

# FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.**

---

**Collection/Record Group:** Clinton Presidential Records  
**Subgroup/Office of Origin:** Council on Environmental Quality  
**Series/Staff Member:** Kathleen (Katie) McGinty  
**Subseries:**

---

**OA/ID Number:** 2572  
**FolderID:**

---

**Folder Title:**  
National Environmental Strategy

---

|               |             |                 |               |                  |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| <b>Stack:</b> | <b>Row:</b> | <b>Section:</b> | <b>Shelf:</b> | <b>Position:</b> |
| <b>S</b>      | <b>61</b>   | <b>5</b>        | <b>4</b>      | <b>3</b>         |

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

Office Of  
Policy, Planning and Evaluation

6/1/93

Cathy Zoi

Here are the materials I said I  
would send you. Please call me  
about next steps when you have  
had a chance to look them over.

Berry Allen

260-4028

Draft

JAN 03 1993

# **SETTING ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS FOR THE NATION**

*A Proposal for Discussion and Review*



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

# Contents

---

## Foreword

(not included in this draft)

## Introduction

- 1 Clean Water**
- 2 Safe Drinking Water**
- 3 Clean Air**
- 4 Safe Indoor Environment**
- 5 Protection of the Ozone Layer**
- 6 Global Climate Change**
- 7 Ecological Protection**
- 8 Cleanup of Contaminated Sites**
- 9 Prevention of Ongoing Releases of Harmful Toxic Chemicals**
- 10 Safe Food**
- 11 Worker Safety**
- 12 Prevention of Oil Spills and Chemical Accidents**
- 13 Improved Understanding of the Environment**

## Introduction

Since its creation in 1970, the Environmental Protection Agency has made much progress in improving and preserving environmental quality. Under laws enacted by Congress, EPA has developed programs to control air pollution, water pollution, toxic substances, pesticides, hazardous wastes, pollution from contaminated sites and other threats to the environment. Successes include cleaner air in most American cities, the return of pollution-sensitive fish to many rivers and lakes, and the recovery from near-extinction of the bald eagle and several other species.

Yet environmental challenges continue to confront us. Many of these are intractable problems that EPA has been addressing since the 1970s. Smog in large urban areas, nonpoint source water pollution, abandoned hazardous waste sites, and continued wetlands losses are examples.

Responding to recent scientific findings, EPA also is contending with newer environmental concerns, such as stratospheric ozone depletion, global climate change, losses of biological diversity, and indoor air pollution. Successful mitigation of many of these problems will take decades.

The development and use of measurable environmental goals can provide strategic direction for the long-term efforts needed to address modern environmental problems. The goal development process--if it includes participation of the broad range of government agencies with environmental responsibilities, private stakeholders in environmental policy, and the public--is an opportunity to build national consensus on environmental priorities. Once goals are set, they provide clear direction to for design of effective, efficient government and private programs to fulfill national priorities. This project is intended to ensure that the environmental goals used by EPA reflect broad consensus on what the Nation must achieve to sustain the quality of its environment and the prosperity of its people.

To initiate the public dialogue needed to develop national environmental goals, EPA has developed a set of draft goal statements. This report presents the draft goal statements together with brief descriptions of the potential roles of EPA and other organizations in achieving each goal. In the next \_\_\_ months, the Agency will invite

Federal, state, and local government agencies, the Congress, private stakeholders, and the public to contribute to development of measurable environmental goals for the Nation.

The success of these efforts--both to set goals and to implement strategies to achieve them--will depend on active participation of the broad range of institutions and individuals who share responsibilities for protecting the Nation's environment. The draft goal statements encompass important EPA responsibilities, but the goals are also relevant to the responsibilities of other Federal, state, and local agencies, the Congress, private organizations and businesses, and the public. EPA will strive to ensure that all perspectives are incorporated in the upcoming dialogue.

The draft goal statements presented in this report address national environmental issues of primary significance. Environmental statutes and programs include hundreds of important objectives. In presenting a subset of these objectives, EPA hopes to focus initial discussions of measurable goals on those issues of greatest long-term significance to the Nation. Many environmental objectives not included among the major ("Tier-One") goals are identified as components of the Tier-One goals. These components are listed as "Tier-Two" goals in the report.

The process used to establish goals should use the best available scientific information about environmental risks. For example, the EPA Science Advisory Board's *Reducing Risk* (1990) provides a thorough overview of the relative risks that a broad range of environmental problems pose to people and ecosystems. The conclusions of this study and other pertinent information should be incorporated in the goal-setting effort.

The Environmental Protection Agency hopes to help forge broad consensus on long-term national environmental priorities and on measurable environmental goals that reflect those priorities. This report is intended to spur the dialogue needed to establish this consensus.

# Clean Water

---

## Goal

The surface waters of the United States, including lakes, rivers, streams, and bays, are clean and safe for human recreation and fish and shellfish consumption and support healthy fish and wildlife.

By the year \_\_\_\_, Xpercent of the surface waters of the U.S. fully meet fishable and swimmable standards set by the states.

## Background

Pollution of lakes, rivers, and coastal waters can pose threats to human health, aquatic ecosystems, and wildlife. Pollution enters the Nation's waters from three major types of sources: point sources, nonpoint sources and air deposition. Point sources are distinct "points" of concentrated pollution, such as pipes from industrial facilities and sewage treatment plants. Wastes from these sources may contain toxic substances, bacteria, viruses, acids, oxygen-demanding compounds, and nutrients. Oxygen-demanding compounds deplete dissolved oxygen that is essential to aquatic life, while nutrients foster excess algae growth, which also depletes oxygen in the water and ultimately kills aquatic organisms. Toxic pollutants not only threaten aquatic organisms, but also the health of people who drink or swim in polluted waters or eat contaminated fish.

Pollutants also enter water in runoff from "nonpoint sources," which account for more of the Nation's water quality problems than the point sources. Agriculture is the most commonly reported nonpoint source category. Rainwater carries sediment, animal wastes, and agricultural chemicals from farms into nearby streams. Once in the water, sediment chokes off light needed by aquatic vegetation. In addition, some agricultural chemicals are toxic to fish and others fertilize algae growth. Nonpoint sources also include runoff from cities and suburbs, highways, construction sites, and logged areas.

Another source of water pollution is polluted air. For example, acid rain washes acidic contaminants in the air into lakes and rivers. Toxic substances, nutrients and oxygen-demanding compounds may also enter the water from the air. Principal sources of this problem, known as air deposition, are power plants, industrial facilities, motor vehicles, and windblown chemicals from farms.

## EPA's Roles

Under the Clean Water Act, EPA works with states and municipalities to control all types of water pollution. In most cases, states determine the "designated uses" of their waters (usually swimming, habitat for fish and other aquatic life, or agricultural and industrial uses) and set water quality standards to protect these uses. EPA regulates (or gives authority to states to regulate) the amount of pollution that point sources can discharge to water. These limits are set to protect the designated uses of the waters receiving the pollution. EPA provides scientific criteria for the limits, backs up states with inspections and legal enforcement, and provides grants to help fund state water quality programs. EPA also provides grants and loans to municipalities for sewage treatment plant construction, although grants will soon be entirely replaced by loans.

To reduce pollution from nonpoint sources, EPA provides grants and loans through states to farmers, municipalities and others to facilitate their adoption of "best management practices" to control the runoff of pollutants. Grants are

targeted to locations where nonpoint sources pose the greatest threats to water quality.

Under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, EPA is accelerating work to diminish air deposition. New regulations affecting power plants and motor vehicles will reduce emissions of pollutants that acidify lakes and streams and cause oxygen depletion in coastal waters.

EPA also is coordinating intensive efforts to restore high value, threatened waters. These areas include the Great Lakes, the Chesapeake Bay, and the Gulf of Mexico.

### **The Roles of Others**

EPA has delegated responsibility to most states for setting standards and issuing and enforcing permits. Municipalities also have important roles, especially in operating sewage treatment plants under permits issued by the states or EPA. Municipalities must require industries to "pre-treat" pollutants before they are discharged into municipal sewers.

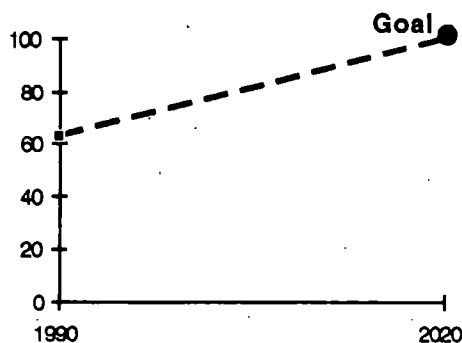
State and local governments generally have the lead roles in assessing nonpoint source pollution and correcting it with technical assistance from federal agencies.

Numerous federal and state agencies are responsible for protecting and managing fish and aquatic wildlife. In particular, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Park Service work with EPA and state programs to protect water quality. The Department of Agriculture is assuming a growing role in working with farmers to prevent water pollution from cropland and livestock.

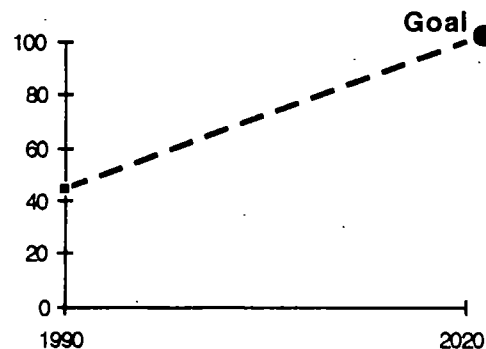
## Possible Indicator

Proportion of waters assessed by states nationwide where water quality is reported by states to be failing to allow "designated uses" of the water (e.g., fishing, swimming, other recreation, and aquatic life support) due to any variety of problems: conventional pollutant concentrations, toxics in water, sediments, or fish or shellfish, or an observed failure of natural populations of fish and other wildlife due to pollution.

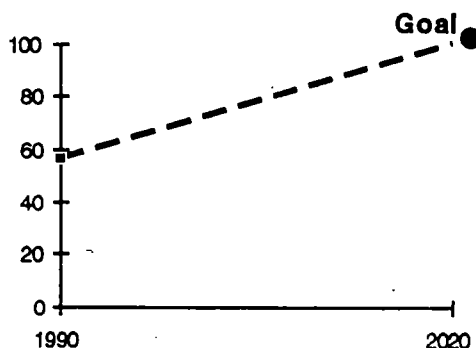
**Percent of Assessed River Miles Fully Supporting Designated Uses**



**Percent of Assessed Lakes Acres Fully Supporting Designated Uses**



**Percent of Assessed Estuary Square Miles Fully Supporting Designated Uses**



Source: U.S. EPA, *National Water Quality Inventory, 1990 Report to Congress*.

**Statistical Quality:** Relative, qualitative information; not currently consistent enough for year-to-year comparisons.

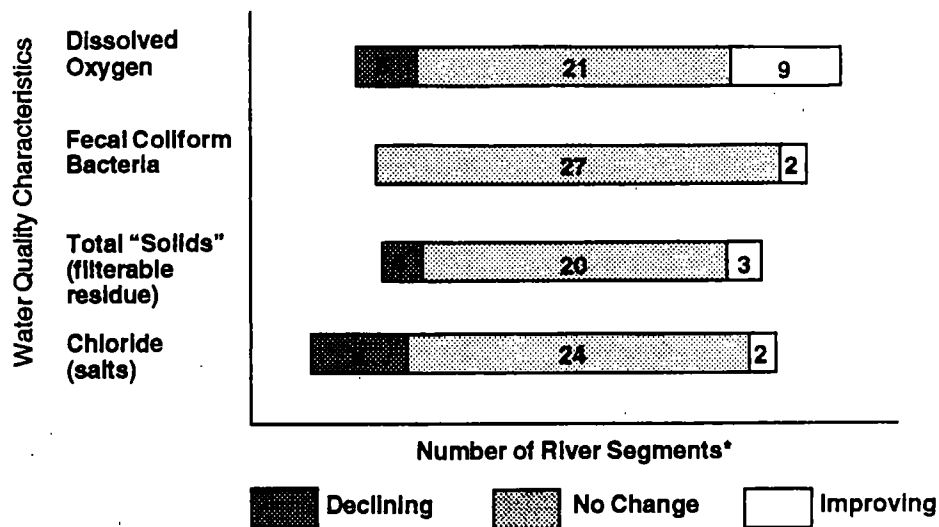
**Scientific Validity:** Moderate (state-to-state differences in variables that are assessed).

**Areas the Indicator Falls to Address:** Only some waters, not necessarily representative of all waters, are assessed as shown in graphics. Rural waters and small streams in all locations are probably under-sampled compared to urban waters near point source discharges.



## Possible Indicator

## Changes in Chemically Measured Water Quality in Major River Segments EPA and States have Monitored Consistently Since 1972



- Lengths of segments range from \_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_. Data are from all segments in national EPA data base (STORET) for which consistent data are available since 1972. They typically include areas monitored because they had known sources of pollution and are not intended to be statistically representative of all United States waters.

Future data will be based on a more consistent monitoring baseline including more types of water quality characteristics, such as other pollutants and biological measures.

Source: U.S. EPA, Office of Water. *Water Quality Inventory of Twenty-Two Major Waterways*. 1992.

**Statistical Quality:**

**Scientific Validity:**

**Areas the Indicator Falls to Address:**

**Possible  
Tier-Two Goals**

**Office of Water**

- Reduce nonpoint source impacts by increasing the application and enforcement of both pollution control and pollution prevention measures.
- By the year \_\_\_\_, reduce by \_\_\_\_percent the discharge of selected toxic pollutants to United States waters.
- By the year \_\_\_\_, reduce by \_\_\_\_percent the discharge of selected conventional pollutants to United States waters.
- By the year \_\_\_\_, reduce by \_\_\_\_percent CSO loadings of selected pollutants to United States waters.
- By the year \_\_\_\_, reduce by \_\_\_\_percent the number of humans exposed to infectious agents in the aquatic environment through contact.
- By the year \_\_\_\_, reduce the amount of marine debris by \_\_\_\_percent.



# Safe Drinking Water

---

## Goal

All Americans are entitled to have a safe source (surface or ground) of drinking water. X million Americans are served by public water systems; Y percent of these drink water from systems that are in continuous compliance with EPA's regulations. An additional Z million people drink water from a private system for which state and local governments set standards.

By the year \_\_\_\_, increase to \_\_\_\_ percent the population served by public water systems using ground or surface water sources that meet all drinking water standards (MCLs only).

## Background

Safe drinking water supplies are essential for protecting public health. United States drinking waters are among the best protected in the world. Once-common deadly waterborne diseases, such as typhoid fever and cholera, have been almost eliminated. Yet drinking water contamination remains a problem in the United States microbiological contaminants, such as bacteria and viruses, still cause disease in people. Between 1971 and 1988, reported waterborne disease outbreaks in the United States affected an average of 7,700 people per year. Chemical contaminants, including lead, nitrates, fluoride, pesticides, radioactive materials, and disinfectants used in water treatment, also threaten people's health.

Public water systems serve the homes of an estimated 230 million Americans. Almost two-thirds of these people live in or near major metropolitan areas, where rivers and lakes are the principal water source. Ground water is the source of water for most people living in other areas.

Sources of groundwater pollution include septic tanks, underground storage tanks, farms, and waste disposal sites. Rivers and lakes are polluted by industrial facilities, sewage treatment plants, and runoff from farms and urban areas. Drinking water treatment and delivery systems (pipes) may inadvertently contaminate water with lead, disinfectants and their by-products, and fluoride.

## EPA's Roles

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) of 1974 directs EPA to establish minimum national drinking water standards. These "Maximum Contaminant Levels" (MCLs) are limits on the amounts of various substances found in drinking water. MCLs are set to protect the health of an individual drinking two liters of water a day for a lifetime. Every public water supply system serving 25 or more people (or at least 15 service connections) must meet these standards.

Amendments to the SDWA in 1986 required EPA to accelerate its establishment of drinking water standards. As of 1986, national standards existed for 23 contaminants; EPA expects to have standards for 111 contaminants by the end of 1995. The amendments also banned future use of lead in public drinking water systems, required filtration and disinfection of most public water supplies, and established a program to prevent contamination of areas around ground water wells. The 1986 amendments also tightened controls on injection of hazardous waste into underground disposal wells.

EPA must enforce the MCLs until states are qualified to do so. EPA also sets monitoring and enforcement requirements for state drinking water programs. If a state cannot meet these requirements, EPA conducts the program. EPA also is

authorized to take actions against public water systems when states are slow to enforce the law, or when a state asks EPA to act.

