration on Environment and Trade, outlining a set of principles to guide U.S. negotiators and to ensure that the work of the World Trade Organization is supportive of sustainable development and environmental protections at home and abroad.

The Administration also has worked to strengthen environmental standards in international lending. It has instituted stronger standards at U.S. export agencies, and promoted similar efforts at the World Bank and other international financial institutions, including targets for clean energy lending. The President recently secured a commitment from other G8 partners for common environmental guidelines for export credit agencies by 2001.

Targeting Toxic Threats

In the United States, strong, comprehensive measures have significantly reduced the use of toxic chemicals, ensured safer disposal, and guaranteed the public greater access to information on their use and potential health risks. The United States has led several international efforts to achieve similar improvements elsewhere around the world:

> **Prior Informed Consent.** In 1998, the U.S. joined 94 other nations in an international agreement ensuring developing countries greater access to information on the risks posed by banned and severely restricted chemicals and pesticides.
>
> **Phasing Out Persistent Pollutants.** The Administration is leading international negotiations to phase out 12 of the most dangerous, persistent organic pollutants — such as PCBs, DDT and dioxin — which threaten health and safety around the world.
>
> **Halting Radioactive Waste Dumping.** President Clinton led the world in calling for a global ban on ocean dumping of low-level radioactive waste. The U.S. was the first nuclear power to advocate the ban, which other nations agreed to in 1993.

Stabilizing Population Growth

At the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, Vice President Gore helped forge a historic consensus for a global program to stabilize the world's population. The international strategy calls for increased availability of family planning, the empowerment of women through measures such as enhanced educational opportunities, and a reduction in infant and child mortality.

Ensuring the Safety of Biotechnology

Biotechnology — the use of genetic engineering to introduce new traits into species — can achieve tremendous benefits through increased agricultural productivity. Without careful monitoring, however, it could also pose risks to the environment and biodiversity. U.S. leadership in negotiations earlier this year helped achieve international agreement on a Biosafety Protocol that will help guard against these risks without unduly disrupting world food trade.

The Protocol establishes an international framework for addressing the potential environmental impact of certain bioengineered products. Information and expertise exchanged through this system will help governments assess the potential risks and benefits of biotechnology in a more predictable and consistent manner.

Promoting Sustainable Development

Throughout the developing world, nations are struggling to raise their standard of living and provide their people with a more promising future. Too often, the daily struggle for basic necessities involves environmentally destructive activities — such as slash-and-burn agriculture —

which, in turn, undermine natural assets that could sustain more productive economies. The Administration is working through several programs to help developing countries build stronger economies by protecting their natural endowments.

Currently, the Administration is supporting efforts in 43 countries to improve management of biologically rich habitats and to address environmental challenges such as forest fires, overfishing, poaching, deforestation, agricultural encroachment, and mining. Guided by the principle that environmental protection is linked with democracy and governance, these programs promote transparency and citizen participation in the management of natural resources.

Protecting Rare and Endangered Species

Many of the world's richest ecosystems are also the most endangered. The Administration is working with many governments around the world to help protect and restore threatened species by protecting habitat and combating illegal poaching and trade.

Since 1993, the Administration has provided more than $12 million in grants to more than 30 African and Asian countries for programs critical to the survival of elephants, rhinos, and tigers, leveraging more than $25 million in matching contributions. These efforts have helped stabilize populations of the African elephant by stemming illegal ivory poaching. On his recent trip to India, the President announced nearly $250,000 in grants to non-government organizations for urgent, on-the-ground projects to protect endangered tigers and elephants. The grants will help conserve habitat, expand research and training, and strengthen anti-poaching efforts.

Galapagos Islands
Preserving a World-Class Treasure

Photo by Michele Zador

The famed Galapagos Islands harbor some of the most unique wildlife anywhere on Earth, and efforts by the U.S. government are helping to ensure that this one-of-a-kind ecological treasure is well protected for years to come.

Located on the equator 600 miles off the coast of South America, the Galapagos are home to giant tortoises, blue-footed boobies, and other exotic species that helped inspire Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. But more than a century after Darwin's historic voyage, new pressures from tourism, development, and fishing put these resources at risk.

The Agency for International Development offered to help forge a new consensus on the islands' future. With its local partner, the Charles Darwin Foundation, USAID sponsored a policy dialogue among conservationists, tourism operators, commercial fishermen, and other stakeholders. The result was the Galapagos Special Law, signed two years ago by Ecuadorean President Dr. Fabian Alarcon.

This landmark law declares the Galapagos a "national priority," restricts commercial fishing in nearby waters, limits new migration to the islands, and establishes an inspection and quarantine system to keep non-native species out. It also steers more tourism revenue to conservation needs, helping to protect one of the world's true natural wonders for future generations.

Indonesia
Mapping a Path to Survival

The sound of bulldozers was an alarming wakeup call to the Kenok and Jorat tribes of southeastern Indonesia. Without any notice, the tribes' traditional lands would soon be home to a fish processing factory, threatening their ability to continue the subsistence farming that had sustained them for so long.

The tribes immediately began to organize, but numerous meetings with government officials were fruitless. So they looked elsewhere for help.

With funding from the Agency for International Development (USAID), and technical assistance from the World Wildlife Fund, an international environmental organization, the tribes conducted detailed mapping of their lands, identifying indigenous resources and documenting their importance to their traditional way of life.

The information helped open a new dialogue with decision-makers, and a year later, the factory project was shelved.

Zadrak Wamebu, a leader of an Indonesian group working with the tribes, said the USAID-funded project also helped demonstrate to the tribes the importance of building coalitions.

"Before the [project], we worked on our own and would have felt awkward about asking other organizations for help," he said. "After [the project], we felt confident about reaching out and asking for assistance from other [groups]. We knew they had the skills, that we shared goals and that we could work together."

This chapter in PDF format (972 K)

- Earth Day Letter
- CEQ Earth Day 2000 Report
- Presidential Budget Initiatives
- State by State
- Earth Day Activities
- Earth Links
- EPA Kids Explorers' Club
- Earth Day 2000 Home Page

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Growing Green Business

"For my entire career, I have believed very deeply that a strong economy and a clean environment go hand in hand. These past seven years, our Administration has proven it: our economy is booming, with nearly 20 million new jobs. And our air and water are cleaner and healthier than they have been in decades."

Vice President Al Gore
November 16, 1999

Photo: Washington, D.C., March, 2000

One of the most important lessons of the past quarter-century is that environmental protection and economic growth go hand in hand. Indeed, efforts to restore and protect the environment have spawned tremendous new economic opportunity for Americans, with the promise of continued growth in the years ahead.

Today the environmental industry — which includes companies involved in cleanup, recycling, and renewable energy — employs nearly 1.4 million Americans and generates annual revenues of more than $185 billion. Exports of environmental goods and services reached $20 billion last year and continue to rise. In both employment and revenue, the environmental sector surpasses many other well-known industries, including aerospace, petroleum refining, and steel.

The Clinton-Gore Administration has launched many successful initiatives to help grow green businesses in the United States and to promote the export of U.S. technology and expertise overseas.

Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles

In 1993, President Clinton and Vice President Gore, joined by the chief executives of the Big Three automakers, launched an innovative research partnership to develop the next generation of cars and light-duty trucks.

Federal laboratories are collaborating with Daimler-Chrysler, Ford, General Motors, and with the goal of developing cars with up to triple the fuel efficiency of today's midsize models — with no sacrifice in safety, affordability or performance. Achieving this goal will enhance America's competitiveness, strengthen its energy security by reducing reliance on imported oil, and achieve significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

In a major milestone, the three automakers recently unveiled concept cars with hybrid technologies that achieve the 80-mile-per-gallon goal. Last month, the automakers also announced plans to begin marketing higher-efficiency vehicles that incorporate PNGV technology in the next three to four years.

Promoting Organic Agriculture

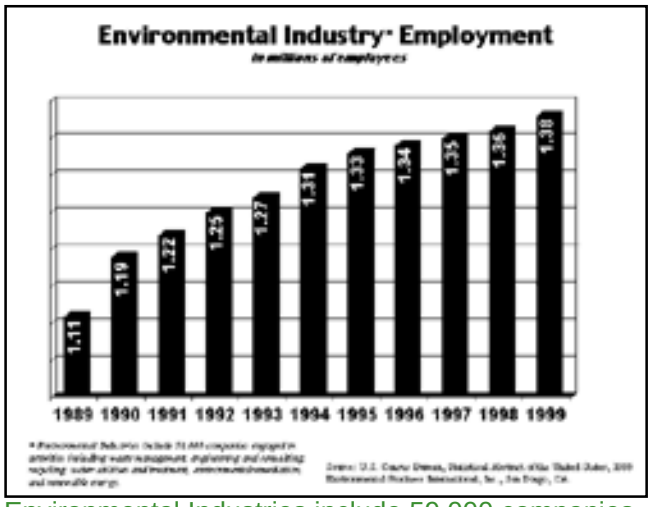
In recent years, organic farming has grown from a handful of experimental garden plots to a $6 billion-a-year industry. Today more than 12,000 American farmers, most of them small-scale producers, practice organic agriculture.

