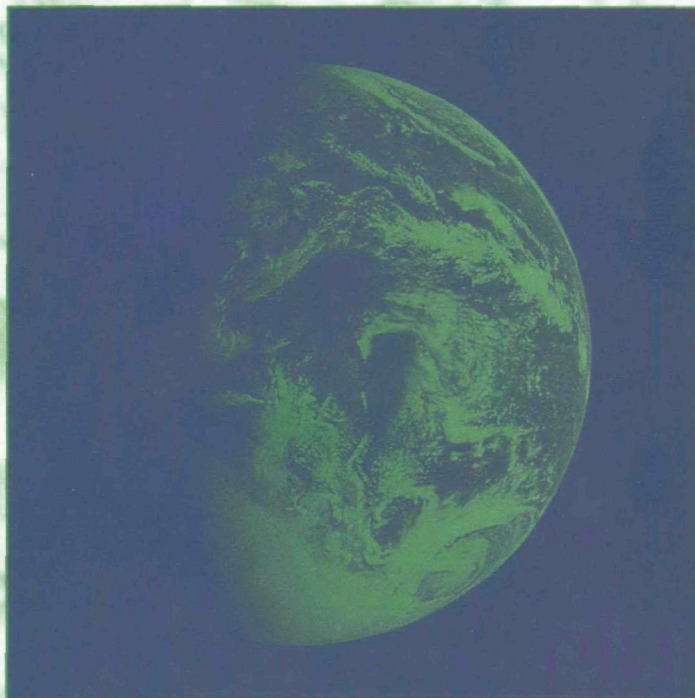


1970

30 YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS

2000

REMEMBER THE PAST



PROTECT THE FUTURE



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region III/Mid-Atlantic States
EPA-903-R-00-004

DELAWARE | DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA | MARYLAND | PENNSYLVANIA | VIRGINIA | WEST VIRGINIA

EPA was born 30 years ago at a time when rivers caught fire and cities were hidden under dense clouds of smoke. We've made remarkable progress since then. But we can't rest on our success.

Our mission to protect the environment, and to protect public health, is a mission without end. New challenges loom over the horizon as surely as the new day.

We must continue our work to ensure that with each new dawn, the sun shines through clear skies and upon clean waters — and all our families enjoy the blessings of good health.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Carol M. Browner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

-Carol M. Browner, EPA Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

Dear Friends:

The 30 years of environmental progress highlighted in this report chart a remarkable success story. In one generation, we have reversed the effects of more than a century of industrial pollution and environmental degradation, and we have begun the effort to restore and protect our treasured natural resources. We have done this and at the same time built the strongest economy in our history.

This remarkable progress is a tribute to the work of thousands of dedicated and talented EPA employees, to the cooperation of other federal agencies and state and local governments, to the efforts of scores of nonprofit organizations and their volunteers, to the tenacity of dedicated community activists, and to the enlightened leadership of many in business and industry.

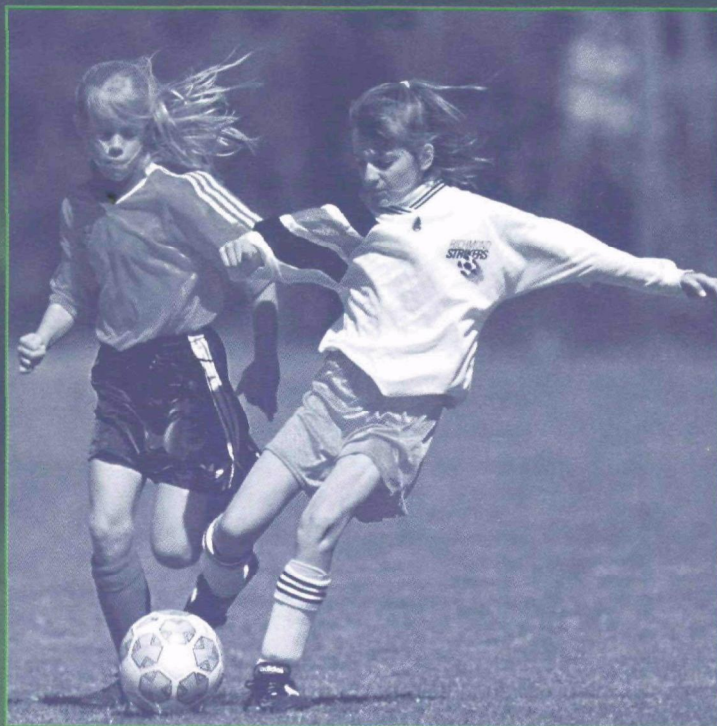
But there is so much more to do. Many communities have yet to share fully in the benefits of our environmental progress, and the new century presents challenges - from uncontrolled sprawl to climate change - that were scarcely understood or anticipated at the time of EPA's founding. President Clinton, Vice President Gore and EPA Administrator Browner have defined a vision and a program to meet these challenges - to protect the health of our children, ensure cleaner and more livable communities, and preserve farmland and open space while providing all communities with clean air, clean water, and safe drinking water.