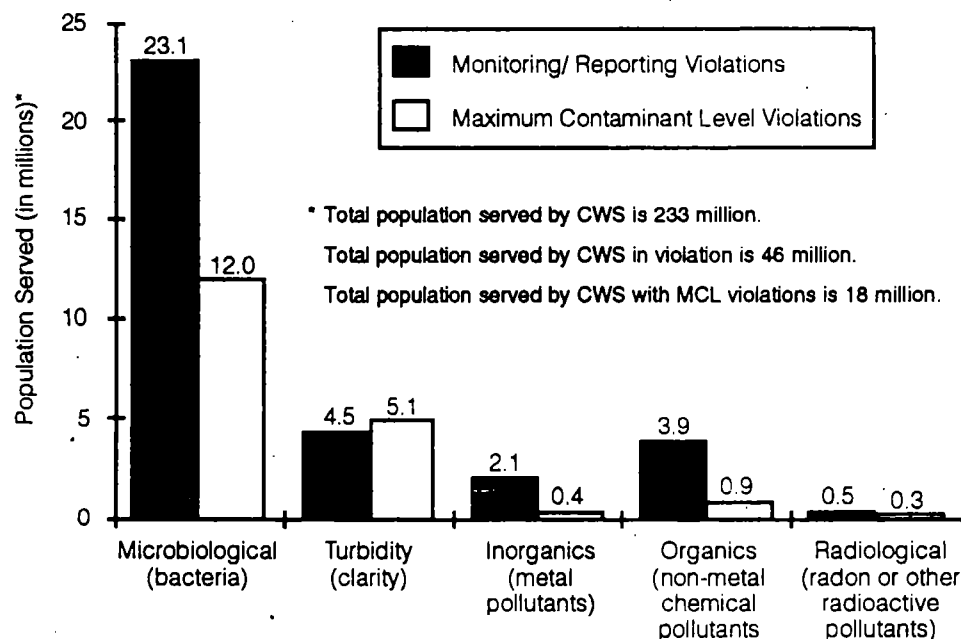
## The Roles of Others

Once a state adopts standards at least as strict as the national MCLs and is able to carry out adequate monitoring and enforcement, it is given primary enforcement authority for the drinking water program.

Water suppliers are responsible for periodic testing of their water. They must report any violations of standards to the appropriate state agency and to the public through newspaper, television, or radio announcements. Approximately 73 percent of public water systems meet all current standards and monitoring requirements. Small systems serving less than 3,300 people are responsible for most violations. Public water systems currently in compliance with all standards may have to undertake new treatment technologies to meet the new standards being set under the 1986 amendments.

## Possible Indicator

### Population Served by Community Water Systems in Violation of Drinking Water Standards, FY 1991



Source: U.S. EPA, Office of Drinking Water, 1992.

**Statistical Quality:** There are known problems with data quality due to inconsistencies in self-reporting of regulated facilities, state enforcement and reporting capabilities, and laboratory practices.

**Scientific Validity:**

**Areas the Indicator Fails to Address:**

**Possible  
Tier-Two Goals**

**Office of Water**

- By the year, \_\_\_\_, reduce by \_\_\_\_ percent toxic loadings into or above underground sources of drinking water through Class V wells.
- By the year, \_\_\_\_, increase locally managed Wellhead Protection Programs to provide protection to \_\_\_\_ percent of the population served by PWSS using ground water.
- By the year, \_\_\_\_, reduce to \_\_\_\_ percent the fraction of children with blood-lead levels above 10 micrograms per deciliter. (This goal will also be contributed to by Tier-One goals: "Safe Indoor Environments," and "Prevention of Ongoing releases of Harmful Toxic Chemicals.")
- By the year, \_\_\_\_, reduce by \_\_\_\_ percent the number of people with acute ill effects from consumption of contaminated drinking water.



# Clean Air

---

## Goal

The entire nation should have healthy air that meets all Federal Air Quality Standards. Visibility throughout the Nation will improve.

By the year 2000, the number of areas not meeting the air quality standards will be reduced from 203 to 15. These last 15 areas will have healthy air by the year 2010. Visibility in the United States will improve by 25 percent by the year 2005. Air in scenic areas with poor visibility at present will be increasingly clear, and there will be no worsening of visibility in currently clear scenic areas, such as National Parks.

## Background

Air pollution threatens the health and welfare of people and ecosystems in many areas of the country. Ozone at ground level, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulfur oxides, and nitrogen oxides cause a variety of human health problems ranging from eye and throat irritation to permanent lung damage. Lead in the air causes brain damage, especially in children. Sulfur oxides and nitrogen oxides combine with water vapor to form acid rain, which harms lakes, streams, and forests, while ground-level ozone damages forests and crops.

Air pollution from factories, motor vehicles, and other sources also reduces visibility throughout many urban areas. In rural areas, pollutants such as sulfur dioxide and particulate matter can reduce visibility hundreds of miles from their sources. Sulfur dioxide from power plants is the primary cause of visibility degradation in the eastern United States, while carbon particles play an important role in the northwestern part of the country.

## EPA's Roles

EPA has established "National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (NAAQS) for six air pollutants that are believed to pose the greatest threats to human health and welfare: ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and lead. By law, NAAQS are set so that attainment of the standards protects human health and welfare. The emissions of all these pollutants, except nitrogen oxides, have been reduced substantially since the NAAQS were set. Lead emissions reductions have been especially dramatic—98 percent since 1970. Nonetheless, EPA's most recent information indicates that 86 million people live in counties where NAAQS are still violated for one or more of the six pollutants.

Prior to 1990, EPA's efforts to enhance visibility focused on controlling air pollutants to meet the NAAQS and conducting enhanced reviews of major new pollution sources locating in clean areas. The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 strengthen EPA's role by establishing an acid rain program that will further reduce emissions of sulfur oxides and nitrogen oxides. The Amendments give EPA direction to address impairment of visibility caused by long-range transport of pollutants to scenic areas, such as National Parks and National Wilderness Areas.

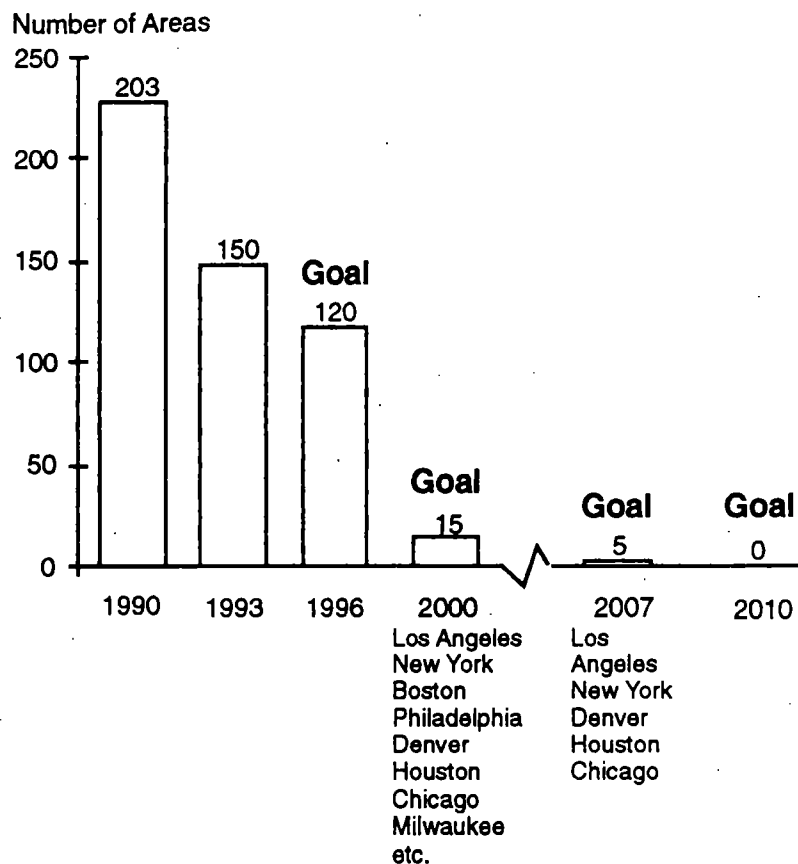
## The Roles of Others

The Clean Air Act assigns to the states the basic responsibility for ensuring compliance with the NAAQS. Each state develops a plan to meet the NAAQS. Once EPA approves the plan, the state is responsible for enforcing it. States frequently assign significant responsibilities for implementing their plans to local air and transportation agencies. Citizens may sue to enforce any part of the approved plan.



## Possible Indicator

In 1990 There Were 203 Areas in Non-Attainment of Standards for One or More of the NAAQS Air Pollutants



Source: U.S. EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, 1993.

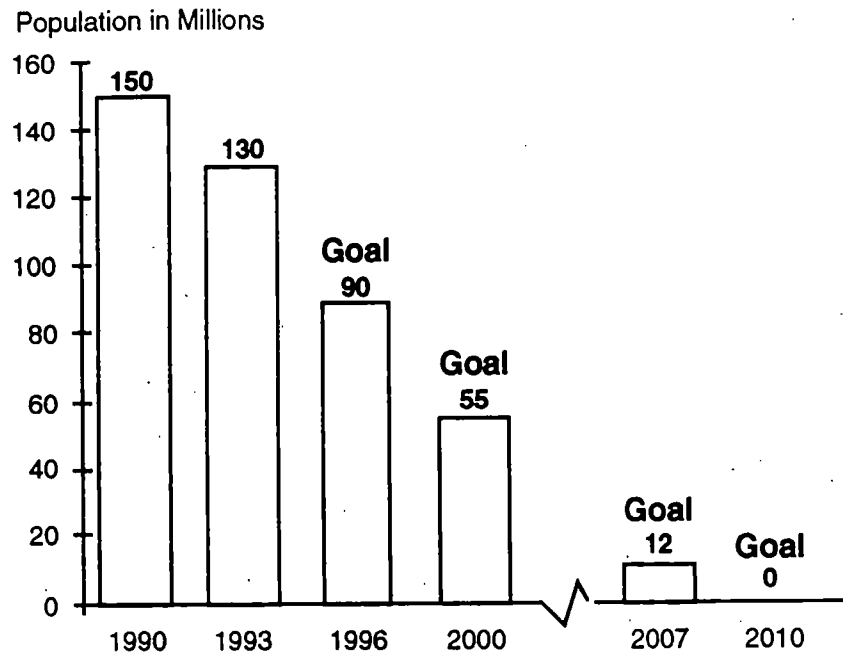
**Statistical Quality:** Good, although high cost of monitoring means monitoring is not as complete as desirable, so cities reported on border line of attainment may be in non-attainment for short time periods.

**Scientific Validity:** Good.

**Areas the Indicator Fails to Address:** ?

**Possible Indicator**

**Estimated Number of People Living in Areas Not Meeting Air Quality Standards**



Source: U.S. EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, 1993.

**Statistical Quality:**

**Scientific Validity:**

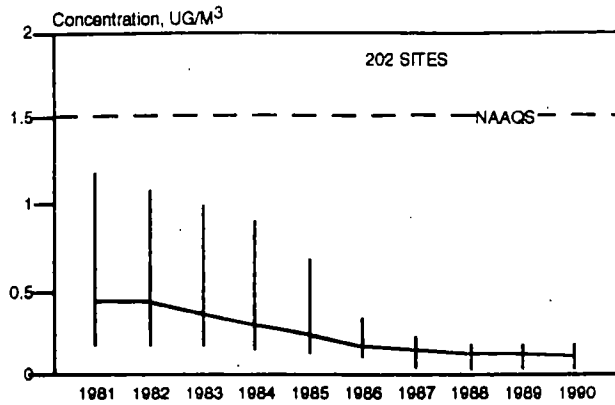
**Areas the Indicator Falls to Address:**

**Possible  
Tier-Two Goals**

(NOTE: This Tier-One goal contains objectives consistent with the level of detail generally found in Tier-Two Goals.)

**Possible Indicator**

**Lead Trend, 1981 – 1990 (Max Quarterly Mean)**

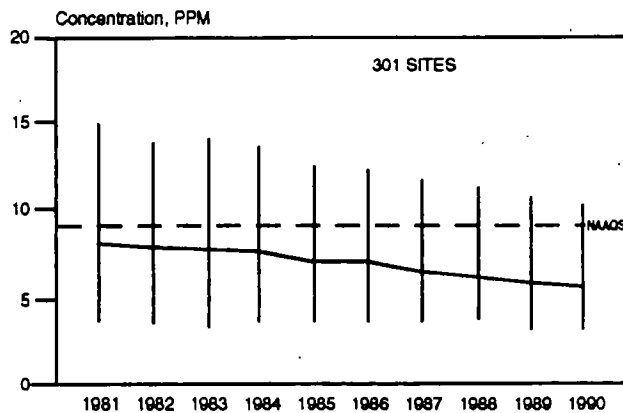


The vertical lines represents the 95% confidence interval

Source: U.S. EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, 1993.

**Possible Indicator**

**Carbon Monoxide Trend, 1981 – 1990 (Annual 2nd Max 8-hour Non-Overlapping Mean)**

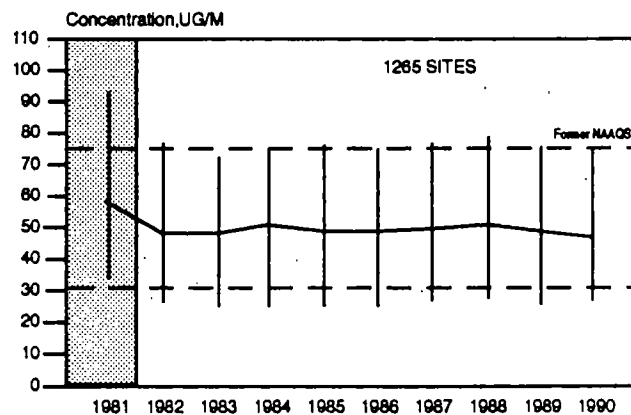


The vertical lines represents the 95% confidence interval

Source: U.S. EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, 1993.

**Possible Indicator**

**Total Suspended Particulate Trend, 1981 – 1990 (Annual Geometric Mean)**

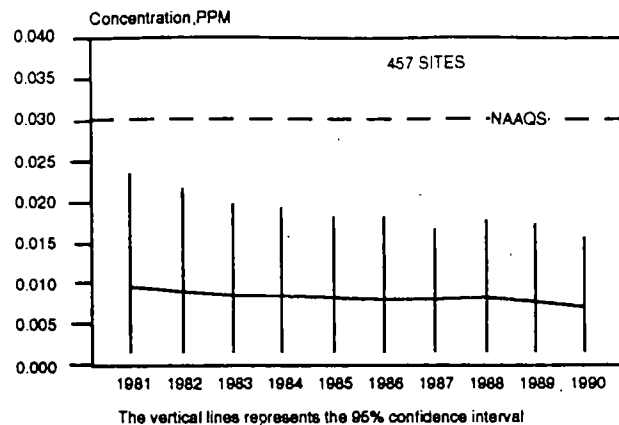


The vertical lines represents the 95% confidence interval

Source: U.S. EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, 1993.

**Possible Indicator**

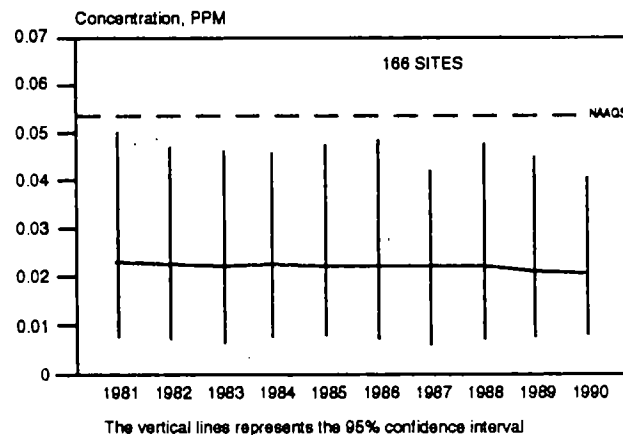
**Sulfur Dioxide Trend, 1981 – 1990 (Annual Arithmetic Mean)**



Source: U.S. EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, 1993.