To support this growing industry and strengthen consumer confidence, the Administration recently proposed a uniform national standard for labeling organic food. The proposal, slated for final action later this year, details the practices and substances that can be used to produce crops and livestock labeled as "organic"; prohibits the use of genetic engineering, sewage sludge, and irradiation in the production of organic food; and prohibits antibiotics in organic livestock production.

A uniform national standard will ensure that consumers across the country can go into any store and have full confidence that any food product labeled "organic" meets a strict, consistent standard no matter where it was made. It also will make it easier for organic growers to market their products overseas.

Supporting Green Technologies

In 1995, Vice President Gore launched a National Environmental Technology Strategy to strengthen partnerships with the environmental business community and to expand the federal government's role in spurring innovation and growth in the industry. Key priorities include reducing regulatory and market barriers to innovation; creating better ways to verify the environmental performance of new technologies; and ensuring adequate investment capital to bring promising technologies to market.



Environmental Industries include 59,000 companies engaged in activities including waste management, engineering and consulting, recycling, water utilities and treatment, environmental remediation, and renewable energy. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999 Environmental Business International, Inc., San

Among the initiatives launched by the Administration are the Interagency Environmental Technology Office, a one-stop-shop that connects about 400 businesses a year with federal programs and works with state environmental business councils; and a five-year, $37 million Environmental Technology Verification program to help provide third-party verification of the

performance of environmental technologies.

Diego, CA.

Building Environmental Exports

The fastest-growing market for environmental technology is overseas, where rising prosperity and population in developing countries is creating enormous demand for the technology and expertise needed to achieve and maintain cleaner air, cleaner water and other environmental benefits.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999 Environmental Business International, Inc., San Diego, CA.

U.S. exports of environmental goods and services have more than doubled since 1993, thanks in part to programs launched by the Administration, including:

- An Environmental Directorate established at the Export-Import Bank in 1994 provides loans and loan guarantees to exporters of environmental technologies. Between 1995 and 1998, the bank provided support to an average of 50 companies a year.

- A new Environmental Technologies Export Office at the Department of Commerce helps U. S. businesses identify export opportunities, conducts trade promotion activities, and promotes policies to increase free and fair trade in the environmental sector.

- The U.S. Trade and Development Agency helps U.S. businesses tap newly emerging markets by funding feasibility studies, technical assistance, reverse trade missions, and conferences. Last year, the agency provided assistance in 65 nations around the world.

The Greening of Small Business

Much of the growth in the environmental industry has occurred among small- and medium-sized firms. Programs at the Small Business Administration that support smaller environmental firms, and help other small businesses improve their environmental performance, include:

- The HUBZone program, which helps minority- and women-owned businesses compete for federal contracts, certifies firms that can perform environmental engineering and construction.

- The Small Business Investment Company, which provides venture capital for small businesses, has invested more than $10 million in green businesses over the past two years.

- The Small Business Development Center Program conducts workshops and seminars on

hazardous waste management, waste reduction and recycling, and pollution prevention.

- The Small Business Compliance Alliance Project helps small businesses comply with environmental regulations.

Meeting the Recycling Challenge

America's recycling rate is the highest in the world. Thanks to increased recycling, the U.S. will generate less net waste this year than it did in 1992, and about the same as it did in 1980, when there were almost 50 million fewer people. The Administration's Jobs Through Recycling program has helped 3,200 recycling businesses and entrepreneurs create 8,500 jobs and new recycling technologies.

To achieve even greater gains, Vice President Gore launched the National Recycling Challenge in 1998, calling on government, the business community, universities, and others to commit to increased recycling. The dozens of major commitments made so far include:

- Sony Electronics committed to opening a recycling center at its Pittsburgh technology center to recover valuable resources from waste electronic scrap. Glass recovered from old televisions and computer monitors will be used in the manufacture of new cathode ray tubes.

- IBM developed technologies to use recovered plastics to manufacture new products, including the first personal computer using 100 percent recycled resin for all major plastic parts in the central processing unit.

- Ford Motor Company committed to developing new technologies to recycle a variety of recovered materials in the manufacture of new vehicles. The company set an annual goal of using more than 100 million pounds of recycled plastic, rubber, fabric, glass, wood, and paper in new vehicle components by 2002.

This chapter in PDF format (341 K)

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Presidential Budget Initiatives • **State by State** •

Earth Day Activities • Earth Links • EPA Kids Explorers' Club

Earth Day 2000 Home Page

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Greening the Government

As the country's largest energy user, and its largest consumer of paper and other products, the United States government has a special responsibility to act in an environmentally responsible manner. The government not only leads by example; its enormous purchasing power helps create new markets for environmentally preferable products, making them more affordable for everyone.

For President Clinton, this responsibility begins at home: the White House today is a model of energy efficiency and careful environmental stewardship. The President has helped spread this ethic throughout the government. Through a series of executive actions, he has directed all federal agencies to improve their environmental performance, from using recycled paper to curbing their use of energy and toxic chemicals.

Apart from their enormous environmental benefits, these measures are spurring new growth and jobs, and saving federal taxpayers millions of dollars each year in energy and other costs.

The Greening of the White House

On Earth Day 1993, President Clinton launched a new initiative to dramatically improve the energy and environmental performance of the White House complex with steps that can be taken at any home. Measures implemented include: replacement of thousands of light bulbs with more efficient compact fluorescents; installation of hundreds of weather-tight windows; heating and air conditioning upgrades; an 80 percent reduction in pesticide use; installation of a water-conserving sprinkler system; and the composting of paper and trimmings from the White House grounds for use as fertilizer.

A Greening of the White House status report issued last year found that these steps are saving $300,000 a year and reducing annual greenhouse gas emissions by 845 metric tons — the equivalent of taking more than 600 cars off the road. Additional improvements are underway.

Conserving Energy and Taxpayer Dollars

As the nation's single largest energy user, the federal government spends roughly $8 billion a year to power its vehicles, buildings and other facilities. Through the Federal Energy Management Program, the Administration has reduced energy use in federal buildings by more than 12 percent, cutting the government's energy bill by almost $600 million a year.

Last year, President Clinton issued an Executive Order to produce far greater savings. The Order directs agencies to reduce energy use in buildings 35 percent by 2010, and to expand their use of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass. Meeting this goal will reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2.4 million tons — the equivalent of taking 1.7 million cars off the road — and save taxpayers over $750 million a year. It also will expand markets for renewable technologies, reduce air pollution, and serve as a powerful example to businesses and consumers who can reap substantial benefits from energy improvements.

Expanding Use of Recycled Products

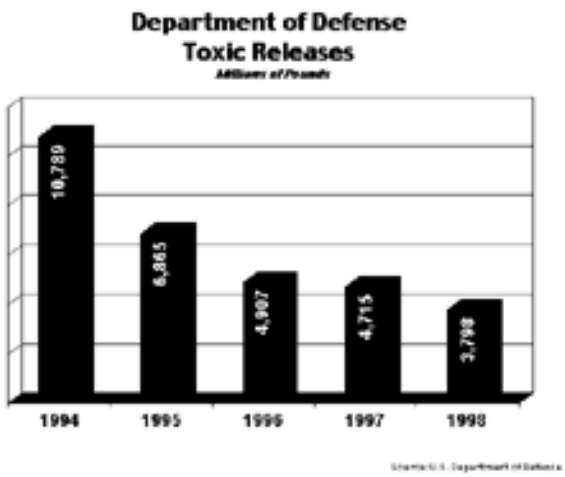
The federal government purchases more than 20 billion sheets of copier paper every year. In 1994, only 12 percent of the paper used by the federal government contained any recycled fiber.

