

Natural Resources

To assure the future availability of essential resources, government policies must promote stewardship of natural resources. Protection and management of natural resources are responsibilities shared by all levels of government.

History of Clean Water

League members became concerned about depletion and conservation of natural resources as far back as the 1920s and 1930s when the League undertook a study of flood control, erosion and the creation of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Water resources were the focus of activities in the 1950s, and with the nascent environmental movement in the 1970s, the League built a broad national program focused on protecting and managing the interrelated aspects of air, water, land use, energy and waste management.



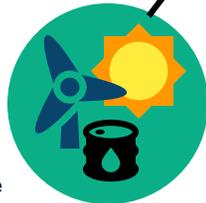
History of Clean Air

The League's citizen activists helped pass the landmark Clean Water Act in the early 1970s and worked to protect, expand and strengthen it through the 1990s. Water issues, from groundwater protection to agricultural runoff to the Safe Drinking Water Act, have energized League leaders,



History of Energy Conservation

With its work on energy policy beginning in the late 1970s, the League began a decades-long push for energy conservation and the use of renewable resources. As global warming emerged as a key environmental and international issue in the late 1990s, energy conservation, renewable resources and air pollution controls took on new significance and the League's interrelated approach to natural resource issues proved farsighted. Understanding the need for global solutions to many environmental problems, the LWVUS has urged full U.S. participation in international efforts.



Air Quality

Supported "Clean Air Act" of 1970 and 1990. Supported EPA's "National Ambient Air Quality Standards" in 1990's. In 2011 the League launched the Clean Air Promise Campaign. The campaign was developed to raise awareness of the dangers of harmful pollutants like industrial carbon, mercury and other air toxicants that created a growing threat to the health of our children and seniors. The League opposed efforts of Congress (2015-2017) to roll back the "Clean Power Plan", "Mercury and Air Toxics Standard" and the "Clean Cars Rule".

Nuclear Waste

The League pushed the "Low Level Waste Policy Act" in 1980 and the "Nuclear Waste Policy Act" in 1982 and 1985. Partnered with Dept. of Energy on third edition of "The Nuclear Waste Primer" to conduct citizen education programs on nuclear waste. In 1995, 1997, 2002, and 2017, LWVUS lobbied against making the Yucca Mountain a permanent repository site for nuclear waste.



Solid Waste

By 1973, members agreed that solid waste should be regarded as a resource, even though much responsibility remained at state and local levels. The "Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976" provided for hazardous waste programs. The "Toxic Substance Control Act of 1976" regulated products that pose dangers to humans. The 1980 "Superfund" Act authorized clean-up of the nation's toxic waste sites.



Water Resources

Passage of the "Safe Drinking Water Act" in 1986 and the "Clean Water Act" of 1987 helped to ensure safe drinking water for all Americans and safeguards against nonpoint pollution. Groundwater issues were addressed in the "Clean Water Act" of 1994. From 2010 through 2015 the League supported the "Frack Pack"; legislation to help protect the environment and public health from the risks of hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") by ending exemptions for oil and gas productions from major environmental laws. In 2015, The "Waters of the United States" regulation defined the waterways, rivers, streams and tributaries protected by the "Clean Water Act"—which was repealed by the Trump administration.