**Possible Indicator**

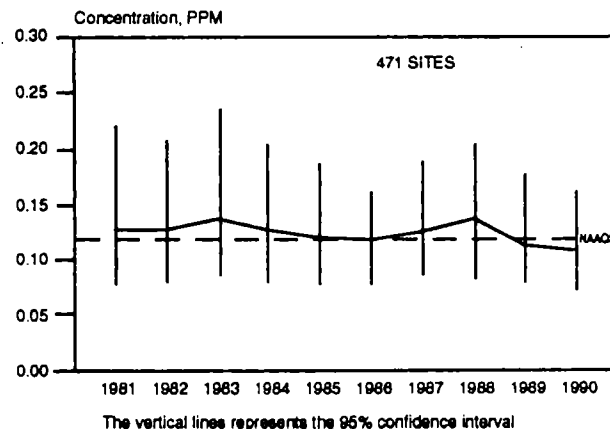
**Nitrogen Dioxide Trend, 1981 – 1990 (Annual Arithmetic Mean)**



Source: U.S. EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, 1993.

**Possible Indicator**

**Ozone Trend, 1981 – 1990 (Annual 2nd Daily Max Hour)**



Source: U.S. EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, 1993.



# Safe Indoor Environment

---

## Goal

EPA will develop and implement both regulatory and non-regulatory strategies designed to minimize health risks in indoor environments.

## Background

Indoor pollution in homes, schools, offices, and other buildings is one of the most serious human health risks on the Nation's environmental agenda. Levels of some harmful contaminants are often higher indoors than outside, especially in buildings that are well-sealed for energy efficiency. Since people spend about 90 percent of their time indoors, health threats from indoor pollution often exceed the dangers posed by pollution outdoors.

Indoor air pollutants cause effects ranging from eye irritation to cancer and birth defects. Radon, a radioactive gas that occurs naturally in the ground in many areas, typically enters buildings through cracks in foundations. Radon causes an estimated 7,000 to 30,000 lung cancer deaths each year. Environmental tobacco smoke, or "secondhand smoke" from smokers, increases the risk of lung cancer in non-smokers and causes serious respiratory effects in infants and young children. Airborne fibers from asbestos in insulation, fireproofing, and ceiling tiles also cause cancer. Furniture, foam and plywood release formaldehyde, an eye and respiratory irritant that also may cause cancer. Many items commonly used in homes and offices—paints, solvents, cleansers, pesticides, dry cleaned clothes, and space heaters—release pollutants to the indoor air. Bacteria, fungi, viruses, and other biological pollutants can spread indoors through heating, ventilation, and cooling systems. In some buildings, inadequate ventilation systems and indoor air contaminants cause health effects in occupants ranging from headaches to eye, nose and throat irritation. While symptoms are associated with time spent indoors, their precise cause is often difficult to identify.

Lead, which causes brain and kidney damage and premature births, is a hazard in many buildings. Lead-based paint contaminates many indoor environments, particularly in older, inner-city homes. When this paint deteriorates or is improperly removed, lead dust pollutes indoor air. Children sometimes eat chips of lead-based paint. Lead dust may also come from lead-contaminated soil that is tracked indoors. Drinking water pipes and joints that contain lead may contaminate water supplies.

## Possible Indicator

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, EPA has banned the use in homes of pipes containing more than 8 percent lead and solder with lead content greater than 0.2 percent. Under the Clean Air Act, EPA prohibits the use of asbestos in certain types of insulation products. EPA also protects indoor environments by using its authorities under the Toxic Substances Control Act and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act to control pesticides and other toxic substances that present unreasonable threats to human health.

Since owners of homes and other buildings are primarily responsible for maintaining safe indoor environments, EPA's role is largely based on public education and research. EPA has initiated national campaigns urging owners to find and fix problems in their buildings. EPA also provides step-by-step recommendations on testing for and managing radon, asbestos, and lead problems. For example, EPA and the Surgeon General recommend testing all homes below third floor level and all schools for radon, and EPA provides guidance to homeowners,

school officials, and doctors on how to handle radon problems. Building owners are advised to leave asbestos material in good condition alone and to consult professionals on how to manage deteriorating asbestos. EPA provides information to homeowners about testing for and eliminating lead in drinking water and for removing lead-based paint. EPA and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health have published a guide to help building managers and owners prevent sick building syndrome.

EPA provides grants to states to establish and strengthen their radon programs. EPA also provides loans and grants to schools for asbestos inspection and removal. EPA trains and accredits professionals who inspect for and manage asbestos problems. Similarly, EPA trains and certifies contractors who diagnose and control radon and lead contamination. EPA also is developing and encouraging the use of radon resistant construction techniques, which have been used in hundreds of thousands of new homes.

### The Roles of Others

The Consumer Product Safety Commission limits lead content in paint for home use to 0.06 percent. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is the principal federal agency responsible for eliminating lead-based paint in housing. EPA and HUD work together to accredit professionals who remove lead-based paint. HUD also regulates formaldehyde emissions from pressed woods in mobile homes, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has set limits for workplace levels of formaldehyde. EPA collaborates with over twenty national organizations, such as the American Lung Association and the American Medical Association, to reduce the number of people exposed dangerous levels of radon.

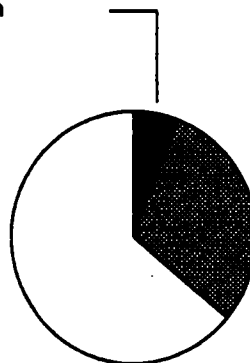
Hundreds of cities and most states have restricted smoking in some areas, particularly in workplaces. Most states have programs to address radon, asbestos, and lead problems in homes, schools, and other buildings. Several states have enacted laws that require disclosure of radon levels in homes for sale.

### Possible Indicator

#### Estimated Radon Levels in United States Households Based on the National Residential Radon Survey

Above EPA's recommended action level of 4 pCi/L - 5.8 million households (6%)

Less than 1 pCi/L - 59.3 million households (64%)



Between 1 and 4 pCi/L - 27.9 million households (30%)

There are 93 million households in the U.S.

pCi/L = picoCuries Per Liter

Source: U.S. EPA, Office of Air and Radiation, 1992.

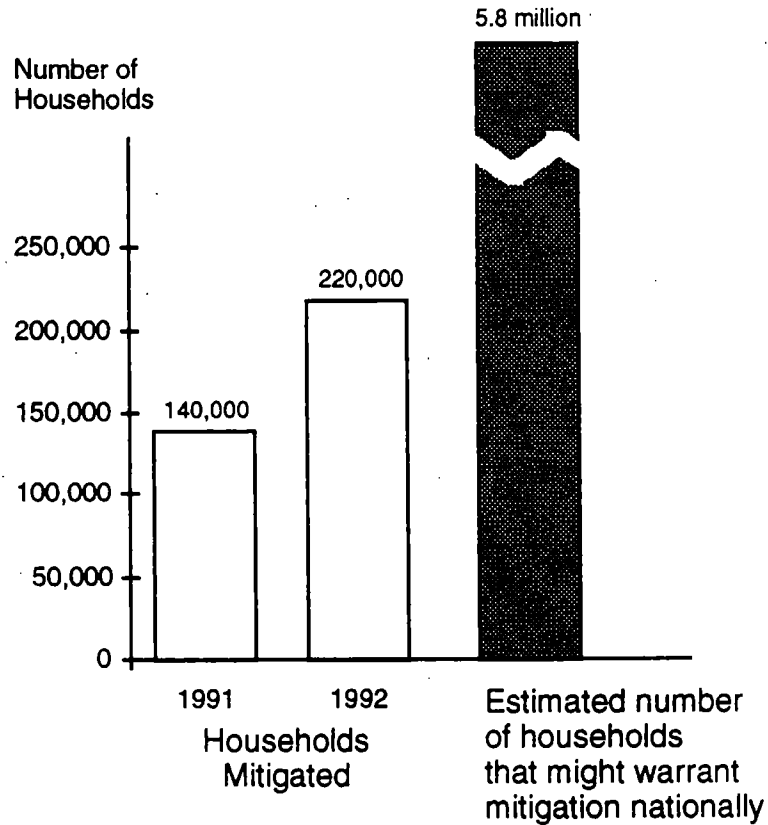
**Statistical Quality:**

**Scientific Validity:**

**Areas the Indicator Fails to Address:**

**Possible Indicator**

**Number of Households Mitigated for Radon Problems**



Source: U.S. EPA, Office of Air and Radiation, 1992.

**Statistical Quality:**

**Scientific Validity:**

**Areas the Indicator Fails to Address:**

**Possible  
Tier-Two Goals**

**Office of Air and Radiation**

- Ensure that 25 to 30 percent of homes are tested for radon by 2010.
- Minimize human exposure to all indoor air contaminants.





# Protection of the Ozone Layer

---

## Goal

By the end of 1995, the United States will stop the production of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which damage the stratospheric ozone layer that protects the earth from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays. The United States will assist other countries in eliminating these substances worldwide.

## Background

The stratospheric ozone layer shields the earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation. Increasing atmospheric concentrations of chemicals such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), halons, carbon tetrachloride, and methyl chloroform are breaking down the ozone layer. These chemicals are released from refrigerators, air conditioners and certain industrial processes. As a result, more ultraviolet radiation reaches the earth's surface, where it causes skin cancers, immune deficiencies, other adverse effects on human health, and damage to crops and ecosystems.

In response to worldwide concerns about stratospheric ozone depletion, many nations have worked to reduce production and use of ozone-depleting substances. The United States was an early leader in these efforts, banning non-essential use of chlorofluorocarbons as aerosol propellants in 1978. The Vienna Convention of 1985 stated an international goal of reducing use of ozone-depleting substances, while countries signing the 1987 Montreal Protocol committed to reducing use of these substances by 50 percent by 1998. More ambitious goals were advanced in the London Amendments of 1990, which called for a complete phaseout of many ozone-depleting substances by 2000.

## EPA's Roles

The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 directed EPA to implement a national production phaseout of most ozone-depleting substances by 2000. This phaseout schedule, while consistent with the London Amendments, includes more stringent interim reduction goals. In February 1992, the President called for an accelerated phaseout of these chemicals, based on evidence that stratospheric ozone was thinning faster than anticipated. The United States is now committed to halting production of most ozone-depleting substances by the end of 1995.

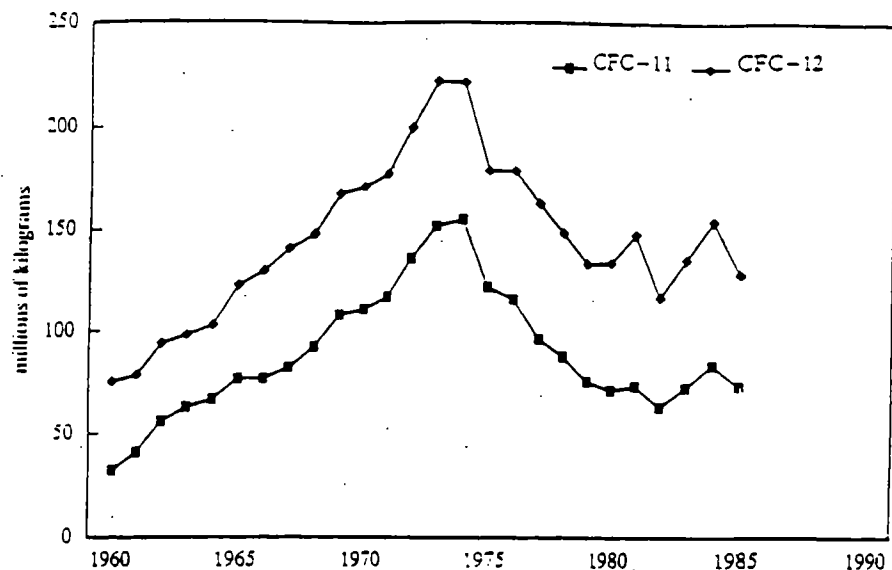
EPA administers a tracking system to ensure that producers and importers of ozone-depleting substances comply with the national schedule. To facilitate the economic adjustment that the phaseout requires, EPA allows producers to transfer their rights to manufacture these substances to other producers, but only if the transfer results in diminished production. EPA is developing a national recycling program for CFCs used in refrigerators and air conditioners, and has banned intentional releases of these chemicals. At the international level, EPA assists developing countries in eliminating ozone-depleting substances and using substitutes.

## The Roles of Others

A worldwide phaseout of ozone-depleting substances will require the cooperation of all countries. The Department of State has the lead role in negotiating international agreements on this and other international environmental issues. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of Energy and EPA have all contributed to international scientific efforts to improve understanding of stratospheric ozone depletion. Private industry also has a critical role in developing substitutes for ozone-depleting substances.

## Possible Indicator

## Historical Production of CFCs in the United States



Source: International Trade Commission, 1986.

**Statistical Quality:**

**Scientific Validity:**

**Areas the Indicator Fails to Address:**

## Possible Tier-Two Goals

### Office of Air and Radiation

- Reduce cumulative chlorine concentrations in the stratosphere to pre-Antarctic ozone hole levels (2 ppb).

# Global Climate Change

---

## Goal

The United States will study changes in the global climate to better understand the relationship between human activities and the warming of the atmosphere and to design a long-range plan to minimize any human impact on this warming. In the short-term, EPA will encourage energy conservation and the development and use of energy sources that have less impact on warming than ones now in use. EPA will also educate the public about what steps we can all take to help prevent additional global warming.

## Background

The "greenhouse effect" occurs as gases in the atmosphere trap heat from the sun and contribute to the warming of the earth. Most of these heat-trapping gases, called greenhouse gases, occur naturally in the atmosphere. Yet atmospheric concentrations of some greenhouse gases are steadily rising, largely as a result of human activities. Substantial scientific evidence indicates that increasing levels of greenhouse gases will raise global temperatures. While we are uncertain about the amount and timing of the warming effect, research indicates that it could have harmful consequences for humans and ecosystems. These impacts include sea level rise, increased incidence of droughts and storms, altered precipitation patterns, changes in agricultural yields, and extinctions of species that cannot adapt to increased temperatures and other changes.

A broad range of human activities cause greenhouse gas emissions. The largest human contributions to these emissions come from combustion of fossil fuels for electricity, transportation, and industrial processes. Other sources include deforestation, livestock production, and rice cultivation. These activities have substantially added to natural levels of certain greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide. Humans have also added synthetic greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, most notably chlorofluorocarbons. The United States now accounts for approximately one-fifth of annual worldwide emissions of greenhouse gases.

## EPA's Roles

EPA has direct authority to regulate certain types of greenhouse gas emissions. For example, under the Clean Air Act (CAA) Amendments of 1990, EPA is implementing a national phaseout of chlorofluorocarbons, greenhouse gases that also destroy the stratospheric ozone layer. EPA has also issued regulations under the CAA to reduce methane emissions from landfills.

A number of EPA efforts encourage voluntary actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions by increasing energy efficiency. For example, the "Green Lights" program enlists private and public "partners" to reduce power consumption (and greenhouse gas emissions) voluntarily by installing energy-efficient lighting. The program helps partners reduce their electricity bills and will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated two-million tons annually. EPA also supports state and local government programs to reduce summertime electricity use in cities by planting shade trees and using lighter colors on surfaces.

EPA sponsors research on climate change, its causes and potential effects, options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and strategies for reducing its impacts.

## The Roles of Others

Because the causes and potential impacts of climate change are global in scope, an effective response to the problem will require cooperation from all countries. The Framework Convention on Climate Change, ratified by the United States in October 1992, sets procedures for international cooperation. The Convention requires each signing country to inventory its greenhouse gas emissions and to develop a plan to reduce emissions.

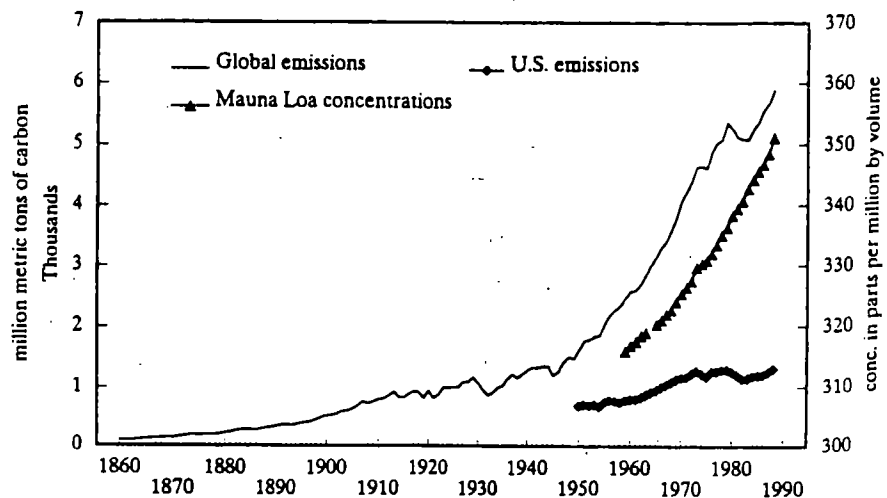
EPA and other U.S. Government agencies also provide assistance for climate change mitigation efforts in other countries. EPA and the Department of Energy (DOE) spearhead United States assistance to developing countries to inventory greenhouse emissions and analyze emissions reductions policies. EPA, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Agency for International Development assist other countries in developing forest conservation and management programs.