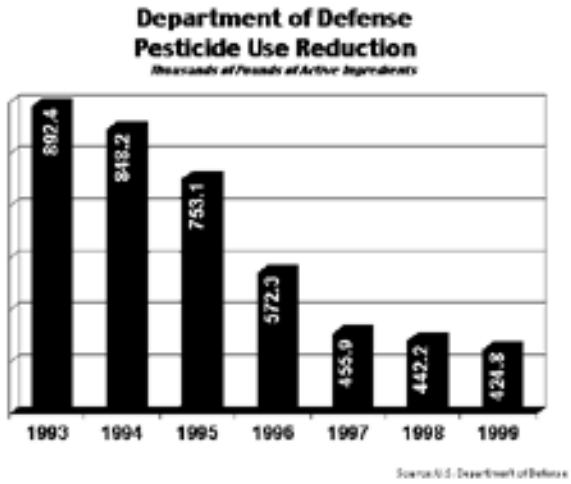
Through two Executive Orders, the President directed federal agencies to gradually increase their use of recycled-content paper. Last year, 98 percent of the copier paper purchased by federal agencies contained a minimum of 30 percent post-consumer fiber. This dramatic improvement is saving up to half a million trees a year, reducing air and water pollution, and curbing emissions that contribute to global warming.

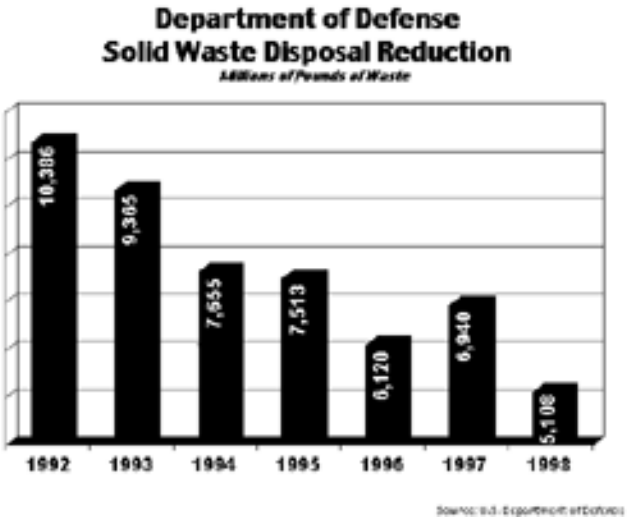
The President also directed agencies to purchase a wide range of other recycled products — such as insulation, carpeting, motor oil, and retread tires — and encouraged them to purchase other environmentally preferable products whenever possible. Federal purchases of recycled products grew from $240 million in 1992 to $350 million in 1997.

Reducing Toxic Releases

Many federal agencies use hazardous chemicals, primarily solvents, in maintaining their facilities and equipment. On Earth Day 1993, the President issued an Executive Order requiring agencies to report and to dramatically reduce their releases of toxic chemicals. Specifically, he mandated a 50 percent reduction in toxic chemical releases in five years. The agencies, using a variety of pollution prevention strategies, met the goal in just two years. Some of the most dramatic reductions were achieved at the Department of Defense, which uses large quantities of hazardous chemicals to repair and maintain ships, aircraft, and other military equipment.







Source: U.S. Department of Defense

San Pedro, California
An Unlikely Haven for the Palos Verdes Blue

Scientists declared the Palos Verdes blue butterfly extinct in 1982. But more than a decade later, a single PV blue made a surprise appearance at a military refueling station in San Pedro, California. Now the delicate species is on its way to recovery, with help from some unusual allies: former gang members, and the Department of Defense.

The industrial-looking Defense Fuel Support Point may seem an unlikely haven for butterflies, but the 320-acre depot contains some of the best remaining habitat for the

Photo by Army Lt. Colonel Zia Mehr

Palos Verdes blue. When a UCLA biologist doing research at the depot stumbled across the survivor, the university teamed up with the Defense Department and the Fish and Wildlife Service to help bring the species back.

So far, volunteers have put in more than 5,000 hours restoring the butterflies' coastal sage scrub habitat, and helping raise its population from 400 to 1,000.

The effort to save the PV blue also is creating a brighter future for some of the volunteers — a contingent of inner-city kids working with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps. "I'm saving them from extinction," said former gang member Arthur Bonner, "and they're saving me from the street."

This chapter in PDF format (387 K)

- Earth Day Letter
- CEQ Earth Day 2000 Report
- Presidential Budget Initiatives
- State by State
- Earth Day Activities
- Earth Links
- EPA Kids Explorers' Club
- Earth Day 2000 Home Page

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Enforcing Our Nation's Environmental Laws

America's remarkable environmental progress has been driven in large measure by the more than two dozen federal statutes that establish strong protections for air, water, land, and wildlife. But these laws are effective only if they are vigorously enforced.

The Clinton-Gore Administration has made strict enforcement of our environmental laws one of its highest priorities, targeting its efforts on those polluters posing the greatest threat to public health and natural resources. Through the course of this Administration, the number of environmental crimes prosecuted — and the number of convictions won — have steadily risen. Well over $400 million in civil penalties have been collected since 1993.

Landmark cases have led to the largest civil penalty ever in an environmental case, the stiffest jail term ever in an environmental case, the largest pollution reduction ever achieved through the courts, and the first conviction ever for illegal importation of protected coral. In addition to penalties, enforcement actions have led to major cleanups and pollution reductions. They also serve as a powerful deterrent to would-be violators.

Cutting Air Pollution from Power Plants

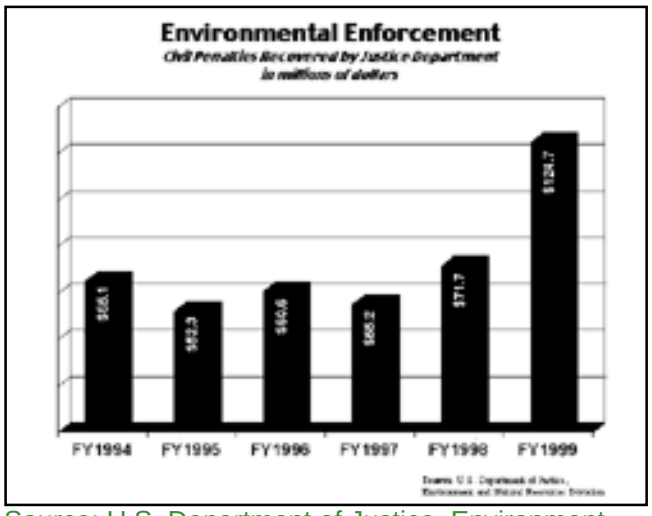
Last year, the Administration commenced enforcement action against eight major electric utilities in the Midwest and South for illegally releasing massive amounts of air pollution from their coal-fired power plants. The government contends the utilities violated the Clean Air Act by making major modifications to 32 coal-fired power plants without installing equipment required to control smog, soot, and acid rain.

Earlier this year, one of the utilities agreed to a groundbreaking settlement. Tampa Electric Company of Florida utility agreed to pay a $3.5 million fine, install new equipment to meet stringent pollution limits, and invest more than $10 million in local environmental projects. The settlement will ensure cleaner, healthier air for the people of Florida, and significantly reduce emissions that contribute to global warming.

Clamping Down on Dirty Diesels

In the largest Clean Air Act enforcement settlement ever, the Administration reached a sweeping

agreement in 1998 with seven diesel manufacturers accused of installing devices in their engines to illegally bypass emission controls.



Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division

The companies sold an estimated 1.3 million engines containing "defeat devices" that allowed the engines to meet tailpipe standards during testing but bypass pollution controls during highway driving. The resulting pollution was equivalent to the emissions of 65 million cars. The manufacturers agreed to pay $83.4 million in civil penalties and to take actions costing more than $850 million to reduce pollution from diesel engines. These actions are expected to prevent more than 75 million tons of smog-forming nitrogen oxide emissions over the next quarter century — more than the total emitted in the U.S. in three years. This is the largest pollution reduction ever achieved in the courts.

Protecting the Ozone Layer

Under an international treaty called the Montreal Protocol, the United States has banned the production or import of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other chemicals that damage the Earth's protective ozone layer. This ban, however, has led to a black market in illegally imported CFCs, primarily for use in automotive air conditioners. The Administration's aggressive crackdown on CFC smuggling has resulted in more than 99 convictions so far. All told, convicted smugglers have been sentenced to 51 years of jail time and ordered to pay $39 million in fines and $28 million in restitution.

Cracking Down on Vessel Pollution

Cruise ships and other vessels that illegally discharge wastes are a major source of pollution to ocean and inland waters. The Administration has undertaken a targeted enforcement strategy to reduce vessel pollution and prosecute violators.

In a major case last year, Royal Caribbean, one of the world's largest cruise ship lines, pled guilty to 21 felony counts for illegally dumping waste oil and chemicals, and for making false statements to the U.S. Coast Guard. The company agreed to pay an $18 million criminal fine — the second largest ever in a vessel pollution case — and agreed to operate for the next five years under a court-supervised environmental compliance plan.

