

EPA InSight POLICY PAPER

This supplement to EPA InSight contains up-to-date policy information from the Administrator to all EPA employees.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S EARTH DAY MESSAGE - 1993

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
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.....IF THERE IS ONE COMMITMENT THAT DEFINES OUR PEOPLE, it is our devotion to the rich and expansive land we have inherited. From the first Americans to the present day, our people have lived in awe of the power, the majesty, and the beauty of the forest, the rivers, and the streams of America. That love of the land, which flows like a mighty current through this land and through our character, burst into service on the first Earth Day in 1970....

....UNLESS WE ACT, AND ACT NOW, we face a future where our planet will be home to **nine billion people** within our lifetime, but its capacity to support and sustain our lives will be very much diminished. Unless we act, we face the extinction of untold numbers of species that might support our livelihoods and provide medication to save our very lives. Unless we act now, we face a future in which the sun may scorch us, not warm us; where the change of seasons may take on a dreadful new meaning; and where our children's children will inherit a planet far less hospitable than the world in which we came of age. I have a faith that we will act, not from fear, but from hope and through vision.

....OUR ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM IS BASED ON THREE PRINCIPLES:

--First, we think you can't have a healthy economy without a healthy environment. We need not choose between breathing clean air and bringing home secure paychecks. The fact is our environmental problems result not from robust growth, but from reckless growth. The fact is only a prosperous society can have the confidence and the means to protect its environment. And the fact is healthy communities and environmentally-sound products and services do best in today's economic competition.

--Second, we want to protect the environment at home and abroad. In an era of global economics, global epidemics, and global environmental hazards, a central challenge of our time is to promote our national interest in the context of its connectedness with the rest of the world. We share our atmosphere, our planet, our destiny with all the peoples in this world. And the policies I outline today will protect all of us because that is the only way we can protect any of us.

--Third, we must move beyond the antagonisms among business, government, and individual citizens. The policies I outline today are part of our effort to reinvent government, to make it your partner and not your overseer, to lead by example

and not by bureaucratic fiat.

IN THE FACE OF GREAT CHALLENGES, we need a government that not only guards against the worst in us, but helps to bring out the best in us. I know we can do this because our administration includes the best team of environmental policymakers who have ever served the United States: the Vice President; Interior Secretary Babbitt; EPA Administrator Browner--and I hope that the EPA will soon, by the grace of Congress, be a Cabinet-level department--and Energy Secretary O'Leary; Commerce Secretary Brown; Transportation Secretary Pena; Agriculture Secretary Espy; our Environmental Policy Director Katie McGinty, and our Science and Technology Advisor Jack Gibbons.

....OUR LONG-TERM STRATEGY invests more in pollution prevention, energy efficiency, and solar energy, in renewable energy, environmental restoration, and water treatment--all of which can be found in the five-year budget that we have presented to the Congress.

....I BELIEVE WE CAN DEVELOP THE KNOW-HOW TO OUT-CONSERVE AND OUT-COMPETE ANYONE ELSE ON EARTH. All over the world people are buying products that help them to protect the environment. There's a \$200-billion market today for environmental technologies. And by the turn of the decade...it will be \$300 billion.

....I'VE ASKED THE ENERGY DEPARTMENT, THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT, AND THE EPA to assess current environmental technologies and to create a strategic plan to give our companies the trade development, promotional efforts, and technical assistance they need to turn these advances into jobs here in America, as well as to help promote a better environment....

....TODAY, I AM PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE UNITED STATES' INTENTION TO SIGN THE BIODIVERSITY TREATY...I'm also directing the State Department to move ahead with our talks with other countries which have signed the convention, so that the United States can move as quickly as possible toward ratification.

....I'M ASKING THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT to create a national biological survey to help us protect endangered species and, just as importantly, to help the agricultural and biotechnical industries of our country identify new sources of food, fiber, and medication.

WE MUST ALSO TAKE THE LEAD in addressing the

3 DAYS ONLY

challenge of global warming...Today, I reaffirm my personal--and our nation's--commitment to reducing our emissions of greenhouse gases to their 1990 levels by the year 2000.

I AM INSTRUCTING MY ADMINISTRATION TO PRODUCE A COST-EFFECTIVE PLAN by August that can continue the trend of reduced emissions. This must be a clarion call, not for more bureaucracy or regulation or unnecessary costs, but instead, for American ingenuity and creativity, to produce the best and most energy-efficient technology.

...WE FACE THE CHALLENGE OF HELPING RUSSIA achieve a healthy democracy, a healthy economy, and a healthy environment. Our Russian aid package includes \$38 million to clean up pollution and promote better uses of energy...this is truly an investment, not only in promoting our own values, but in protecting our national security....

...THREE WEEKS AGO IN PORTLAND, OREGON, we brought together business people, timber workers, and environmentalists from throughout the Northwest to discuss how best to preserve jobs and to protect the old-growth forests and the species which inhabit them...At the close of the **Forest Conference**, I asked my Cabinet and our entire administration to begin work immediately to craft a balanced, comprehensive, long-term policy that is also comprehensible.

...I PLAN TO SIGN AN EXECUTIVE ORDER requiring **federal facilities** that manufacture, process, or use toxic chemicals to comply with the federal right-to-know laws, and publicly report what they are doing...With this executive order, I ask all federal facilities to set a voluntary goal to reduce their release of toxic pollutants by **50 percent by 1999**...it will help to make the government what it should be--a **positive example for the rest of the country**.

...TODAY, I AM ALSO SIGNING AN EXECUTIVE ORDER that directs federal agencies to make preliminary changes in their **purchasing policies** to use fewer substances harmful to the ozone layer....

TODAY, I AM SIGNING AN EXECUTIVE ORDER which commits the federal government to buy thousands more

American-made vehicles using clean domestic fuels, such as natural gas, ethanol, methanol, and electric power...To demonstrate my commitment to this issue, **Energy Secretary O'Leary** is creating a task force led by the **Land Commissioner of Texas, Gary Mauro**...who has headed a successful effort in his own state....

IN THAT SAME SPIRIT, I PLAN TO SIGN AN EXECUTIVE ORDER committing every agency of the national government to do more than ever to buy and use **recycled products**....

...THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS THE LARGEST PURCHASER of computer equipment in the world, and computers are the fastest growing area of electricity use. That's why I'm signing an executive order today requiring the federal government to purchase **energy-efficient computers**....

FOR AS LONG AS I LIVE AND WORK IN THE WHITE HOUSE, I want Americans to see it, not only as a symbol of clean government, but also a clean environment. That's why I'm announcing an **energy and environmental audit of the White House**. We're going to make the White House a model for efficiency and waste reduction...for other federal agencies, for state and local governments, for business, and for families in their homes....

I ASK THAT ALL OF US TODAY REAFFIRM OUR WILLINGNESS to assume responsibility for our common environment, and to do it willingly, hopefully, and joyously. We are challenged here today, not so much to sacrifice as to **celebrate and create**. I've challenged Americans who are young in years or young in spirit to offer their time and their talent to serve their communities and their country...Our **National Service Plan** will ask thousands of Americans to do their part, from leading recycling drives to preventing lead poisoning.

...IT IS A SEASON OF NEW HOPE AND NEW BEGINNINGS...we must seize the possibilities inherent in this exhilarating moment; to face our challenges, to exercise our responsibilities, and to rejoice in them.

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