In the United States, DOE has the lead role in promoting energy efficiency and developing energy sources that do not require fossil fuel combustion. The Department of Transportation is implementing the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, which should improve the energy efficiency of automobiles and public transit. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Geological Survey, and DOE sponsor research on climate change.

Several states have adopted programs to address climate change by promoting energy efficiency, planting trees (which absorb carbon dioxide), and planning to minimize impacts of future sea level rise. Private firms and citizens can also contribute by making energy efficient household, workplace, and transportation choices, and by planting trees.

## Possible Indicator

### Carbon Dioxide Emissions and Concentrations



Source: Oak Ridge National Laboratory, 1990.

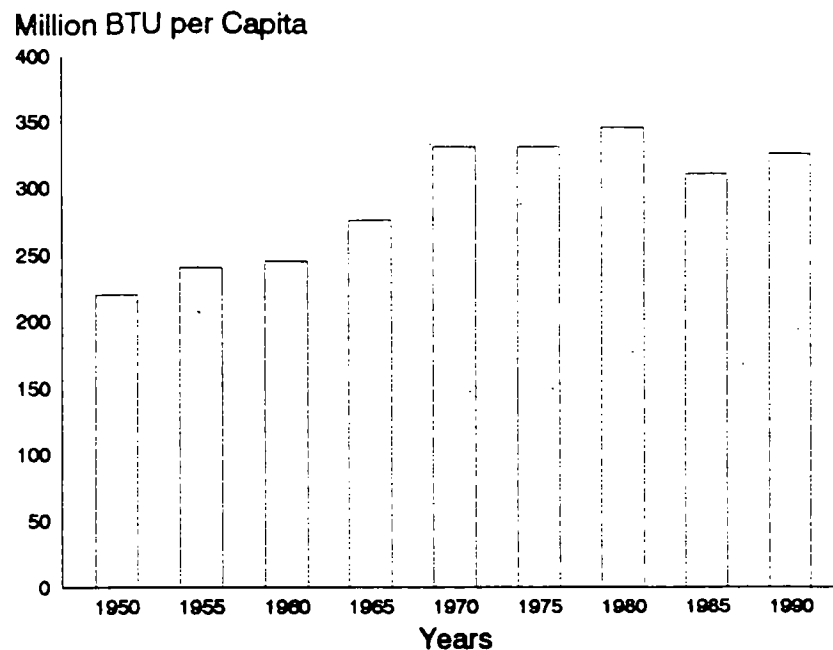
**Statistical Quality:**

**Scientific Validity:**

**Areas the Indicator Fails to Address:**

**Possible Indicator**

**Energy Use in the United States Per Capita**



Source: Energy Information Administration, Annual Energy Review 1991

**Statistical Quality:**

**Scientific Validity:**

**Areas the Indicator Fails to Address:**

**Possible  
Tier-Two Goals**

**Office of Air and Radiation**

- Stabilize global methane concentrations in the atmosphere by the year 2005.



# Ecological Protection

---

## Goal

EPA will work with other government agencies and non-governmental organizations to conserve biological diversity by protecting and restoring the Nation's important habitats and ecological resources.

## Background

Biological diversity, or biodiversity, is the variety of life on earth. Biodiversity is essential for sustaining life and for the well-being of people, and is important at different levels: ecosystem, species, and genetic. An "ecosystem" is an area's plants, animals, nonliving elements such as minerals and air, and the interactions among them. Ecosystem diversity not only provides habitats for a variety of species, but also makes possible a range of important natural functions, from moderation of local temperatures by forests to purification of water by wetlands. Species diversity is the variety of plants, animals, and microorganisms that inhabit the earth's ecosystems—from well-known endangered species to obscure fungi that may be useful in medicines. Genetic diversity is the variation among individual plants or animals of a particular species. Species that are genetically diverse are more likely to survive diseases and environmental changes. Genetic diversity also provides benefits to humans, such as new varieties of plants that can be useful in agriculture.

Conservation of biological diversity requires both the protection of habitats—the natural settings in which groups of animals and plants normally live, grow and reproduce—and the maintenance of healthy populations of species in these habitats. Virtually all natural environments in the United States have been degraded to some extent by the activities of people. Natural habitats frequently are lost when they are developed for homes, commercial buildings, highways, or agriculture. Timbering, dams, military uses, and some recreational activities also destroy habitat. Pollution of habitats is an additional threat to the health and survival of animals and plants.

Even in the few remaining pristine habitats, biodiversity is reduced by the loss or degradation of adjoining habitats. Loss of surrounding areas reduces total habitat available to animals and may eliminate those that require large territories. Smaller, fragmented habitats are also more susceptible to invasion from species that are not native to the area. These "exotic species" can decimate native species. Global climate change, which may significantly alter natural habitats, is thought by many scientists to be yet another threat to biodiversity.

## EPA's Roles

Most of EPA's roles in protecting habitats are based on regulation of pollution that is harmful to animals and plants. Under the Clean Water Act, EPA oversees establishment of water quality standards that protect fish and other aquatic organisms. Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, EPA can ban or regulate the use of pesticides that cause serious harm to ecosystems. Under the Clean Air Act, EPA has established a program to reduce air pollutants that cause acid rain, which damages forests and lakes. EPA also regulates other air pollutants that harm habitats, such as toxic chemicals and ozone at ground level.

EPA has an important role in protecting habitats from direct, physical destruction. Under the Clean Water Act, EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulate dredging and filling of wetlands, which are among the most productive of all habitats. Under the National Environmental Policy Act, EPA reviews federally-



supported activities to ensure that they cause no unreasonable harm to the environment.

In 1990, a report by EPA's Science Advisory Board concluded that loss of habitat and associated losses of biological diversity are among the most important ecological threats facing the United States. Following the recommendations in this report, EPA is now developing a strategy to enhance its effectiveness in protecting habitats. As part of United States efforts to improve management of our ecological resources, EPA and other agencies have developed a nationwide Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP) that will significantly expand the information available about the condition of the Nation's ecosystems. This program will aid in identification of important habitats in need of protection.

### The Roles of Others

While EPA has the lead federal role in protecting rivers, bays, wetlands, and coastal waters, other federal agencies have primary responsibilities for managing land resources. The National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Reclamation manage parks, wildlife refuges, and other areas to preserve habitats. Under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is responsible for designating threatened and endangered species and developing recovery plans for these plants and animals. As part of a recovery plan, USFWS identifies a species' essential habitats and develops strategies to protect them.

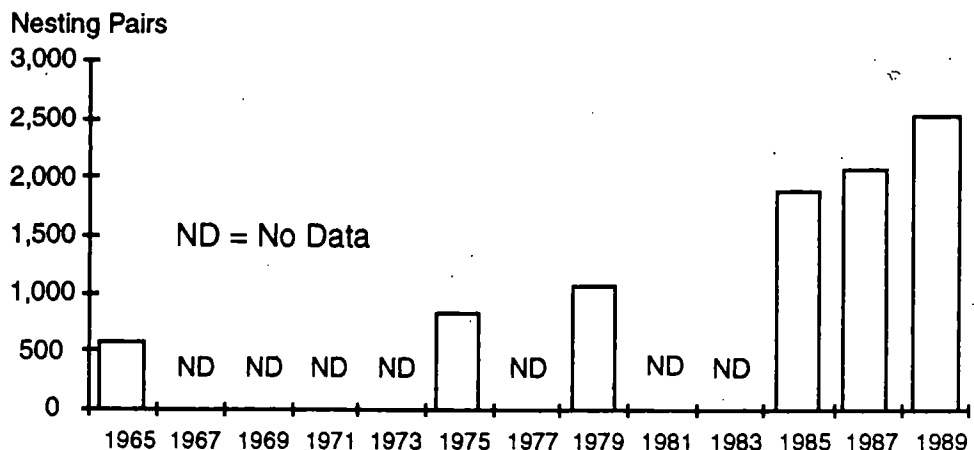
All 50 states have endangered species laws and state forest and park systems. States also have natural resource inventory programs to identify threatened species and important habitats for preservation.

Non-governmental organizations also have important roles. The Nature Conservancy, for example, purchases important habitats to ensure their long-term preservation.

### Possible Indicator

#### Recovery of Bald Eagles

The number of nesting pairs of bald eagles has markedly recovered since DDT was banned in 1972. DDT contamination in the food chain prevented bald eagles from producing healthy young. However, physical destruction of some bald eagle habitat is a continuing concern.



Source: The Council on Environmental Quality. *21st Annual Report*. 1991. Based on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service unpublished data.

**Statistical Quality:**

**Scientific Validity:**

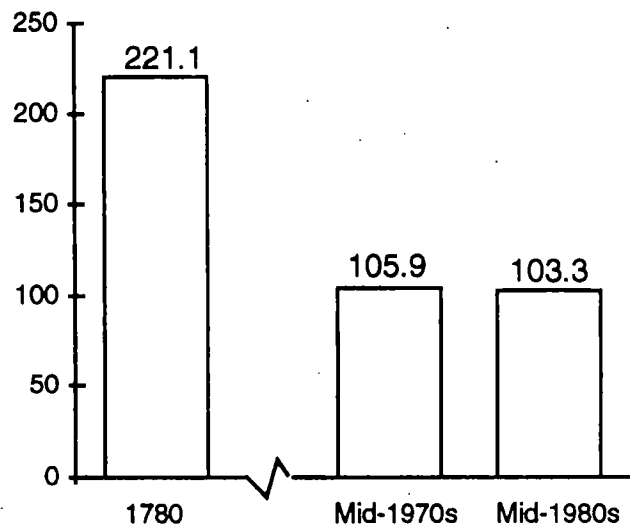
**Areas the Indicator Fails to Address:**

**Possible Indicator**

**Wetlands Trends**

An estimated 53 percent of the original 221 million acres of wetlands in the conterminous United States have been lost since the 1780s. Wetland acreage decreased from 105.9 million acres in the mid-1970s to 103.3 million acres in the mid-1980s, a net loss of 2.6 million acres. Although 98 percent of the losses occurred in freshwater wetlands, 71 thousand acres of coastal wetlands were lost, mostly along the Gulf of Mexico.

Acres in Millions



Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, *Wetlands Status and Trends in the Conterminous United States*, 1992.

**Statistical Quality:**

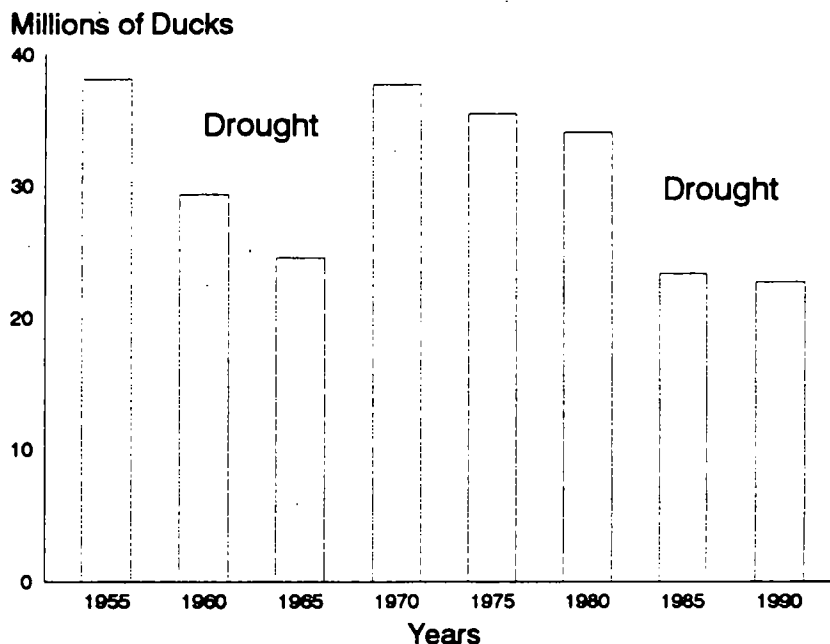
**Scientific Validity:**

**Areas the Indicator Fails to Address:**

## Possible Indicator

### Duck Breeding Population

This graph shows aggregate population estimates for the 18 duck species surveyed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The area surveyed encompasses the prairie pothole region of the United States and Canada. Seabirds such as eiders, that nest in northern arctic areas are not included in the survey. The 18 duck species surveyed represent about two-thirds of the total number of ducks in the survey area. USFWS experts conclude that the marked decreases in abundance in the early 1960s and at present are due to decreases in the wetland habitat the ducks require for breeding. Wetland areas, particularly in the prairie pothole region, have been diminished by a combination of drought and agricultural practices. The USFWS Office of Migratory Bird Management is concerned that the high degree of physical destruction of wetlands will prevent full recovery of the duck populations when the current drought is over.



Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Migratory Bird Management.  
1991 Revised Estimates.

**Statistical Quality:**

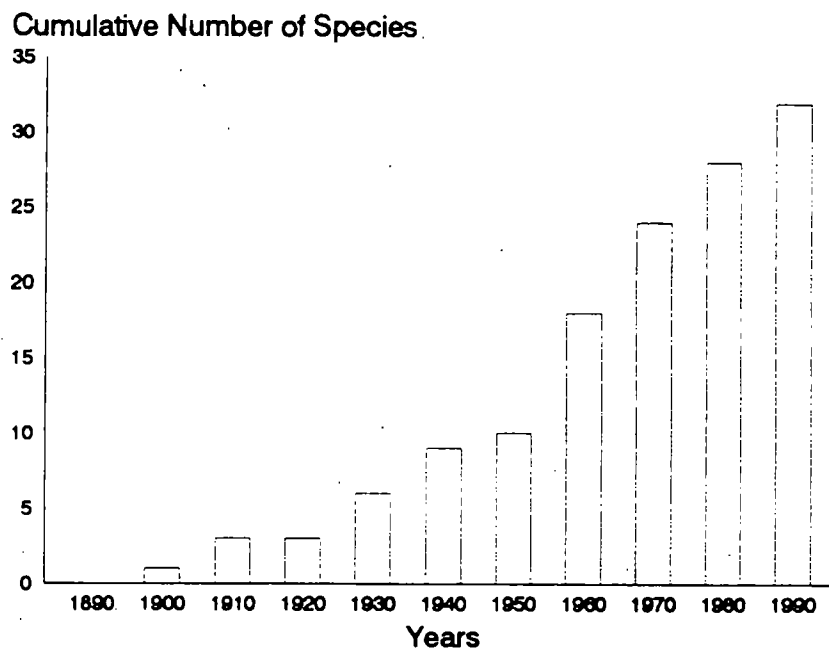
**Scientific Validity:**

**Areas the Indicator Falls to Address:**



## Possible Indicator

## Extinctions of North American Fishes



Source: Miller, R.R., Williams, J.D., and Williams, J.E. 1989. Extinctions of North American Fishes During the Past Century. Fisheries 14:22-38.