Protecting Rare and Endangered Species

A major threat to biodiversity around the world is the illegal trade in rare and endangered species — both live animals and their skins, organs and other parts. Through a vigorous enforcement

strategy, including a series of undercover investigations called Operation Chameleon, the Administration is helping to control this $6 billion-a-year black market.

In one case, agents broke up a ring responsible for smuggling more than 300 reptiles worth nearly half a million dollars, including the highly endangered plowshare tortoise and Komodo dragon, into the United States. Other smugglers have been prosecuted for bringing snakes and rare tortoises from Madagascar, turtles from Indonesia, and reptiles from the West Indies. In a case in Florida, the president of one the country's largest reptile import firms was sentenced to eight months in prison and agreed to pay $250,000 to protect habitat in Indonesia.

In addition, the Administration last year won the first criminal conviction ever for the smuggling of protected corals and seashells.

Making Oil Pipelines Safer

Earlier this year, the Administration won the largest civil penalty ever under federal environmental law in a case involving hundreds of oil spills in six states. The Administration had sued Koch Industries, Inc., which operates an extensive oil pipeline network in the Midwest, for illegally allowing 3 million gallons of crude oil and other products to leak into lakes, rivers, or streams. Most of the spills occurred in Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas, and resulted from corrosion that could have been prevented through proper maintenance. Koch, the second-largest privately held firm in the U. S., agreed to pay a $30 million civil penalty to the United States and the state of Texas; improve its leak prevention program; and invest $5 million in environmental projects in the affected states.

Prosecuting Illegal Drug Labs

Last year, a long-time fugitive was sentenced to 15 years in jail for hazardous waste violations — the stiffest jail term ever in a federal environmental case. The conviction stemmed from an explosion 15 years earlier at one the country's largest illegal cocaine processing labs. The defendant, who was one of the managers of the operation, fled the lab after the explosion, leaving behind 230 drums of highly flammable toxic materials that posed an imminent hazard to police and firefighters responding to the blaze. While more than a dozen people were prosecuted within several years of the explosion, this defendant remained at large until last year.

Pittsfield, Massachusetts
Freeing a Town and Its River from Toxic PCBs

For decades, General Electric was the economic lynchpin of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, employing thousands at its sprawling industrial plant. But when the people of Pittsfield learned that for years the plant had leaked toxic PCBs into

the Housatonic River, they felt betrayed, and frightened.

Now, thanks to a settlement won by the federal and state governments worth more than $250 million, there is hope that Pittsfield and the Housatonic will soon be free of their toxic legacy.

Under the settlement, G.E. will remove contaminated sediment from a half-mile stretch of the river, where ducks are so tainted with PCBs hunters are warned not to eat them. The company also will pay to clean up areas further downstream, the long-shut plant, and other contaminated properties. A cleanup at Allendale School, which neighbors the plant, already has been completed.

To help revitalize the local economy, G.E. also will transfer part of the decontaminated plant to the city for redevelopment. This "brownfields" package is worth an estimated $50 million.

"Thanks to this settlement," said Pittsfield Mayor Gerald Doyle, "I believe we will move into the next century with a much safer environment and a stronger economy."

This chapter in PDF format (112 K)

- Earth Day Letter
- CEQ Earth Day 2000 Report
- Presidential Budget Initiatives
- State by State
- Earth Day Activities
- Earth Links
- EPA Kids Explorers' Club
- Earth Day 2000 Home Page

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Earth Day 2000

The Challenges Ahead

A new century brings with it new environmental challenges.

As a nation, we have made remarkable progress in combating the most obvious threats — for instance, pollution from auto tailpipes, factory smokestacks, and sewage treatment plants. And we are making significant headway against subtler, more diffuse problems not as readily addressed, such as polluted runoff and habitat loss. In meeting these challenges, we have developed more sensible, more effective approaches to environmental stewardship. We have learned that environmental protection cannot be a goal unto itself — that it can truly be achieved only when fully integrated with our broader social and economic aspirations.

Our task now is to bring these lessons to bear against new, more profound environmental challenges. As we venture into this new century, we must carefully weigh emerging new technologies to ensure that we reap their benefits without exposing ourselves and our environment to undue risk. We must provide our communities with better tools to maintain a healthy environment, a strong economy, and a high quality of life. And, increasingly, we must look beyond our borders and provide the leadership needed to put all nations on a cleaner, more sustainable path to prosperity.

Protecting Global Biodiversity

Worldwide, species are disappear at an alarming rate. By some estimates, half of all species could be gone by the end of this century. The leading threat to biodiversity is the destruction of tropical forests, which support half the known species on earth. These forests play an important role in maintaining a stable climate, and are a vital source of medicines and new materials. Only half the tropical forests that stood in 1800 survive today, and another 50 acres disappear every minute.

Leading causes of deforestation include illegal logging, subsidies that promote overlogging, and deliberate burning to clear land for agriculture. President Clinton has proposed a new Greening the Globe initiative to help stem the loss of tropical forests worldwide. The $150 million initiative would nearly double funding to provide training and technical assistance to developing countries; support debt-for-nature swaps that preserve rain forests while relieving poor nations of crippling debt; and protect endangered tropical species. Through these efforts, the United States can help developing nations strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, their irreplaceable forests.

Building a Clean Energy Future

As the new global economy brings rising prosperity, the worldwide demand for energy will soar. Much of this rising demand will occur in developing countries seeking a higher quality of life for their growing populations. By 2020, energy use in developing countries is expected to overtake that of industrial countries. By 2050, developing countries will invest a projected $15 trillion and $25 trillion in new energy systems.

Our challenge is to ensure that these countries choose clean energy, leapfrogging past the polluting technologies that powered the growth of the industrialized world. Advanced, low-polluting technologies available today can help developing countries grow their economies while reducing harmful air pollution and avoiding dramatic increases in greenhouse gas emissions. American businesses can help provide these technologies, building jobs and exports for the United States. President Clinton is proposing a $200 million International Clean Energy Initiative to promote U.S. exports and accelerate the deployment of clean energy technologies around the world.

Conserving Private Lands and Local Green Spaces

Even as America has made great strides in protecting wilderness areas and other natural treasures, the loss of farmland and other open space close to home has continued at an accelerating rate. A recent report by the Department of Agriculture found that the conversion of farmland and other open space to development more than doubled in the mid-1990s. The report found that the loss of farmland is no longer centered predominantly around major metropolitan areas, but is affecting growing numbers of small- and mid-sized cities in virtually every part of the country.

Our challenge is to provide landowners and communities with new tools to conserve private lands and public green spaces. The Administration is proposing several initiatives: a $1.3 billion Farm Conservation Initiative to significantly expand conservation partnerships with farmers, ranchers and other landowners; Better America Bonds, which would provide $10.75 billion in bonding authority over five years for state and local efforts to preserve green space, protect water quality, and clean up brownfields; and Lands Legacy, which would provide permanent funding of $1.4 billion a year to protect lands, with at least half dedicated to state and local conservation efforts.

Strengthening the Clean Water Act

Despite tremendous progress in cleaning up our rivers, lakes, and coastal waters, nearly 40 percent of America’s surveyed waterways are still too polluted for fishing and swimming. Hundreds of times each year, health authorities issue warnings against the consumption of contaminated fish or shut beaches because of contaminated waters. Excess runoff of pollutants like nitrogen and phosphorous contributes to algal blooms, outbreaks of harmful organisms like Pfiesteria and a 6,000-square-mile "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Administration's Clean Water Action Plan is helping to address these challenges by providing new tools and resources to states and communities to reduce polluted runoff from farms and city streets. But ultimately, to fulfill the promise of the Clean Water Act — clean, healthy waters for all Americans — the Act itself must be strengthened. President Clinton has defended the Act against repeated attempts in Congress to weaken it. The Administration remains committed to the goal of a strengthened Clean Water Act that provides the tools and authorities needed to fully meet our remaining clean water challenges.

Carefully Assessing New Technologies

The 21st century promises an extraordinary array of new technologies barely imagined even a generation ago. Each holds enormous potential — for the environment, and for society at large. New information technologies will allow real-time monitoring of environmental conditions, remote sensing, and rapid response to spills or other threats. Nanotechnology will allow the creation of microscopic machines and computers that could revolutionize our use of resources. And genetic engineering will allow the creation of new organisms that can reduce our reliance on pesticides and polluting fossil fuels.

One of the most profound lessons of the 20th century is the importance of assessing the full potential of a technology — both benefits and pitfalls — before unleashing it. Enormous resources have been expended over the past quarter century overcoming the legacy of past technological excesses. As we develop and explore a new generation of powerful technologies, it is imperative that we apply the lessons of the recent past, and carefully assess their potential impacts on our environment.