**Statistical Quality:**

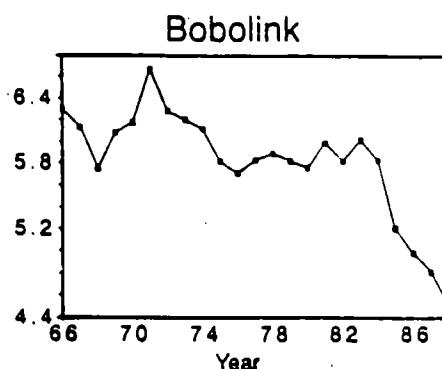
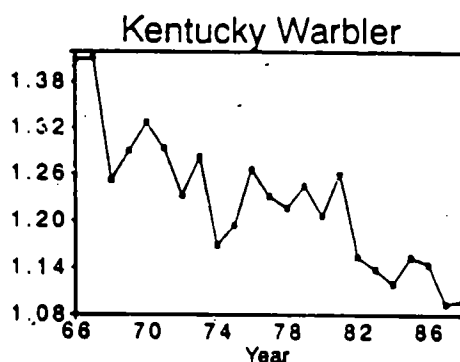
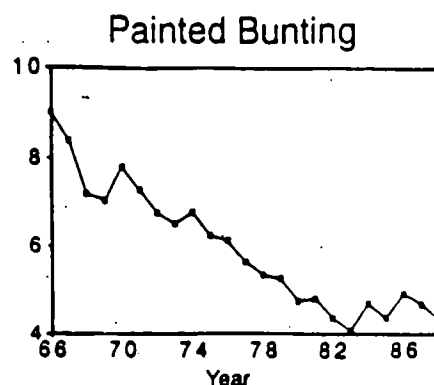
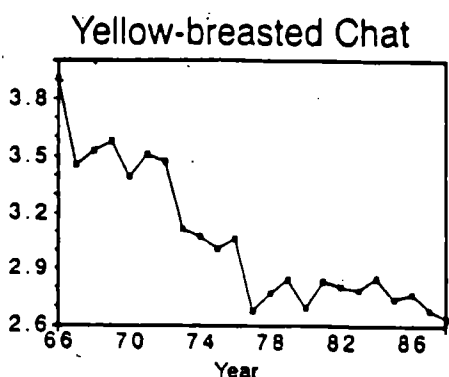
**Scientific Validity:**

**Areas the Indicator Falls to Address:**

## Possible Indicator

## Population Trends in Four Neotropical Migratory Bird Species

According to the National Breeding Bird Survey, conducted annually since 1966 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 44 of 62 species surveyed declined in abundance during the 1980s. The term Neotropical refers to new world species that nest in temperate areas of North America and winter in tropical and subtropical areas of the Caribbean and Central and South America. The four species shown here have been used by the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Program to illustrate estimated population declines.



The vertical axis shows the mean number of individuals counted per route in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Survey.

Source: *Recent Declines in Neotropical Migratory Birds*. Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Program, 1991.

**Statistical Quality:**

**Scientific Validity:**

**Areas the Indicator Falls to Address:**

**Possible  
Two-Tier Goals**

**Office of Water**

- By the year \_\_\_\_, there exist healthy populations and communities of fish, macroinvertebrates, vegetation and wildlife in designated areas.
- By the year \_\_\_\_, there will be no net loss of wetlands.
- By the year \_\_\_\_, there exist healthy percentages and distributions of wetlands within \_\_\_\_ percent of watersheds.

**Office of Air and Radiation**

- By 2010, achieve a permanent 10 million-ton-per-year reduction (from 1980 levels) in United States sulfur dioxide emissions and a two million-ton-per-year reduction in United States nitrogen oxides emissions.

# Cleanup of Contaminated Sites

---

## Goal

EPA will continue to identify sites where the presence of hazardous waste, petroleum, or hazardous substances threatens or may in the future threaten human health or the environment. Government and industry, under the direction of EPA, will make continuous progress in cleaning up these sites in order to protect human health and the environment.

The Superfund program, which cleans up abandoned hazardous waste sites, will clean up 650 sites by the year 2000. The hazardous waste program, which addresses releases to the environment from active hazardous waste facilities, focuses on those facilities that pose the greatest risk to human health and the environment, and will take action to significantly reduce those risks by the year 2000. The hazardous waste program will take action to control contaminant releases at \_\_\_\_ high priority facilities by the year 2000. The Leaking Underground Storage Tank program, which cleans up leaks from petroleum tanks stored underground, will clean up an average of 16,000 leaking tanks each year.

## Background

Modern commerce routinely generates wastes that are flammable, corrosive, reactive, or toxic. Accidental release or improper handling of these hazardous wastes has contaminated many sites in the United States. Contaminated areas threaten the environment and the health of people in nearby communities, especially when rain or wind carries hazardous materials into the water or air.

A major source of contamination is abandoned hazardous waste dumpsites. Currently operating hazardous waste facilities may also pollute when they are improperly designed or managed. City and county landfills may contaminate surrounding areas when toxic chemicals in household and commercial wastes escape to the environment. In addition, wastes continue to be dumped illegally, especially along roadsides. At some of these polluted sites, wastes have accumulated for decades.

Leaks from storage tanks containing gasoline, oil, and other hazardous materials have also contaminated many areas. Of particular concern are the 1.6 million underground storage tanks (USTs) used by gas stations, large trucking fleets, bus depots, and government facilities. An estimated 15 to 25 percent of these USTs are leaking.

## EPA's Roles

Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), EPA regulates the generation, transport, and management of hazardous waste. EPA requires waste management facilities to identify and clean up all releases of hazardous wastes to the environment.

Cleanups of hazardous waste contamination at abandoned or bankrupt facilities are regulated under "Superfund" (the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act). Superfund sites that pose the most serious long-term threats are placed on EPA's National Priorities List (NPL), which now includes over 1200 sites. Cleanup has been completed at 150 sites that were previously on the NPL.

When a site presents an immediate threat, EPA takes emergency action to reduce the danger (e.g., cleaning up a chemical spill along a highway or provid-



ing bottled water when drinking water wells are contaminated). EPA pays for cleanup costs when those responsible for contaminating a site cannot be identified or cannot pay.

While states and local governments handle the vast majority of leaks from underground storage tanks, EPA provides technical assistance, enforcement support, and some funding for these programs.

### The Roles of Others

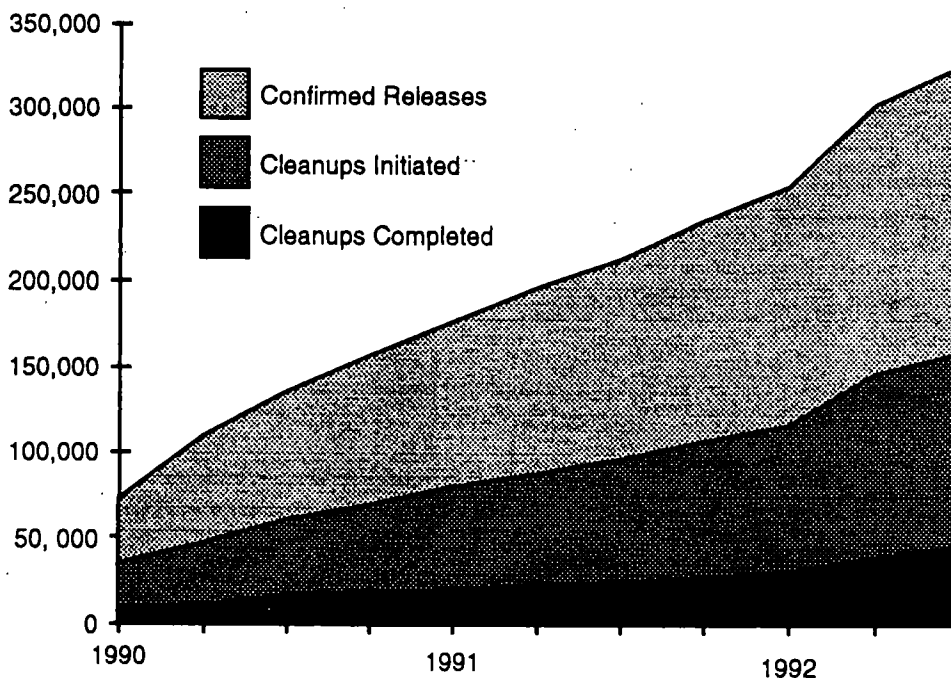
Parties responsible for contaminating Superfund sites include industry, federal agencies such as the Departments of Defense and Energy, and state and local governments. Where possible, these "responsible parties" must either clean up the site or reimburse EPA for its cleanup costs. Releases from active hazardous waste facilities must be cleaned up by their owners. Similarly, UST owners are liable for cleaning up contamination from leaking tanks or for reimbursing EPA. Since the advent of RCRA in 1976 and Superfund in 1980, liability for paying the costs of cleanup has been a strong deterrent to careless waste disposal in the United States.

About one-third of the states have assumed responsibility for cleanups at operating hazardous waste facilities. States have primary responsibility for administering cleanups of contamination from USTs. In addition, states, local governments, and Indian tribes may lead Superfund cleanup efforts or cooperate with EPA to clean up a site.

Citizens also have important roles in working with EPA to design cleanup strategies for contaminated sites in their communities.

### Possible Indicator

#### Number of Leaking Underground Storage Tanks Cleaned Up



Source: U.S. EPA, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, 1992.

**Statistical Quality:**

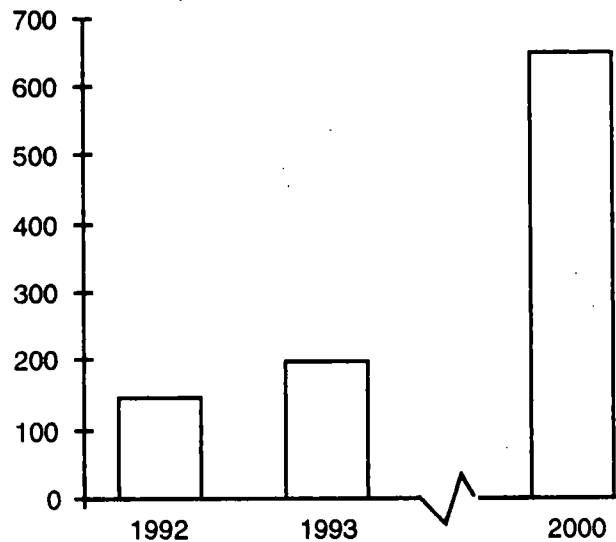
**Scientific Validity:**

**Areas the Indicator Fails to Address:**

**Possible Indicator**

**Number of Superfund Completions**

Number of Sites



Note: The total number of NPL sites was 1,236 as of December 31, 1990.

Source: U.S. EPA, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, 1992.

**Statistical Quality:**

**Scientific Validity:**

**Areas the Indicator Fails to Address:**

**Possible  
Tier-Two Goals**

(NOTE: This Tier-One goal contains objectives consistent with the level of detail generally found in Tier-Two goals.)

# Prevention of Ongoing Releases of Harmful Toxic Chemicals

---

## Goal

By the year \_\_\_\_\_, releases of toxic chemicals from industrial facilities to air, water, and land will be reduced by \_\_\_\_\_ percent. By the year \_\_\_\_\_, generation of toxic chemical pollution (prior to recycling, treatment, or disposal) will be reduced by \_\_\_\_\_ percent.

## Background

Toxic chemicals that can harm human health and the environment are common in modern society. While some toxic chemicals, such as dioxins, are unwanted by-products, others have uses ranging from industrial applications to household cleansing.

Toxic chemicals can contaminate the environment during their manufacture, use, and disposal. Toxic industrial wastes are released directly to the air and water, injected into disposal wells, buried in landfills, and sent to waste and sewage treatment plants. From disposal wells and landfills, wastes may contaminate ground water. Without special treatment, wastes sent to sewage treatment plants may pollute surface waters. Toxic chemicals in consumer products, such as solvents, cleansers, and pesticides, pollute the environment when these products are used and discarded. In addition to the threats posed by toxic chemicals as wastes, use of these chemicals sometimes threatens human health by contaminating workplaces and homes.

The conventional approach to preventing harm from toxic chemicals is to control their treatment and disposal. Although these controls can be effective, they often result in simply moving pollution from one part of the environment to another. A preferred approach is to produce and use less toxic chemicals so that products are safer and there is less toxic waste to treat and discard. This "pollution prevention" approach is also cost-effective. By minimizing wastes, it can increase the efficiency of raw material use and reduce the need for costly treatment technologies and disposal services.

## EPA's Roles

Toxic chemicals are regulated under a variety of environmental statutes. The Toxic Substances Control Act requires anyone planning to manufacture or import a new chemical to notify EPA 90 days before doing so. EPA can require testing of new and existing chemicals. If they are found to be toxic, EPA can regulate their manufacture, use, and disposal. Toxic chemicals used as pesticides are regulated under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act and the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. Other statutes establish controls on toxic substances in air, water, landfills, and other disposal sites.

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986 gives the public access to information about the use and release of toxic chemicals. The law requires industrial facilities that manufacture or process more than 25,000 pounds (or otherwise use at least 10,000 pounds) of toxic chemicals to report the amounts that they either release to the environment or transfer to other locations. EPA makes this information available to the public through the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), a nationwide computer database. In 1990, reported releases and transfers of toxic chemicals totalled 4.81 billion pounds.

The Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 establishes pollution prevention—reduction of the generation of pollution prior to recycling, treatment, or disposal—as a national objective. The Act expands TRI reporting requirements to include the quantity of chemicals recycled, burned for energy recovery, treated, or disposed of on- or off-site. The Act also directs EPA to promote pollution prevention by disseminating information on prevention opportunities and giving grants to states for technical assistance. Under EPA's "33/50 Project," over one thousand industrial firms have made voluntary commitments to reduce releases and transfers of 17 toxic chemicals reported in the TRI. Objectives of the program are reductions of 33 percent from 1988 levels by the end of 1992, and 50 percent by 1995.

### **The Roles of Others**

Several states have adopted pollution prevention or toxics use reduction programs. Industrial firms are required under EPCRA and state laws to report toxic chemical use, releases, and transfers each year. Many companies have developed their own pollution prevention programs to reduce the need for toxic chemicals. Reductions are achieved by using safer chemicals, more efficient processes, modified equipment, and reformulated products.

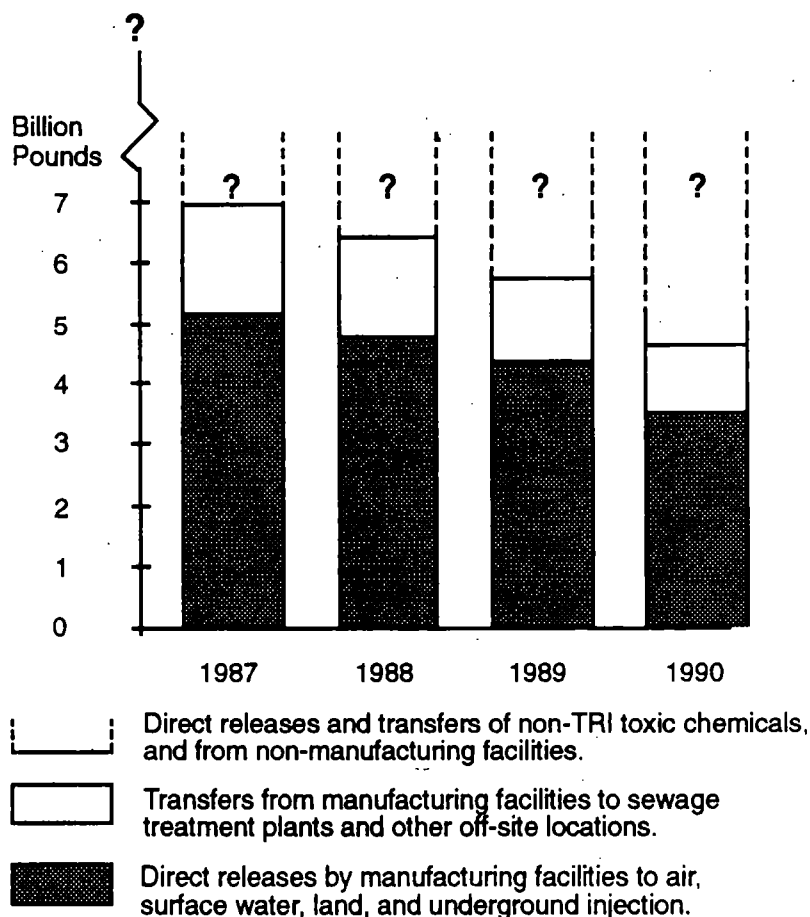
Other federal agencies, such as the Departments of Defense, Energy, and Agriculture, also play important roles in promoting pollution prevention in a variety of economic sectors. Federal actions include revisions of procurement specifications to encourage government purchases of products that are recycled or recyclable or contain minimal toxic substances. Federal agencies also provide research and technical assistance to states, industry and farmers on pollution prevention opportunities and technologies.

The public also has important responsibilities, since a significant fraction of some types of toxic chemical releases come from consumer products. Consumers can purchase non-toxic substitutes for products that contain toxic chemicals and dispose of any toxic products properly. Citizens can use information in the TRI to work with local industries to reduce the use and release of toxic chemicals.

## Possible Indicator

### Toxic Chemical Releases and Transfers from Major Manufacturing Point Sources

Toxic chemical releases reported by major manufacturing facilities has decreased since 1987, but trends in toxics from other sources, such as non-industrial manufacturing, automobiles, and agricultural chemicals, are unknown. The release data reported here are from the national Toxics Release Inventory of manufacturing facilities. It is known that in these first four years since reporting began, there were some inconsistencies and errors in reporting. Reporting audits and data quality checks are expected to greatly improve the year-to-year reliability of the data future years.



Source: U.S. EPA, The Toxics Release Inventory, 1992.

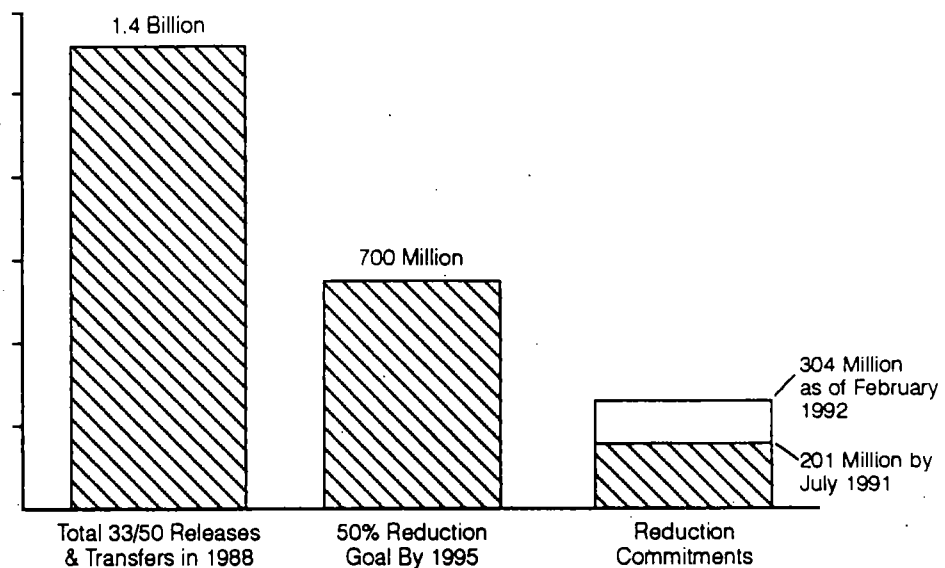
**Statistical Quality:**

**Scientific Validity:**

**Areas the Indicator Fails to Address:**

**Possible Indicator**

**33/50 Program: Reduction Commitments as of February 1992**



Source: U.S. EPA, Office of Toxic Substances, 33/50 Program Progress Report, March 1992.

**Statistical Quality:**

**Scientific Validity:**

**Areas the Indicator Fails to Address:**

**Possible  
Tier-Two Goals**

**Office of Air and Radiation**

- Reduce risk of exposure to air toxics from major point sources 75 percent by 1997, and area sources 50 percent by 2000.
- Reduce risk of exposure to mobile-source air toxics (e.g., diesel particulates, formaldehyde, benzene, gasoline vapors and particulates, acetaldehyde, and 1,3 butadiene) by 50 percent by the year 2005.

**Office of Water**

- By the year \_\_\_\_, reduce by \_\_\_\_ percent toxic loadings into or above underground sources of drinking water through Class V wells.
- By the year \_\_\_\_, reduce by \_\_\_\_ percent the discharge of selected toxic pollutants to United States waters.

# Safe Food

---

## Goal

EPA, in cooperation with other federal agencies, will protect the safety of the Nation's food by reducing contamination by toxic chemicals—including pesticides—and disease-causing organisms.

## Background

Although the United States food supply is one of the safest in the world, foods are sometimes contaminated by microbes such as bacteria, and by pesticides and other chemicals. Bacteria frequently infect food that is improperly prepared or stored. Individual households are responsible for sporadic cases of food poisoning, but large outbreaks have occurred when commercially prepared foods are contaminated. In 1985, for example, milk infected with salmonella bacteria caused an outbreak of 16,000 salmonellosis cases. Bacteria and other disease-causing organisms also contaminate shellfish when poorly-treated sewage is dumped in the water.

Food may contain low levels of pesticide residues. Although pesticides at high doses cause health problems, government surveys indicate that the vast majority of foods are safe to eat. Other toxic chemicals can also cause problems. Lead, for example, can enter food from glazes on ceramicware or from leaded crystal. Toxic chemicals, including pesticides, also have polluted many fisheries in the United States. These chemicals may pose health threats to people who eat contaminated fish and shellfish.

Some groups may be particularly susceptible to contamination in food. Infants and children typically eat more food relative to their body weight and may therefore be exposed to higher levels of some pesticides than the average adult. People who fish in contaminated waters for subsistence and certain ethnic groups may be vulnerable because of diets rich in fish. Food contaminated with microorganisms may pose more severe health threats to people with immune system disorders.

## EPA's Roles

Under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, EPA sets "tolerance" levels, or maximum legal limits, for pesticide residues in food and animal feed. Limits also are set for pesticides that may pollute waters and then appear in fish tissues. EPA sets tolerances to ensure that residues do not pose short-term or long-term health threats to consumers. In setting these levels, EPA takes into account the potential threats to infants, children, and other subgroups in the population.

Pesticides can be used on foods or feed crops only if a tolerance (or an exemption from a tolerance) is first granted. When reviewing a potential new use of a pesticide, EPA takes into account the pesticide's other uses. EPA will not allow a new use if it is expected to raise consumers' intake of residues to unacceptable levels. EPA has approved about 300 pesticides for food uses; about 200 of them are in common use in the United States.

In addition to regulating new pesticides and pesticide uses, EPA reviews existing pesticides that were originally approved before current scientific and regulatory standards were developed. In this "re-registration" process, EPA may use new scientific data to reduce tolerance levels, modify allowable uses of a pesticide, or ban it altogether.

EPA provides scientific criteria to aid states in setting water pollution limits that protect fisheries. EPA also takes actions to prevent and clean up releases of hazardous substances that may contaminate fish.

EPA also is working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to promote innovative agricultural techniques, such as "integrated pest management," that reduce the use of pesticides.'

### **The Roles of Others**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has the primary federal responsibility for protecting the Nation's food supply. FDA establishes safe levels for poisonous substances (other than pesticides) in foods. Enforcement of these limits, and of pesticide tolerances set by EPA, is also the responsibility of FDA. FDA monitors all domestically produced and imported foods travelling in interstate commerce except meat, poultry, and some egg products. These products are monitored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS).

FDA also conducts the Total Diet Study, which measures the American consumer's daily intake of pesticides from foods that are bought in typical supermarkets and grocery stores, and prepared as they would be in a household setting. The study indicates that dietary levels of most pesticides—from all foods combined—are less than one percent of the maximum levels that EPA considers acceptable. FSIS annually conducts 10,000 to 20,000 analyses of pesticide residues on meat, poultry, and dairy products. Fewer than one percent of these tests show illegal residues.

States ensure the safety of food that is produced and sold within their boundaries. Some states have their own monitoring programs and regulations regarding residues of pesticides and other toxic chemicals on food that is produced and sold within state borders. States set water pollution limits to prevent contamination of fish and shellfish. States issue warnings to consumers not to eat fish or shellfish contaminated with toxic chemicals. If there is evidence of bacterial pollution, the state closes the waters to shellfishing.

### **Possible Indicator**

(Not yet identified.)

### **Possible Two-Tier Goals**

#### **Office of Water**

- By the year \_\_\_\_, reduce by \_\_\_\_ percent the waters with fish with contaminant levels of concern to human health.
- By the year \_\_\_\_, reduce by \_\_\_\_ percent the number of people experiencing acute health effects from exposure to toxic chemicals and infectious agents in fish and shellfish.



# Worker Safety

---

## Goal

In cooperation with other federal agencies, EPA will continuously reduce the number of workers facing potentially unsafe exposures to harmful chemicals due to regular working conditions. We will also strive to reduce the rate at which chemical accidents occur in the workplace.

## Background

The United States labor force now includes over 125 million people, and most spend a major portion of their day in the workplace. Premature deaths, diseases, and injuries resulting from workplace environmental conditions continue to be an important national problem. In 1986, it was estimated that each year 400,000 workers become ill from exposure to hazardous substances in the workplace and about 100,000 die prematurely from these exposures.

Agriculture workers are a particularly high-risk group. Many farm workers suffer health problems from handling pesticides, applying them, or working where they have been applied. These problems range from relatively minor short-term irritations of skin or eyes to fatal poisonings, and from cancer in workers to birth defects in their children. Industrial workplaces where hazardous chemicals are used also pose a broad range of potential health threats to workers, who may be harmed by cumulative, day-to-day exposures to chemicals in work areas or by sudden, large exposures resulting from accidents.

## EPA's Roles

To protect workers on farms and in forests, nurseries and greenhouses against harm from pesticides, EPA has issued Worker Protection Standards that govern use of agricultural pesticides. The standards set specifications for the equipment used to apply pesticides, mandate protective clothing for workers, and establish minimum time intervals following pesticide applications before workers can enter a treated area. In addition, the standards require safety training for all workers who may come into contact with pesticides. EPA requires workers who handle or apply the most hazardous pesticides to receive more rigorous training and certification in proper pesticide use.

To protect workers against harm from industrial chemicals, EPA conducts extensive technical studies to help the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) develop standards for safe levels of chemicals in the workplace. When studies indicate that a chemical may pose severe health threats, EPA may restrict its use, require safety precautions, or ban it entirely.

## The Roles of Others

OSHA, part of the Department of Labor, has the primary federal role in reducing job-related injuries or deaths. To protect workers against harm from airborne chemicals in the workplace, OSHA has set permissible Exposure Limits for several hundred substances. OSHA also establishes rules for handling and storing hazardous chemicals in work areas and requires use of protective clothing and equipment to prevent worker exposure.

The states are responsible for running federally-approved certification and training programs for users of the most hazardous pesticides. State programs have certified over one million applicators. Health organizations ranging from federal agencies to local clinics work to ensure that medical practitioners are trained to recognize early effects of exposure and to warn workers if they have incurred health effects from pesticides.

**Possible Indicator**      **(Not yet identified.)**

# Prevention of Oil Spills and Chemical Accidents

---

## Goal

EPA, through vigorous enforcement of existing legislation and public education, will reduce the number of oil spills and chemical accidents. EPA will respond quickly to contain the damage from spills and accidents which do occur.

## Background

Every day, oil and other hazardous substances are spilled or released into harbors and waterways, onto the ground, and into the air. Releases of these pollutants frequently kill fish and wildlife. They also can injure nearby workers and residents, who may experience immediate effects ranging from mild skin irritation to fatal poisoning by toxic chemicals. Exposure to toxic chemicals also may cause longer-term health problems, such as cancer and reproductive disorders.

Harmful releases of oil and other hazardous substances result from careless handling of petroleum, tank car derailments, trucking accidents, fires, and explosions. Many releases are minor, but some accidents have catastrophic consequences. For example, a 1988 refinery explosion in Norco, Louisiana killed seven people, injured 50 more, and forced the evacuation of 25,000 nearby residents. In March, 1989, the supertanker *Exxon Valdez* spilled 10.9 million gallons of crude oil into Alaska's Prince William Sound, killing approximately 150,000 seabirds and an estimated 5,000 sea otters. Valuable fisheries were closed, and over 1,200 miles of shoreline were polluted with oil.

## EPA's Roles

Because prevention plans and immediate responses to emergencies are largely the responsibilities of state and local authorities, one of EPA's most important roles is building these governments' capabilities to prevent or respond successfully to accidents. EPA provides technical assistance and funding to state and local governments for designing accident prevention programs and emergency response plans. EPA also assists state and local authorities in responding to emergencies. When cleanup cannot be completed by those responsible or by state or local agencies, EPA can direct and pay for the necessary work. EPA's Environmental Response Team trains over 5,000 people each year for emergency response operations.

Under the Clean Water Act, EPA requires facilities that refine or store oil to prepare plans for prevention of spills. EPA and states inspect facilities to ensure that plans comply with legal requirements. Under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, EPA is developing additional rules that will require petroleum facilities to prepare plans for cleanups of worst-case spills.

Under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, EPA is providing rules that will require facilities handling extremely hazardous substances to develop detailed plans for preventing, detecting, and minimizing accidental releases.

The federal government has established a National Contingency Plan (NCP), which sets procedures for responding to oil spills and releases of hazardous substances. The NCP also sets up a National Response Team, composed of representatives from 15 federal agencies with environmental responsibilities and chaired by a representative from EPA. This team coordinates national prepara-

tion for and responses to accidents.

When an emergency occurs inland and federal assistance is required, EPA deploys an On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) to manage federal responses or monitor the cleanup work done by those responsible for the accident. EPA also maintains the Environmental Response Team, a group of scientists and engineers that provides 24-hour technical expertise to OSCs.

## **The Roles of Others**

As directed by the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986, states have established State Emergency Response Commissions (SERCs), which are responsible for appointing and supervising Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs). LEPCs must prepare and exercise local emergency response plans.

EPCRA also requires industrial facilities handling hazardous chemicals to report to the appropriate LEPC information on the chemicals present at each facility, the hazards of these chemicals, how they are stored, and any accidental or intentional releases. LEPCs can use this information to develop prevention plans tailored to local facilities. In case of an accident, the information can help authorities responding to the incident identify the hazards that may be present and to plan their actions accordingly.

When a person in charge of a vessel or facility containing a hazardous substance becomes aware that a release of a "reportable quantity" has occurred, he or she must notify the National Response Center (NRC), the SERC and the LEPC. Reports of oil and hazardous substance releases have increased steadily in the last decade. The NRC received over 24,000 such reports in 1990.

The party responsible for the accident is also responsible for managing and paying for cleanup. Although federal law requires the United States government to ensure an effective response to the accident, state and local authorities usually do the actual cleanup work that cannot be managed adequately by the accountable parties. When the National Response Center receives a report of an accident, it notifies an On-Scene Coordinator from EPA or the Coast Guard in case federal actions are also necessary.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is responsible for regulating transportation of oil and hazardous substances to ensure safety and accident prevention. The Coast Guard, a service of the DOT, deploys On-Scene Coordinators to handle emergencies in coastal areas, harbors, and the Great Lakes.

## **Possible Indicator**

(Not yet identified.)

# Improved Understanding of the Environment

---

## Goal

EPA will ensure that the public has access to specific information about significant sources of pollution in their communities and what they can do to lower risks these may pose to their health and environment. EPA will increase its efforts to inform the public about how the quality of the environment is improving or worsening across the Nation.

## Background

Effective environmental protection requires public understanding, participation, and support. Public perceptions about environmental problems often diverge from scientific understanding of which environmental problems pose the most severe threats. A knowledgeable public is more likely to support use of public resources to manage the most important environmental problems. Education can help people make environmentally-sound personal and business decisions—to purchase non-toxic products, to conserve energy and water, to minimize wastes, to recycle and to obey environmental laws. Public information also is an effective means of aiding people in handling environmental problems, such as radon and tobacco smoke in homes, that the government has limited authority to control. Access to information about sources and risks of pollution in communities makes citizens more effective advocates for reductions in releases of harmful chemicals.

Continued progress in protecting the environment requires training programs that produce environmental professionals: scientists, engineers, technicians skilled in preventing or responding to environmental problems, and many others. Training for teachers is also important, since each trained teacher can educate hundreds of students.

## EPA's Roles

As part of the Environmental Goals Project, EPA will work with other federal and state agencies to produce a report on the current status of the environment. EPA will update this report periodically so that the nation can track progress towards meeting the goals.

Under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986, EPA makes information about the use and release of toxic chemicals available to the public. All facilities that manufacture or process more than 25,000 pounds (or otherwise use at least 10,000 pounds) of these chemicals must report the amounts they either release to the environment or transfer to other locations. The information is compiled in the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), a nationwide computer database that the public can use to identify the chemicals released by a local plant. The availability of these data gives industrial firms a strong incentive to reduce pollution.

EPA distributes a broad range of publications covering virtually every environmental problem it addresses. Publications typically provide information about specific environmental problems, discuss EPA and other government programs that address them, and describe actions that citizens and businesses can take to reduce threats to their health and the environment. EPA also operates many telephone hotlines that provide the public with information about environmental problems.