This chapter in PDF format (55 K)

- Earth Day Letter
- CEQ Earth Day 2000 Report
- Presidential Budget Initiatives
- State by State
- Earth Day Activities
- Earth Links
- EPA Kids Explorers' Club
- Earth Day 2000 Home Page

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Ten Communities: Profiles in Environmental Progress

Across America, countless communities have environmental success stories to tell. Some have cleaned their skies of soot and smog, or turned contaminated industrial sites into thriving economic centers. Others have rallied to save precious open space, or revive rivers long forsaken. Here are the stories of 10 communities around the country working to better the environment:

Los Angeles, California

The 1990s have been good to the environment of Los Angeles.

For one thing, the city's smoggy skies are -clearing. Over the last decade, severe emergency smog alerts have been totally eliminated. And in 1999, peak ozone concentrations dropped low enough that L. A. was able to relinquish its title as the smog capital of America.

In a move to protect water quality and curb stormwater runoff — which carries huge loads of toxins and bacteria into coastal waters — the city worked with the Clinton-Gore Administration regional water authorities to set new design standards for the construction and renovation of buildings. The new standards aim to capture as much as 80 percent of storm precipitation and significantly reduce the flow of polluted runoff into coastal waters.

Until recently, the groundwater of the San Fernando Valley — an important source of drinking water for the L.A. metropolitan area — was infected by industrial pollutants. A clean-up is now underway. Treatment of two groundwater basins was completed in 1999, and similar initiatives have begun in the nearby San Gabriel Valley.

Los Angeles is also making major progress in cleaning up and reclaiming a host of Superfund and brownfield sites. In 1998, the Administration designated Los Angeles as only one of 16 Brownfields Showcase Communities nationwide. Brownfields reclamation projects are now underway throughout the region. And confidence is growing that the old industrial core of the city will once again serve as productive land.

Denver, Colorado

Nothing better testifies to Denver's remarkable environmental progress than the restoration of the Clear Creek and South Platte River watersheds.

The 400-square-mile Clear Creek watershed extends from the Continental Divide in the Rocky Mountains east to Denver. Today, it is popular for kayaking, rafting, fishing and wildlife watching. The creek also serves as a drinking water source for more than a quarter million people in greater Denver.

It wasn't always so. In the 1980s, the creek was a liquid garbage bin. Years of intensive hard-rock mining had left the watershed littered with mine wastes, acid water, and contaminants such as zinc and cadmium. The impact on fish and other aquatic life was severe, the impact on drinking water disastrous.

Under priorities set by the Clinton-Gore administration, Superfund dollars were provided to intensify cleanup activities. Community-based efforts shifted into high gear. A major milestone was reached in 1998 with the construction of a water treatment plant that prevents 1,500 pounds of heavy metals from entering the creek each day. The drinking water from Clear Creek is now clean and safe. And aquatic life is on the rebound.

The story at South Platte River, which runs through Denver from headwaters high in the Rockies, is similar. Once regularly described as a "dumping ground," the South Platte is today a treasure. A broad coalition of public and private groups succeeded in restoring more than two miles of the river's channel, improving the river's flow as well as its wildlife habitats, and creating 14 acres of new park land along the river's banks.

Denver also has achieved impressive improvements in air quality. In 1976, Denver violated EPA's health-based carbon monoxide standard 367 times. In 1996 and every year since, the number of violations has been zero.

Tampa Bay, Florida

During the 1960s and '70s, Tampa Bay confronted a devastating decline in water quality. Wastewater and industrial plants were discharging large amounts of harmful pollutants and nitrogen into the Bay. Bottom sediment was a lifeless muck, and organisms essential to a healthy ecosystem were dying.

Today, thousands of acres of sea grass on the Bay floor, vital to its overall health, have been recovered. Fifteen hundred acres of marsh and mangrove habitats have been restored, including 250 acres of tidal marshes that are critically important for fish. And a new tracking system, made possible by grants from the Clinton-Gore Administration and contributions from private industry, is working to substantially reduce risks from oil or hazardous chemical spills from ship groundings and collisions. In short, the Bay is on its way back.

Tampa's air also is improving. Harmful levels of lead, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide have been significantly reduced. Recently, the Administration reached an unprecedented enforcement agreement with Tampa Electric Company that will result in as much as a billion dollars in air-quality improvements.

As the result of the Administration's Brownfields initiative and expanding partnerships with local and state agencies, the Clearwater area, once a thriving Tampa-vicinity business sector, is on its way to renewal. The area had suffered from business disinvestment and environmental decline. Recently, a computer software company relocated to the area, bringing with it hundreds of new jobs. And, on a site once contaminated by petroleum and chemicals, the foundation for a new urban business campus is rising.

Tampa Bay and Clearwater are fast becoming cleaner, healthier, and more inviting to companies that can help energize their economies.

Boston, Massachusetts

In 1988, Boston Harbor was justifiably called "the dirtiest harbor in America." Millions of gallons of raw sewage poured into it daily. Wildlife had largely vanished. Beaches often were closed to swimming.

Today, Boston Harbor has been restored to a clean, vital part of the city. A new state-of-the-art treatment plant on Deer Island is reducing sewage and toxic pollution into the harbor. Pollutants found in fish have dropped as much as 90 percent. Seals and porpoises can be seen from downtown wharfs. Beaches have reopened. Most importantly, the city has re-embraced the Harbor — with concerts on the waterfront, harbor swims, sightseeing cruises and increased property values along the coast.

Even more dramatic progress is evident in the Charles River. One of the most heavily used urban rivers in the world, the Charles was so polluted in the 1980s that contact with the water was often cause for a trip to the emergency room for infectious disease treatment.

In 1995, the Clinton-Gore Administration set the ambitious goal of restoring the river so it would be safe for swimming and fishing by Earth Day 2005. The strategy focused on creating a broad coalition of state and local governments, non-profit organizations, businesses, and educational institutions. All projections are that the 2005 Earth Day goal will be met.

In Roxbury and other disadvantaged neighborhoods like Dorchester and East Boston, the Administration is taking steps to protect children from environmental threats. The Lead-Safe Yards project, for instance, tests soil for lead contamination. Programs that educate the public and enable citizens to play a role in environmental policy have helped neighborhoods find solutions to problems like lead poisoning and asthma epidemics. Boston's environment today is improved and heading in the right direction.

New Jersey
Coastal Communities

New Jersey's coastal waters are a valuable resource—not just for fun but for the thousands of jobs they sustain in thriving tourism and fishing industries. Last year, tourists spent an estimated $3.7 billion in New Jersey's coastal communities.

However, these coastal waters are fragile, as New Jersey communities have learned the hard way. During the summer of 1988, there were 855 ocean and bay beach closings in New Jersey due to floating debris and unhealthy levels of bacteria. Since that time, the Clinton-Gore Administration, working in concert with the state of New Jersey, has taken aggressive action. The resulting improvements have been enormous — and enormously beneficial to New Jersey's economy.

New Jersey's coastal communities have launched numerous local initiatives to improve wastewater treatment plants and to address the problem of overflows from sewers. New Jersey was the site for Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Streets/Clean Beaches Campaign, which called public attention to the link between litter on the streets and debris on beaches.

EPA continues to monitor the New Jersey coastline during the summer months, gathering water quality information and surveying the waters for debris and red tides. This monitoring information enables the state to provide real-time public health information about the state's beaches and to take appropriate action to clean up beach waters when needed.

With these programs, New Jersey beaches have come a long way. In 1998, there were no beach closings along the Jersey shore due to floating debris.

Tulsa, Oklahoma

After facing major air pollution challenges, Tulsa has emerged as a national leader in the battle for clean air. In 1995, Tulsa became the first city to sign Flexible Attainment Region agreement with the federal government. Under that agreement, Tulsa committed to voluntary, up-front air-pollution reductions and to additional control measures beyond those strictly required. Since the signing, Tulsa-area emissions have never exceeded the existing smog standard.

In December 1999, the Clinton-Gore Administration awarded Tulsa a $500,000 Environment Monitoring grant to fund the city's air and water quality information system. This system will serve the public's right to know by providing important, timely environmental information to the citizens of the Tulsa metropolitan area.

Tulsa's Brownfields program has enjoyed stunning success in revitalizing the Oklahoma Steel

Castings and Flint Steel site. This once-blighted site will, upon restoration, serve as home to a new industrial park. Success is the direct result of collaboration — a strong working partnership among the industrial authority, the site's current owner, and the Tulsa community.

Tulsa has also taken control of one of the greatest sources of water pollution — storm water runoff. Tulsa is proud to be among the first cities in the Southwest to receive a municipal storm water permit that will ensure greater control of water pollution and cleaner water for all citizens.