EPA trains professionals who respond to a wide range of environmental problems. For example, EPA has designed, funded, and taught courses for professionals who manage radon gas in buildings, remove asbestos from schools, and respond to hazardous substance emergencies. EPA also provides training in design and use of pollution prevention approaches.

Under the National Environmental Education Act, EPA funds the Environmental Education and Training Program and the Pollution Prevention Center. These programs, which are administered by the University of Michigan, develop curricula and train teachers who will in turn train others in environmental issues. EPA also provides grants to support state, local, and non-profit environmental education efforts.

### **The Roles of Others**

States and local governments, which administer public schools and universities, have primary responsibilities for education in the United States.

The President and the state governors have established national educational goals. One of these calls for the United States to become by 2000 the world leader in mathematics and science, which are essential for improving our knowledge of environmental problems and solutions. The Department of Education has developed the "America 2000" strategy to achieve these goals. The Federal Coordinating Council on Science, Engineering and Technology works to identify and assist United States government programs that will help train a work force ready for the challenges—including the environmental challenges—that will face the country in the year 2000.

Federal agencies are responsible for educating and informing the public on environmental issues relevant to their programs. For example, the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service provide exhibits, interpretive trails, and teachers to educate visitors about the environments in National Parks and National Forests. The Department of Agriculture, in a partnership with state and local governments and land-grant universities known as the Cooperative Extension System, provides training in natural resources and environmental management to individuals in nearly every United States county.

Many private organizations provide educational materials ranging from magazines for children to fact sheets on specific environmental problems.

### **Possible Indicator**

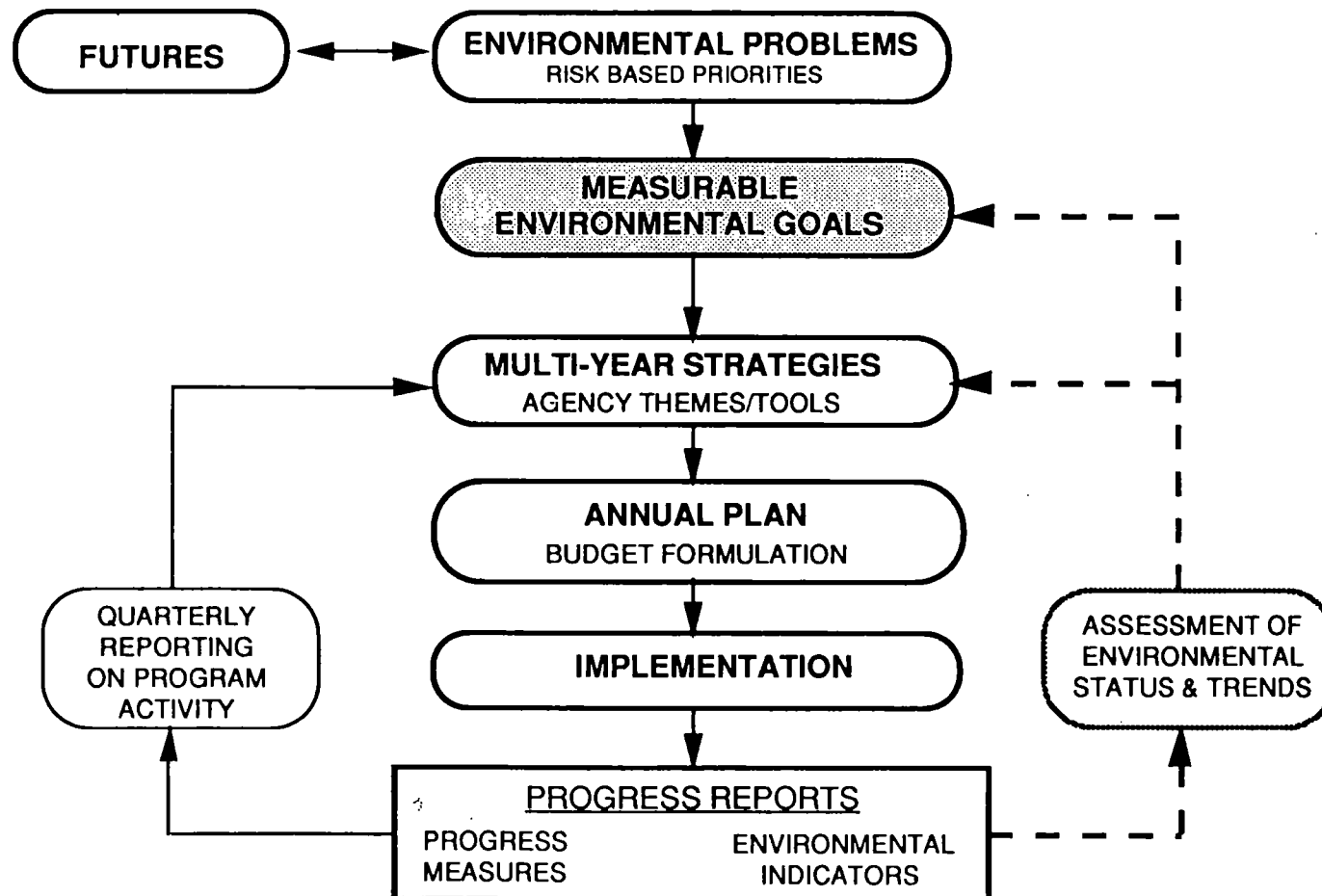
**(Not yet identified.)**

# Setting National Environmental Goals

A Briefing for Robert Sussman

March 26, 1993

## Relationship of Agency Activities - - - - "How It All Fits"





## Bill Clinton and Al Gore:

---

"We will reduce solid waste, toxic waste, air pollution, and water pollution."

"We will preserve places of national beauty and ecological importance."

"We will work to keep our world's delicate environment in balance."

... Putting People First

## The Opportunities

---

1. Build consensus on U.S. environmental agenda.
2. Help EPA sort out its priorities and align strategies.
3. Discuss issues such as risk, cost with the public, states, Congress, other agencies.
4. Focus attention on most environmentally and economically effective strategies.
5. Provide a set of milestones by which to measure progress (environmental indicators).

## Proposed Action

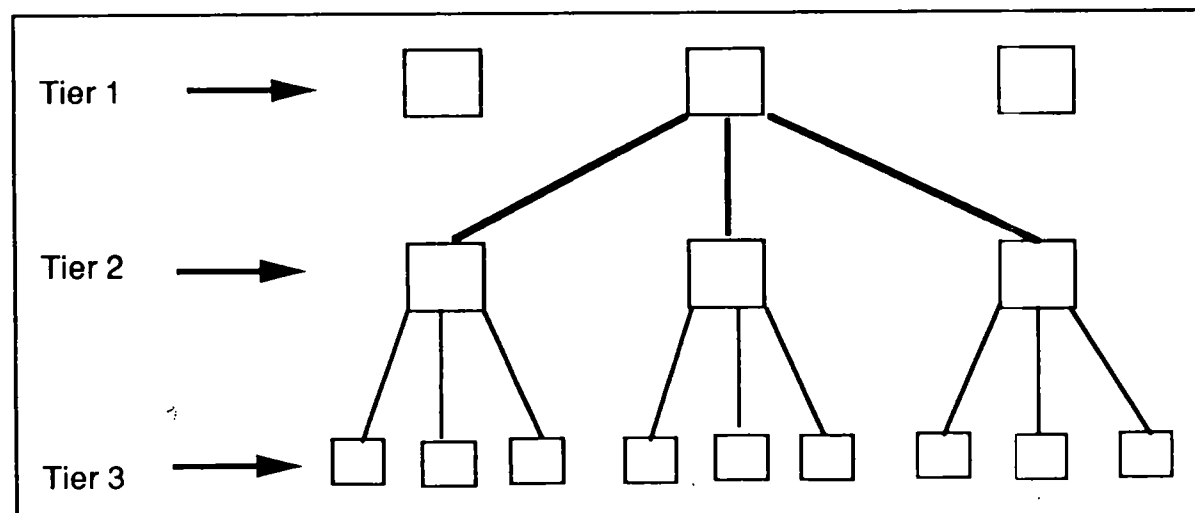
- Initiate national effort to articulate for ourselves and others a set of long-term measurable environmental goals
- Goals are the next step from Unfinished Business (EPA, 1987), Reducing Risk (SAB, 1990) and Strategies and Framework (EPA, 1992)
- Goals would be intermediate step to National Environmental Strategy recommended by Train Commission and others
- Example: HHS *Healthy People 2000*
  - served purpose of focusing public health community and Congress
  - widely accepted
  - designed by working with local and state health officials and other Federal agencies (including EPA)
- Example: HUD's and other agencies' new goal setting processes.

## **Evolution of Goals Project**

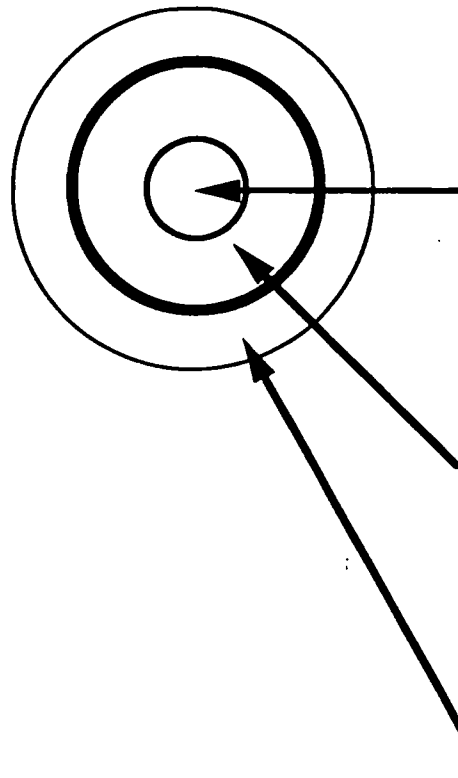
- Office Directors met with the Deputy Administrator in May 1992 - Identified need to set "scientifically sound, measurable environmental goals that are understood and supported by the public."
- A sub-group of ODs was chaired by Sylvia Lowrance to develop a set of "Agency-wide or cross-media goals."
- 13 draft Tier I goals are now selected; some Tier II goals identified
- Background information and indicators for the Tier I goals (and some Tier II goals) have been assembled in a draft report
- Small focus groups (EPA staff and public) reviewed to provide input on how understandable the goals and report are to the public
- Visits were made to Regions 1,2, and 3 to discuss the Goals Project
- Project ready to be shaped by the new Administration

## Hierarchy of Goals and Progress Measures

- Tier 1: Broad environmental goals (e.g., "All areas will meet national air quality standards by the year 2010.")
- Tier 2: Program-specific environmental goals (e.g., "Reduce VOC emissions in non-attainment areas by X%.")
- Tier 3: Progress measures (EPA /State activity) (e.g., "Have X approved state operating permit plans in by 1994.")



# Three Types of Environmental Goals



## **EPA has primary Federal responsibility**

- Clean Air
- Clean Water
- Prevention of Toxic Releases
- Cleanup of Contaminated Sites
- Safe Drinking Water
- Protection of the Ozone Layer
- Improved Understanding of the Environment

## **EPA has partial responsibility (important role)**

- Global Climate Change
- Ecological Protection
- Safe Food
- Worker Safety
- Safe Indoor Environment
- Prevention of Spills and Accidents

## **Outside EPA's areas of responsibility**

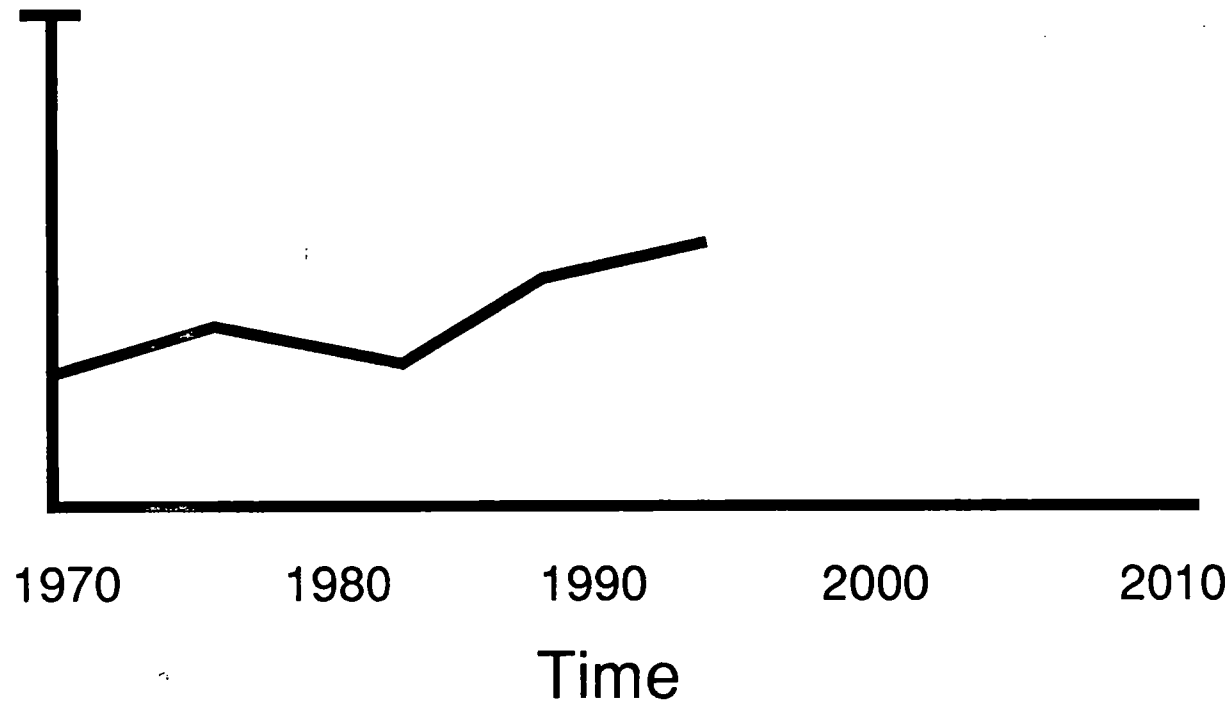
- Resource Management
- Infectious Diseases

## Measuring Environmental Progress - A View Of The Past

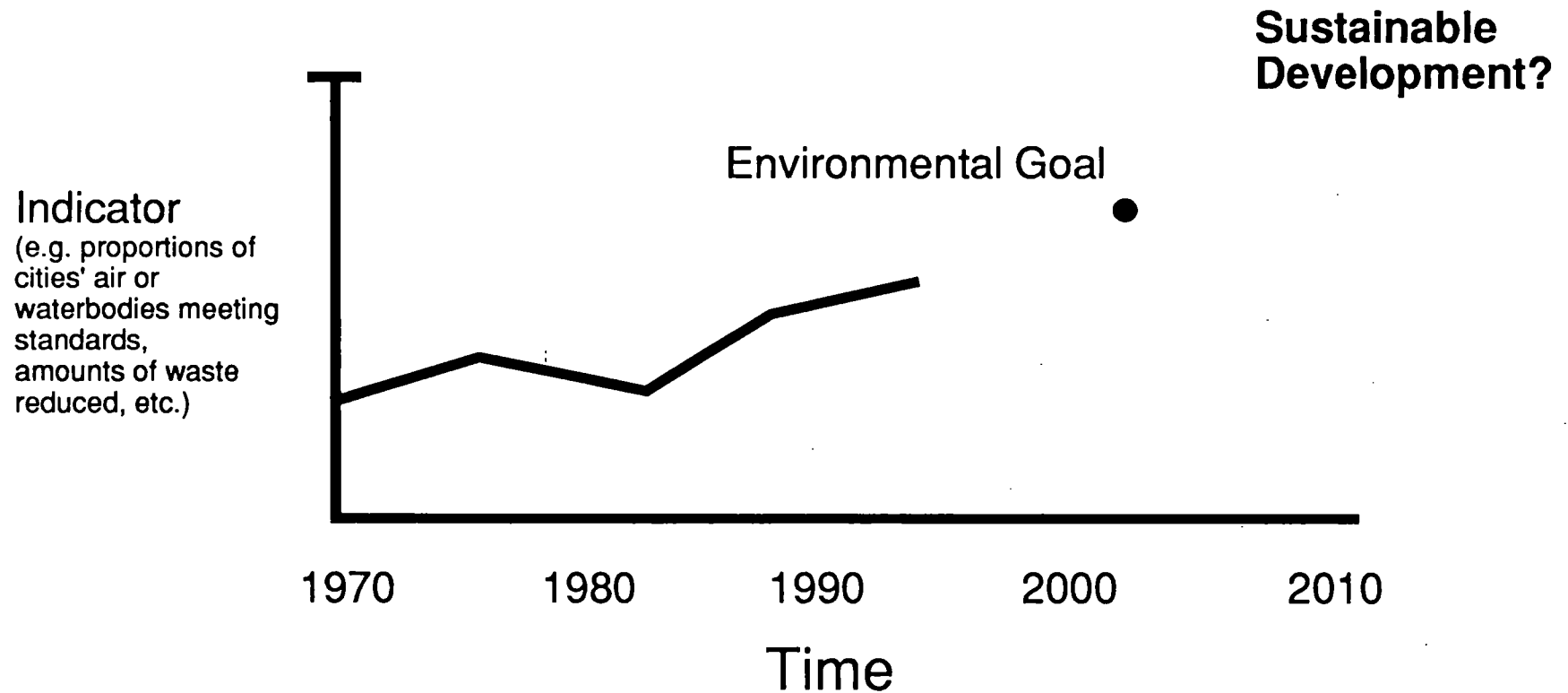
---

Indicator

(e.g. proportions of cities' air or waterbodies meeting standards, amounts of waste reduced, etc.)