Cleveland, Ohio

Like other communities in the Midwest "rust belt," Cleveland is undergoing dramatic demographic and economic changes. These challenges have also proven a major opportunity to improve its environment.

Perhaps the best known example is the revival of the Cuyahoga River, which flows through the heart of Cleveland and into Lake Erie. In June 1969, the Cuyahoga caught fire when a stray spark ignited oil and debris that had accumulated on its surface. The blaze was a pivotal event leading to the rise of the environmental movement and passage of the Clean Water Act. Since 1972, millions have been invested to upgrade and expand sewage treatment facilities, and hundreds of permits limiting pollution to the river have been issued. These measures have resulted in a dramatic decrease in the levels of pollutants found in the Cuyahoga.

The city also has worked to revitalize the heart of Cleveland's downtown. In the early 1970s, downtown Cleveland was a virtual ghost town at night. The area next to the riverfront at Lake Erie, known as the "Flats," was a dilapidated warehouse district. Today, this area is one of the top tourist draws in Ohio, attracting seven million visitors each year. The harbor is no longer choked with debris and waste. Instead, it is bustling with pleasure boats docked alongside restaurants and shops. In addition, the shore of Lake Erie now boasts a magnificent new science museum and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Providence, Rhode Island

Rhode Island is a state defined and dominated by water. The Narragansett Bay forms the backbone and center of the state. Thus, for the city of Providence, one of the greatest and most promising environmental successes is the rebirth of the Bay and other local waters.

One measure of the progress made in cleaning waterways and reconnecting Providence to the beauty of its heritage is the condition of the Providence River. In the 1970s, this river flowing through downtown Providence was riddled with pollution. The process of cleaning up the river spurred a new focus on redevelopment. Today, the open riverfront is the city's prime attraction, drawing visitors from around the state and throughout New England.

Working together, the Clinton-Gore Administration and its public and private partners have made

dramatic progress on other environmental challenges confronting the city. But lead poisoning remains a major concern. A city-wide task force on lead poisoning prevention is now tackling this problem. The Administration has helped Providence garner the resources necessary to perform lead abatement at day-care centers throughout Rhode Island. In addition, the Administration has provided a $4 million grant to perform lead remediation in low-income housing.

Work is also moving forward to address dioxin contamination in the Woonasquatucket River, upstream in the city of North Providence. Quick action by EPA after the dioxin's discovery last year resulted in immediate isolation of the most contaminated sediments. The contaminated area was promptly declared a federal Superfund site, and cleanup has begun.

Chattanooga, Tennessee

From the 1930s to the 1960s, Chattanooga was a thriving industrial city, fueled by foundries, tanneries, brick kilns, and textile mills. The city was known as the "Dynamo of Dixie." This prosperity, however, came with a price: smokestack emissions turned the atmosphere a hazy orange, often forcing people to drive with their headlights on even on "sunny" days. By the late 1970s, as Chattanooga's industrial base collapsed, remnants of slag heaps and abandoned coke furnaces could be found along the banks of the Tennessee River.

Chattanooga today has turned things around. Air quality has shown dramatic improvement. Old, abandoned toxic-waste sites are also being cleaned up and returned to productive use.

In the early 1990s, residents of a low-income area in south Chattanooga petitioned the Administration to evaluate numerous abandoned hazardous-waste areas in their neighborhood. The Administration funded a health study, provided several environmental assistance grants, and aided in the creation of a Superfund Jobs Training program. Today, the site is on its way to full restoration

In 1999, the Administration awarded Chattanooga a $200,000 Brownfields grant to help revitalize the 2.7-square-mile Alton Park area, a former manufacturing hub. Now, as the clean-up nears completion, there is new hope for economic revival. The city is working with community groups and state agencies to again make the area a source of local pride and economic opportunity.

Salt Lake City, Utah

The Clinton-Gore Administration's Brownfields initiative — which helps return idle, contaminated lands to productive use—is helping make life in and around Salt Lake City cleaner, safer, and more pleasant.

A prime example: The rescue of the 650-acre Gateway District from the ravages of time and contamination. The District, a former industrial center

bordering the central business district, had become little more than a graveyard for industrial sites. Salt Lake City created a powerful coalition that tackled the challenge of cleaning up, redeveloping, and revitalizing the area.

Other parts of Utah also are experiencing remarkable successes in cleaning up the environment. In 1998, clean-up work began on the largest open-pit mine in the United States. This project in Copperton, Utah, has already led to the removal of more than 25 million tons of mining wastes.

The restoration of the Jordan River corridor along the Wasatch Front is now nearing completion. Activities included stream and wetland restoration, cleanups along the river corridor, drinking water and groundwater protection activities, and trail construction. Today, the Jordan River stands as a model for urban river restoration.

At the center of Utah's preservation and restoration activities is Envision Utah — a public/private partnership aiming to create a "preferred-growth" scenario that protects Utah's environment, economy, and quality of life for future generations. The partnership is generating important data on demographic, economic, and environmental conditions along the Wasatch Front. To date, 70 public meetings have been held and over 17,000 families have responded to region-wide surveys. This engagement of Utah's citizens was a critical factor in passage of the state's Quality Growth Act of 1999.

This chapter in PDF format (85 K)

- Earth Day Letter
- CEQ Earth Day 2000 Report
- Presidential Budget Initiatives
- State by State
- Earth Day Activities
- Earth Links
- EPA Kids Explorers' Club
- Earth Day 2000 Home Page

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Environmental Actions by President Clinton and Vice President Gore

1993

- **January 20, 1993:** President Clinton and Vice President Gore eliminated the Council on Competitiveness, which was established by the Bush-Quayle Administration and had been frequently used to circumvent environmental laws.

- **March 30, 1993:** President Clinton and Vice President Gore held the Forest Conference in Oregon, a critical first step toward developing a comprehensive and balanced long-term policy to preserve and protect old-growth forests while balancing the needs of the workers, businesses, and communities dependent on timber sales.

- **April 21, 1993:** President Clinton issued executive orders directing federal agencies to reduce their use of ozone-depleting materials, increase their use of alternative-fueled vehicles, and purchase energy efficient computers (Executive Order 12843, Executive Order 12844, Executive Order 12845).

- **June 29, 1993:** President Clinton signed an executive order establishing the President's Council on Sustainable Development (Executive Order 12852).

- **July 1, 1993:** President Clinton signed the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Amendments Act (H.R. 2343).

- **August 3, 1993:** President Clinton issued an executive order requiring federal agencies to reduce pollution as much as possible and to report to the community any toxic chemicals that are released into the environment (Executive Order 12856).

- **August 4, 1993:** President Clinton signed legislation establishing the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area in Idaho (H.R. 236).

- **August 13, 1993:** President Clinton signed the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993, which designated a total of 612,000 acres as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System (H.R. 631).

- **August 24, 1993:** The Clinton-Gore Administration unveiled a wetlands protection initiative which included more than 40 changes to current wetlands policy, including establishing a more effective process so that landowners and farmers can seek review of permit decisions without having to go to court.

- **October 20, 1993:** President Clinton signed an executive order requiring federal agencies to use recycled paper and other recycled products (Executive Order 12873).

1994

- **February 11, 1994:** President Clinton issued an executive order to address environmental justice and ensure that low-income citizens and minorities do not suffer a disproportionate burden of industrial pollution (Executive Order 12898).

- **March 8, 1994:** President Clinton issued an executive order directing federal agencies to improve energy efficiency and water conservation at their facilities (Executive Order 12902).

- **March 11, 1994:** The White House announced the Greening of the White House initiative, a comprehensive energy and environmental upgrade that includes actions for landscaping, waste reduction, recycling, and water and energy efficiency.

- **April 11, 1994:** President Clinton signed the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Improvement Act of 1994 (S. 476).

- **April 29, 1994:** President Clinton issued a memorandum directing agencies to use environmentally beneficial landscaping practices, such as using regionally native plants for landscaping, reducing use of pesticides and fertilizer, promoting construction practices that minimize adverse effects on natural habitats, and implementing water-efficient practices such as irrigation.

- **May 13, 1994:** President Clinton issued executive orders directing that the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation and the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Mexican States Concerning the Establishment of a Border Environment Cooperation Commission be implemented in a manner consistent with U.S. environmental policy (Executive Order 12915, Executive Order 12916).

- **August 11, 1994:** President Clinton signed the Winter Run Chinook Salmon Captive Broodstock Act (H.R. 2457).

- **August 26, 1994:** President Clinton signed the Farmington Wild and Scenic River Act (H.R. 2815), designating a portion of the Farmington River in Connecticut as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

- **August 26, 1994:** President Clinton signed the George Washington National Forest Mount Pleasant Scenic Area Act (H.R. 2942).