## Setting Measurable Goals - The Sustainable Model





## Three Project Phases Currently Envisioned

|             | Broad Goals<br>(Tier 1) | Subgoals<br>(Tier 2) | Progress<br>Measures (Tier 3) | Indicators | Use                                                                                                       |
|-------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1993 Report | Drafted                 | Sample               | Not linked to<br>Goals        | ----       | Regional and<br>State<br>Involvement;<br>Start Public<br>Discussion,<br>Coordinate with<br>other agencies |
| June 1994   | Complete                | Drafted              | Draft linkages<br>to Goals    | Drafted    | Wider Public<br>Discussion                                                                                |
| June 1995   | Complete                | Complete             | Complete                      | Final      | Working<br>Document                                                                                       |

## What Are We Asking You to Do?

---

1. Support development of goals project as a key agency initiative.
2. Provide clear leadership and participation of top Agency administrators.
3. Use the goals and associated strategies as a tool for planning and assessing program implementation.
4. Decide on how active a public outreach effort we want.
5. Decide on how to go about interagency cooperation.
6. Decide on relationship, if any, to FY95 budget process.

## Recommended Next Steps

---

- Prepare implementation plan for the project
- Release plan with a memo from the Administrator.
- Begin active inreach and outreach discussions
- Progress report in 3 months; regular reports thereafter.

## What 's In It For You

---

### **Internal Use -- Setting and Accomplishing an Agenda for the Agency**

- Setting long-term environmental goals, four-year objectives - the legacy
- Direct Agency resources within and across fiscal years
- Context for building consensus and direction
- Communicate direction and approach to Regions and States
- Context for assessing regulations and statutes

### **External Use -- Setting a National Agenda**

- Context for changing discussions with Congress
  - Congress must be an active player in setting national goals
  - Format for explaining what we are doing and why
  - Provide direction to reauthorization and developing statutes
- Strategies and policy development will involve other agencies
- A vehicle to communicate direction and progress to the public

## Appendices

## **Basic Tools to Manage and Monitor Agency Direction**

- Inputs - where you put resources
- Outputs - what activities are completed
- Outcomes - what changes take place in the environment
- Measurable Goals - levels of outcome agency aims to achieve

---

\* The Roth/Glenn Senate Bill will require all agencies to organize their management systems in this way

## **CURRENT DRAFT TIER 1 GOALS**

### **Goal 1: Clean Water**

The surface waters of the United States, including lakes, rivers, streams, and bays, are clean and safe for human recreation and fish and shellfish consumption and support healthy fish and wildlife.

By the year \_\_\_\_, X% of the surface waters of the U.S. fully meet fishable and swimmable standards set by the states.

### **Goal 2: Safe Drinking Water**

All Americans are entitled to have a safe source (surface or ground) of drinking water. X million Americans are served by public water systems; Y% of these drink water from systems that are in continuous compliance with EPA's regulations. An additional Z million people drink water from a private system for which State and local governments set standards.

By the year \_\_\_\_, increase to \_\_\_\_% the population served by public water systems using ground or surface water sources that meet all drinking water standards (MCLs only).

### **Goal 3: Clean Air**

The entire nation should have healthy air that meets all Federal Air Quality Standards. Visibility throughout the Nation will improve.

By the year 2000, the number of areas not meeting the air quality standards will be reduced from 203 to 15. These last 15 areas will have healthy air by the year 2010. Visibility in the U.S. will improve by 25% by the year 2005. Air in scenic areas with poor visibility at present will be increasingly clear, and there will be no worsening of visibility in currently clear scenic areas, such as National Parks.

### **Goal 4: Safe Indoor Environment**

EPA will develop and implement both regulatory and non-regulatory strategies designed to minimize health risks in indoor environments.

### **Goal 5: Protection of the Ozone Layer**

By the end of 1995, the United States will stop the production of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which damage the stratospheric ozone layer that protects the earth from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays. The United States will assist other countries in eliminating these substances worldwide.

### **Goal 6: Global Climate Change**

The U.S. will study changes in the global climate to better understand the relationship between human activities and the warming of the atmosphere and to design a long-range plan to minimize any human impact on this warming. In the short-term, EPA will encourage energy conservation and the development and use of energy sources that have less impact on warming than ones now in use. EPA will also educate the public about what steps we can all take to help prevent additional global warming.

### **Goal 7: Ecological Protection**

EPA will work with other government agencies and non-governmental organizations to conserve biological diversity by protecting and restoring the Nation's important habitats and ecological resources.

### **Goal 8: Cleanup of Contaminated Sites**

EPA will continue to identify sites where the presence of hazardous waste, petroleum, or hazardous substances threatens or may in the future threaten human health or the environment. Government and industry, under the direction of EPA, will make continuous progress in cleaning up these sites in order to protect human health and the environment.

The Superfund program, which cleans up abandoned hazardous waste sites, will clean up 650 sites by the year 2000. The hazardous waste program, which addresses releases to the environment from active hazardous waste facilities, focuses on those facilities that pose the greatest risk to human health and the environment, and will take action to significantly reduce those risks by the year 2000. The hazardous waste program will take action to control contaminant releases at \_\_\_\_ high priority facilities by the year 2000. The Leaking Underground Storage Tank program, which cleans up leaks from petroleum tanks stored underground, will clean up an average of 16,000 leaking tanks each year.

### **Goal 9: Prevention of Ongoing Releases of Harmful Toxic Chemicals**

By the year \_\_\_\_, releases of toxic chemicals from industrial facilities to air, water, and land will be reduced by \_\_\_\_%. By the year \_\_\_\_, generation of toxic chemical pollution (prior to recycling, treatment or disposal) will be reduced by \_\_\_\_%.

### **Goal 10: Safe Food**

EPA, in cooperation with other federal agencies, will protect the safety of the Nation's food by reducing contamination by toxic chemicals—including pesticides—and disease-causing organisms.

### **Goal 11: Worker Safety**

In cooperation with other federal agencies, EPA will continuously reduce the number of workers facing potentially unsafe exposures to harmful chemicals due to regular working conditions. We will also strive to reduce the rate at which chemical accidents occur in the workplace.

### **Goal 12: Prevention of Oil Spills and Chemical Accidents**

EPA, through vigorous enforcement of existing legislation and public education, will reduce the number of oil spills and chemical accidents. EPA will respond quickly to contain the damage from spills and accidents which do occur.

### **Goal 13: Improved Understanding of the Environment**

EPA will ensure that the public has access to specific information about significant sources of pollution in their communities and what they can do to lower risks these may pose to their health and environment. EPA will increase its efforts to inform the public about how the quality of the environment is improving or worsening across the Nation.



## Project Leadership

### Project Co-chairs

Sylvia Lowrance  
OSWER

Mark Greenwood  
OPPTS

Derry Allen  
OPPE

### Core Group of Office Directors

Mike Cook  
OW

Dick Sanderson  
OFA

Walt Kovalick  
OSWER

Abby Pirnie  
OA

Margo Oge  
OAR

Bob Wayland  
OW

Stan Meiburg  
Region 6

All 32 other Office Directors and Lead Region representatives

Cathy... This is  
Bullshit

No WAY

OSTP is a  
Coordinating  
Normal Email Strategy  
effort (proposed press release  
to issue on 6/11/11) over seeing  
us to do this!!  
Please Answer almost  
this ASAP!!

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 15, 1993

~~Murray,~~

RE: OSTP meeting  
National Environmental Strategy

Since I will be leaving for the airport by 3PM tomorrow - please plan to attend a preliminary meeting called by OSTP in Room 421 OEB on Friday @ 3:45 PM - 4:15 PM.

This meeting will be short to open up a dialogue related to a National Environmental Strategy. This will be different from the "Sustainable Development" Strategy in areas of current hazardous wastes, air toxics, health problems, etc.

After attending, write a briefing memo on the meeting to me and copy Katie and Cathy.

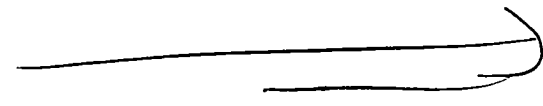
Thanks,

cc: Katie McGinty

Doh

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Katie - Did you ever  
talk w/ Jack about  
this Nat'l Envr.  
Strategy initiative?  
Gardner & Vandenberg  
want to meet w/ me  
about a "Nat'l Envr.  
Plan" - CE 5/4



The President has

Signed off on an

Exer Order that ①

establish the office of

② has this office do a total  
cutoff strategy by June, '94.

Ask Murray for a copy.

You can share it/ them, But -

it is confidential -- won't be

issued just yet. Point is  
that we will head that effort.

I have discussed this w/  
Gibbons, too.

EXECUTIVE ORDER

-----

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

By the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including sections 105, 107, and 301 of title 3, United States Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment. There is established in the Executive Office of the President the Office on Environmental Policy ("OEP").

Section 2. Functions. (a) The principal functions of the OEP are: (1) to coordinate the environmental policy-making process within the Executive Office of the President; (2) to coordinate and facilitate the provision of environmental policy advice to the President; (3) to assist the President in ensuring that his proposed programs, goals and decisions are consistent with federal environmental protection laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Administration's environmental goals; (4) to monitor implementation of the President's environmental policy agenda; (5) to assist and advise the President with respect to interagency disagreements concerning the environmental implications of proposed federal activities, policies, legislation, rules and other matters; and (6) to assist the President in developing a long-range national environmental strategy.

(b) All executive departments and agencies and the Assistants to the President for Domestic Policy, National Security, Economic Policy and Science and Technology Policy shall coordinate environmental policy development with the OEP.

(c) In performing its functions, the OEP will, when appropriate, work in conjunction with the Domestic Policy Council, the National Security Council, the National Economic Council and the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Section 3. Administration. (a) The OEP may function through established committees, task forces or interagency groups.

(b) The OEP shall have a Director and such additional staff and other assistance as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this order.

(c) All executive departments and agencies shall cooperate with the OEP and provide to the OEP such assistance, information, and advice as the OEP may request, to the extent permitted by law.

Section 4. National Environmental Strategy. (a) The OEP shall provide recommendations to the President regarding a long-range national environmental strategy before June 1, 1994. Those recommendations shall--

(1) recommend a specific plan of action for meeting long-term, measurable environmental goals;

(2) identify appropriate mechanisms for monitoring progress toward each such goal; and

(3) take into consideration national economic objectives, existing law in respect of environmental protection and requirements under treaties and international agreements to which the United States is a signatory.

(b) In developing recommendations regarding a national environmental strategy, the OEP shall consult with--

(1) appropriate executive departments, agencies and officials of the Executive Office of the President;

(2) appropriate officials of State governments, Indian tribes, and political subdivisions of States;

(3) Congress;

(4) representatives of citizens groups and industries;

and

(5) other persons or entities that the President  
considers to be appropriate.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

\_\_\_\_\_, 1993.



April 15, 1993

MEMORANDUM TO THE VICE PRESIDENT

FROM: Jack Quinn

RE: Attached Decision Memo to the President

Attached is a draft decision memo to the President for your review and approval. This approach has Katie's endorsement.

  
J.Q.

JQ:aw

Attachment

cc: Katie McGinty  
Roy Neel

DRAFT

April 15, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: The Vice President

Jack Quinn  
Counsel to the Vice President

RE: **Proposed Executive Order to Create the Office  
Environmental Policy and Establish A National  
Environmental Strategy**

I. Background

On February 8, 1993, you announced plans to reorganize the environmental protection functions of the Executive Branch. In addition to the elevation of EPA to Cabinet Department status, your reorganization proposes the elimination of the Council on Environmental Quality ("CEQ") and the creation of a White House Office on Environmental Policy ("OEP"). Under this plan, the new Department on the Environment would assume most of CEQ's current statutory functions.

Because CEQ was created by statute, its elimination requires congressional approval. Language eliminating CEQ and transferring its principal functions to EPA has been included at our request in Senator Glenn's bill to elevate EPA. That bill has now been approved by both the Senate Governmental Affairs and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committees and was reported to the full Senate on April 2, 1993.

Despite support for the legislation to this point, Senators have raised two questions that require our response:

- 1) Whether the Office on Environmental Policy should be created by statute, just as the CEQ was created, and
- 2) Whether we would agree to require the development of a "national environmental strategy."

As discussed below, we recommend that, in lieu of addressing these points in the legislation, you agree to issue an Executive Order (i) establishing the OEP and thereby institutionalizing it within the White House and (ii) directing the OEP to provide

recommendations to you for a national environmental strategy. A draft of the Order we have in mind is attached.

## II. Institutionalizing the Office on Environmental Policy

Senators Chafee and Boxer (as well as certain members of the environmental community) have expressed concern over the elimination of CEQ. Their primary fear is that they will lose an environmental champion here in the White House, particularly in later, less environmentally-conscious administrations.

To compensate for the loss of the CEQ, Senator Chafee has specifically proposed codifying the Office on Environmental Policy. We have resisted codification for these reasons:

- With few exceptions, such as the NSC, Congress does not legislate the specific creation, composition, or functions of the President's senior staff. Codification of the OEP would compromise separation of powers principles and impinge upon organizational authorities generally reserved to the Executive Branch.
- If the OEP is written into the statute, then some Senators will no doubt want to require that the director of the OEP be Senate-confirmed. This would substantially change the nature of the OEP (and underscores our concern about the separation of powers implications of codification).
- Codifying the OEP while at the same time eliminating the CEQ creates the appearance of simply renaming the CEQ. We should insist that the OEP will serve a different function (namely, a staff function) than did the CEQ (a Senate-confirmed body).

We therefore recommend that you establish the Office on Environmental Policy through an Executive Order. The Executive Order approach institutionalizes the OEP -- a worthwhile goal -- while eliminating intrusive congressional involvement in defining the functions of your staff. While not as permanent as a statutorily-based office, a future President would have to take the affirmative step of rescinding the Executive Order to abolish the OEP.

As with the Executive Order establishing the National Economic Council, the OEP Executive Order will outline the basic responsibilities of the Office. Provisions of the Order would, for example, include:

- The establishment of the Office; and

- A general description of the functions of the Office, including
  - coordination of policy at the White House,
  - advising the President on environmental matters,
  - monitoring the implementation of the President's directives, and
  - assisting the President in resolution of inter-agency disputes on environmental impact statements.

Please indicate whether you approve or disapprove of our recommendation to create the OEP by an Executive Order.

☐ Approve  
☐ Disapprove  
☐ Requires discussion

### III. National Environmental Policy

Senators Lieberman and Chafee threaten to offer an amendment to the EPA elevation bill requiring the development of a "national environmental strategy" within a year or so. Senator Lieberman has in fact drafted a detailed amendment outlining specific elements of the strategy.

We recommend that the Executive Order that establishes the OEP also outline the requirements of a national environmental strategy. Without such action, the Senate is likely to add language to this effect to the EPA elevation bill which is both more specific and more intrusive than language we would include in an Order. By including a provision to this effect in the Executive Order, we would control the terms and scope of the effort.

Please indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the recommendation to outline the national environmental strategy through the Executive Order that establishes the OEP.

☐ Approve  
☐ Disapprove  
☐ Requires discussion

Thank you.