- **October 19, 1994:** President Clinton signed the North American Wetlands Conservation Act Amendments of 1994 (H.R. 4308).

- **October 22, 1994:** President Clinton signed the Water Bank Extension Act (H.R. 5053), which expands eligibility for the wetlands reserve program to lands covered by expiring agreements under the Water Bank Act.

- **October 22, 1994:** President Clinton signed the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (H.R. 4924).

- **October 31, 1994:** President Clinton signed the California Desert Protection Act (S. 21), which designated approximately 7.7 million acres of Federal lands as wilderness. The Act added approximately 3 million acres to the National Park System, including magnificent lands adjacent to the Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Monuments. It also established the Mojave National Preserve as a new unit of the National Park System.

1995

- **April 18, 1995:** Vice President Gore unveiled a National Environmental Technology Strategy with three major goals: create high-wage jobs and exports and stimulate overall economic growth; reduce the cost of cleaning up past pollution; and help prevent future damage to the environment.

- **June 7, 1995:** President Clinton issued an executive order to improve the quality, function, sustainable productivity, and distribution of U.S. aquatic resources for increased recreational fishing opportunities (Executive Order 12962).

- **July 31, 1995:** President Clinton announced that the Clinton-Gore Administration had reached agreement with oil companies to protect sensitive coastal areas off Florida and Alaska from oil drilling.

- **August 8, 1995:** President Clinton issued an executive order requiring those who would do business with the federal government to continue to report on over 650 toxic chemicals that are emitted (Executive Order 12969).

- **November 10, 1995:** President Clinton signed the Fisheries Act of 1995 (H.R. 716), which implements international agreements designed to protect important fish stocks in high seas areas of the world's oceans and off of America's coasts.

1996

- **March 25, 1996:** President Clinton signed an executive order requiring paper mills to use some recycled materials in producing new paper (Executive Order 12995).

- **March 25, 1996:** President Clinton issued an executive order to protect and preserve the National Wildlife Refuge System for future generations while ensuring continued public access and recreational opportunities (Executive Order 12996).

- **April 6, 1996:** President Clinton signed the most environmentally beneficial Farm Bill in history. The bill provided over $2 billion in increased spending for conservation programs, including $200 million to purchase environmentally sensitive lands in the Everglades.

- **May 15, 1996:** President Clinton signed the Trinity River Basin Fish and Wildlife Management Reauthorization Act (H.R. 2243).

- **May 24, 1996:** President Clinton signed legislation reauthorizing the Water Resources Research Act (H.R. 1743).

- **May 24, 1996:** President signed legislation authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to acquire property in the town of East Hampton, New York, for inclusion in the Amagansett National Wildlife Refuge (H.R. 1836).

- **August 2, 1996:** President Clinton transmitted to the Senate the Canada-United States Protocol for the Protection of Migratory Birds.

- **August 3, 1996:** President Clinton signed the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996, establishing strong new standards for pesticide residues in food, and requiring for the first time that the standards take into account special risks to children (H.R. 1627).

- **August 6, 1996:** President Clinton signed the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, requiring stronger standards for many pollutants and establishing a revolving loan fund to help communities upgrade water treatment systems. (S. 1316).

- **August 7, 1996:** President Clinton ratified a landmark fisheries conservation agreement: the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

- **August 12, 1996:** President Clinton signed the Yellowstone Protection Agreement to protect the park from mining.

- **August 28, 1996:** President Clinton announced new initiatives to accelerate cleanup of brownfields and Superfund sites, strengthen environmental enforcement, and expand

community right-to-know.

- **September 18, 1996:** President Clinton issued a proclamation establishing the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

- **October 1, 1996:** President Clinton signed legislation authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the Waihee Marsh for inclusion in the Oahu National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Hawaii (H.R. 1772).

- **October 2, 1996:** President Clinton signed the Antarctic Science, Tourism, and Conservation Act of 1996 (H.R. 3060), which implemented the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty.

- **October 9, 1996:** President Clinton signed legislation increasing funding for the Department of the Interior for the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge in Louisiana (H.R. 2660).

- **October 11, 1996:** President Clinton signed the Sustainable Fisheries Act (S. 39), the Water Desalination Act of 1996 (S. 811), and the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (H.R. 543).

- **October 12, 1996:** President Clinton signed the Water Resources Development Act, which authorized development of a long-term plan to restore the Florida Everglades (S. 640).

- **October 12, 1996:** President Clinton signed the Accountable Pipeline Safety and Partnership Act of 1996 (S. 1505), which will reduce risk to public safety and the environment associated with pipeline transportation of natural gas and hazardous liquids.

- **October 19, 1996:** President Clinton signed the Marine Mineral Resources Research Act (S. 1194).

- **October 26, 1996:** President Clinton signed the National Invasive Species Act of 1996 (H.R. 4283), which will help to control the unintentional introduction and spread of invasive species, such as zebra mussel, throughout the waters of our Nation. Such species can cause significant damage to the environment, the economy, and fisheries.

- **October 31, 1996:** President Clinton signed an executive order dissolving the Midway Islands Naval Defensive Sea Area and the Midway Islands Naval Airspace Reservation and transferring jurisdiction to the Secretary of the Interior, who will oversee the Midway Islands as the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge (Executive Order 13022).

- **November 11, 1996:** President Clinton signed the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996, establishing five new national parks, authorizing 10 national heritage areas, and expanding and protecting dozens of national parks, trails, and wild and

scenic rivers (H.R. 4236).

1997

- **January 25, 1997:** President Clinton issued a memorandum directing the Agriculture Secretary, Health and Human Services Secretary, and EPA Administrator to work with consumers, producers, industry, States, universities, and the public to identify ways to improve food safety.

- **April 18, 1997:** The United States ratified the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty of 1991which sets forth a comprehensive, legally binding system of environmental protection that applies to all activities in Antarctica. It reaffirms the status of Antarctica as an area reserved for peaceful purposes, including scientific research.

- **April 21, 1997:** Vice President Gore announced that President Clinton had signed an executive order setting new standards to reduce environmental health risks and safety risks to children (Executive Order 13045).

- **May 2, 1997:** President Clinton announced a Balanced Budget Agreement that included $700 million for priority Federal land acquisitions, including $250 million to protect the ancient redwoods of the Headwaters Forest in California and $65 million to acquire the New World Mine outside of Yellowstone.

- **May 13, 1997:** Vice President announced the creation of the Brownfields National Partnership, a two-year effort including more than 100 commitments from more than 25 organizations to further spur cleanup and redevelopment at some 5,000 brownfields sites around the nation.

- **July 16, 1997:** The President approved stronger, more protective air quality standards to further control pollution from ozone and particulate matter (smog and soot) and issued a memo to the EPA regarding implementation of those standards.

- **July 26, 1997:** President Clinton issued an executive order to protect natural, recreational, and ecological resources in the Lake Tahoe Region (Executive Order 13057).

- **August 15, 1997:** President Clinton signed the International Dolphin Conservation Program Act, commonly known as the Dolphin Safe Tuna bill (H.R. 408).

- **September 11, 1997:** President Clinton signed an executive order launching the American Heritage River initiative (Executive Order 13061).

- **October 9, 1997:** President Clinton signed the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (H.R. 1420).

- **October 18, 1997:** Vice President Gore directed federal departments and agencies to develop an action plan to clean up America's waterways.

- **October 20, 1997:** The Vice President announced that the Clinton-Gore Administration and the state of Maryland have joined together in a new initiative to help protect the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

- **October 29, 1997:** The Vice President announced a U.S.-China initiative that will move the countries toward greater cooperation in energy and environmental science, building on the Administration's efforts to engage China in joint initiatives that promote sustainable development and help lay the groundwork for reaching common ground in addressing climate change.

- **November 19, 1997:** President Clinton signed the Asian Elephant Conservation Act (H.R. 1787).

- **December 12, 1997:** The United States signed the Kyoto Protocol. The Protocol must be ratified before it can take effect.

- **December 12, 1997:** President Clinton signed the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act Amendments of 1997 (H.R. 1658).

1998

- **January 8, 1998:** Vice President Gore announced new "Energy Star" partnerships with leading manufacturers to promote energy-saving TVs and VCRs with the potential to save Americans hundreds of millions of dollars in electricity bills and significantly curb greenhouse gas pollution.

- **February 2, 1998:** President Clinton announced plans to expand or protect 100 natural and historical sites, including the final links in the Appalachian Trail, critical winter range for Yellowstone's elk and bison herds, and initial funding for the removal of two dams blocking salmon migration on the Elwha River near Olympic National Park.

- **February 12, 1998:** Vice President Gore announced that with leadership from the Clinton-Gore Administration, major auto manufacturers voluntarily agreed to produce a cleaner car that emits 70 percent less pollution than today's models.

- **April 8, 1998:** President Clinton issued an executive order creating the American Heritage Initiative Advisory Committee, to review nominations for selection of American Heritage Rivers (Executive Order 13080).

- **May 4, 1998:** President Clinton launched the Partnership for Advancing Technology in

Housing, a partnership with America's building industry to dramatically improve the energy efficiency of our homes — cutting consumers' energy bills by 30-50 percent, while reducing the greenhouse gases that cause global warming.

- **June 11, 1998:** To strengthen protection of natural coral reefs, President Clinton signed an executive order directing federal agencies to expand research, preservation and restoration activities (Executive Order 13089).

- **June 12, 1998:** To protect our oceans and coasts from the environmental risks of offshore oil and gas drilling, the President issued a directive extending the moratorium on offshore leasing for an additional ten years, and permanently barring new leasing in national marine sanctuaries.

- **July 25, 1998:** President Clinton issued a directive with four new steps to decrease energy use in Federal buildings and facilities, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions and saving taxpayer dollars.

- **July 30, 1998:** President Clinton and Vice President Gore designated 14 American Heritage Rivers. Communities along these rivers will receive help over the next five years tapping federal resources to carry out their plans for revitalizing their rivers and riverfronts.

- **August 5, 1998:** President Clinton signed the African Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act (H.R. 39).

- **August 11, 1998:** President Clinton expanded the public's right to know with the announcement of a new rule requiring water utilities to provide regular reports to their customers on whether their drinking water meets federal health standards — and if not, why not.

- **August 25, 1998:** President Clinton issued an executive order creating the President's Council on Food Safety, which is charged with developing a comprehensive and coordinated strategic plan for Federal food safety activities (Executive Order 13100).

- **September 14, 1998:** President Clinton issued an executive order expanding recycling by Federal agencies (Executive Order 13101).

- **October 5, 1998:** President Clinton signed the National Wildlife Refuge System Volunteer and Community Partnership Enhancement Act of 1998 (H.R. 1856).

- **October 20, 1998:** President Clinton signed the Gallatin Land Consolidation Act of 1998 (H. R. 3381). The legislation, part of the Clinton-Gore Administration's goal of restoring and protecting the greater Yellowstone ecosystem, directed the transfer of certain lands and other assets in Montana to the Big Sky Lumber Company in exchange for a significantly larger amount of land to be included in the Gallatin and Deer Lodge National Forests.

- **October 27, 1998:** President Clinton signed the Border Smog Reduction Act, which prohibited entry into the U.S. of certain foreign vehicles which do not comply with state laws governing emissions (H.R. 8).

- **October 30, 1998:** President Clinton signed the Fish and Wildlife Revenue Enhancement Act (S. 2094).

- **October 30, 1998:** President Clinton signed H.R. 2807, an omnibus measure enhancing fish and wildlife protection, including reauthorization of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act.

- **October 31, 1998:** President Clinton signed the Utah Schools and Land Exchange Act of 1998 — an exchange of land, mineral rights, commercial properties, and natural treasures between the United States and the State of Utah. This was the largest such land exchange in the history of the lower 48 States (H.R. 3830).

- **November 13, 1998:** President Clinton signed the National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998, which improved the management of various park programs and increased funds to parks through concession contracts and the National Park Passport Program (S. 1693).

1999

- **February 3, 1999:** President Clinton issued an executive order to prevent the introduction of invasive species into our environment, and to limit the economic, ecological, and human health impacts those species might have (Executive Order 13112).

- **March 2, 1999:** President Clinton announced completion of negotiations to protect the Headwaters Forest in California — the world's largest unprotected stand of old-growth redwoods.

- **March 9, 1999:** Vice President Gore announced a comprehensive federal strategy to help clean up rivers, lakes and coastal waters by reducing polluted runoff from large livestock operations.

- **April 9, 1999:** President Clinton signed the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Wild and Scenic River Act, which designated portions of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers in Massachusetts as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (H.R. 193).

- **April 22, 1999:** Vice President Gore announced a "regional haze" rule to improve air quality in national parks and wilderness areas so that visitors can enjoy unspoiled views of America's greatest natural treasures.

- **May 29, 1999:** President Clinton issued an executive memorandum to improve the water quality of beaches and rivers, including the Cape Cod, Cape Hatteras, and Pt. Reyes National Seashores.

- **June 3, 1999:** President Clinton issued an executive order directing all federal departments and agencies to improve the energy efficiency of government buildings.

- **August 12, 1999:** The President issued an executive memorandum setting the goal of tripling the nation's use of bioenergy and bioproducts by 2010. At the same time, the President signed an executive order establishing the Interagency Council on Biobased Products and Bioenergy to develop a biomass research program to be presented annually as part of the federal budget (Executive Order 13134).

- **August 14, 1999:** The President announced new steps to restore America's rivers, lakes and coastal waters. Under a proposed rule, the Environmental Protection Agency will work with states to better assess the health of U.S. waterways and to develop detailed plans to make them safe for fishing and swimming.

- **August 21, 1999:** President Clinton announced a landmark agreement to protect 9,300 acres adjoining Yellowstone National Park — a critical step to preserve the park's famed bison and geysers.

- **September 2, 1999:** President Clinton signed a proclamation strengthening our ability to enforce environmental, customs and immigration laws at sea by expanding a critical enforcement zone to include waters within 24 nautical miles of the U.S. coast.

- **September 16, 1999:** President Clinton transmitted to the Senate an amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer to strengthen measures to promote compliance with the protocol.

- **October 13, 1999:** President Clinton directed the National Forest Service to develop regulations to provide long-term protection for 40 million acres of "roadless" areas within national forests. The proposed regulations could ban road building in these areas and could also prohibit logging or other activities that harm their unique ecological value.

- **October 21, 1999:** President Clinton signed into law Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Act of 1999, establishing the Black Canyon in Colorado as a national park (S. 323).

- **October 30, 1999:** President Clinton announced an agreement to preserve New Mexico's spectacular Baca Ranch.

- **October 30, 1999:** President Clinton announced the acquisition of 14,000 additional acres

within the Joshua Tree National Park — land that otherwise might be developed.

- **October 30, 1999:** President Clinton announced a new EPA rule strengthening the public's right to know about highly toxic chemicals released to the environment. The rule establishes or strengthens reporting requirements for 27 "persistent bioaccumulative toxics," including mercury, dioxin, and PCBs, which build up in the environment rather than breaking down.

- **November 5, 1999:** President Clinton announced the addition of 57,000 acres of prime Columbia River Salmon habitat to the National Wildlife Refuge System, including large sections of the Hanford Reach, the last section of free-flowing salmon habitat on the Columbia.

- **November 16, 1999:** Vice President announced that President Clinton signed an executive order requiring careful assessment and consideration of the environmental impacts of trade agreements (Executive Order 13141).

- **November 24, 1999:** President Clinton signed the Arctic Tundra Habitat Emergency Conservation Act (H.R. 2454).

- **December 12, 1999:** President Clinton announced that the EPA was issuing the toughest standards ever for reducing harmful air pollution from auto tailpipes. The new standards ensure that sportutility vehicles, minivans, and lightduty trucks meet the same low levels of tailpipe emissions as other passenger cars.

2000

- **January 11, 2000:** President Clinton signed proclamations creating three new national monuments — the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument and the Agua Fria National Monument in Arizona, and the California Coastal National Monument — and expanding another, the Pinnacles National Monument in California.

- **February 9, 2000:** President Clinton transmitted to the Senate the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, with Annexes. This Convention assists developing countries in evaluating risks and enforcing their regulatory decisions regarding trade in hazardous chemicals and pesticides.

- **February 14, 2000:** President Clinton announced $18.6 million in Forest Legacy grants for 29 projects encompassing nearly 250,000 acres in 19 states and territories. These competitive grants are used to protect private forestland that provides critical wildlife habitat and is threatened by development. Protected lands can continue to be used for forestry and other compatible activities.

- **March 22, 2000:** U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Indian Minister of External Affairs Jaswant Singh signed a U.S.-India statement on cooperation on energy and environment issues on behalf of the United States and India, outlining a common agenda on clean energy development and environmental protection.

- **March 28, 2000:** President Clinton announced new measures to restore "natural quiet" to the Grand Canyon by better managing sight-seeing flights over the National Park. The new rules continue to allow visitors to view the Canyon by air, but limit noise by significantly expanding "flight-free" zones over the Park and by restricting future growth in commercial air tour operations.

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