This leadership, joined by that of environmental leaders in communities across the country, offers the promise that we may fulfill Theodore Roosevelt's mandate that we leave this nation "a better land for our descendants than it is for us."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Bradley M. Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bradley M. Campbell
Regional Administrator



1970 President Richard Nixon signs the National Environmental Policy Act, requiring a comprehensive environmental review. The Clean Air Act is amended, creating stringent anti-pollution laws, setting auto emissions standards, and requiring state

CLEAN AIR

The Breath of Life - For a Healthy America

Before there was an Environmental Protection Agency, before there was an Earth Day, before Rachel Carson wrote "Silent Spring," there was Donora.

On the evening of October 26, 1948, a suffocating cloud of industrial gases and dust from a local zinc smelter descended upon this western Pennsylvania town like some biblical plague, killing 20 residents and sending 7000 people — half the population — to the hospital with breathing difficulty.

The Donora tragedy shocked the nation and marked a turning point in our complacency about industrial pollution and its effect on our health. Americans demanded breathable air, and industry was forced to clean up. Many states lacked resources or the will to address the problem. So, in 1963, Congress passed the first federal Clean Air Act, then amended it in 1970 to give it teeth. States were now required to come up with plans for reducing pollution to meet federal clean air standards.

Since the passage of the 1970 Clean Air Act, we have removed 98 percent of lead from the air, 79 percent of soot, 41 percent of sulfur dioxide, 28 percent of carbon monoxide, and 25 percent of the smog soup now called ozone.

We've come a long way since Donora, but our work is not done. America no longer has black

skies or belching smokestacks. Today's air quality problems are more insidious. We now know that air pollution blows across state lines, and that nitrogen oxide emissions from a coal-fired power plant in the Midwest can cause unhealthy levels of ozone smog for children living in the Northeast.

Ground-level ozone — today's smog — is still with us, and so are its associated health problems. An estimated 10 to 20 percent of all respiratory-related hospital visits in the Northeast can be attributed to ozone pollution. Cases of death among children from asthma have reached alarming levels and are on the rise.

Over the past few years, EPA has taken several important steps to better protect public health. As the millennium turns, EPA continues to fight for the right of Americans to breathe clean air with new standards for fine particles and seek reductions in smog-causing nitrogen oxide emissions from power plants.

Whether it would have saved 20 lives in Donora in 1948, or will improve life for 100 million Americans living in areas that have not attained basic clean air goals, protecting air quality has become a health imperative. We may never return to the disastrous conditions of Donora, but the fight for clean, breathable air still presents major challenges.

Protecting the environment has paid big dividends to Americans, and none bigger than public health. It's a matter of health and breath.

Economic, Health and Environmental Benefits

The economic value of the public health and environmental benefits that Americans enjoy from the 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act exceed their costs by a margin of 4-to-1. An estimated \$110 billion will be saved, avoiding illnesses and premature deaths that would have occurred without new clean air standards in the amendments.

Using a sophisticated array of computer models and the latest emissions and cost data, an EPA study shows that by 2010, implementation of the amendments will save 23,000 people from dying prematurely, and will avert more than 1.7 million asthma attacks.

In addition, the clean air amendments will prevent 67,000 incidents of chronic and acute bronchitis, 91,000 occurrences of shortness of breath, 4.1 million lost work days, and 31 million days in which Americans would have had to restrict activity due to air pollution and related illnesses. These standards also

would prevent 22,000 respiratory-related and 42,000 cardiovascular-related hospital admissions, and 4,800 emergency room visits for asthma.

Smog in the mid-Atlantic

Ozone smog that plagues the mid-Atlantic states is caused by a combination of local and regional sources. Air pollution does not stop at state lines. States in the region have spent millions of dollars to reduce unhealthy levels of smog, but are faced with pollution transported from power plants and factories hundred of miles away. Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and the District of Columbia all have



Courtesy of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

In 1968, smoke blotted out the sky in Pittsburgh on a bad air day, two years before Congress amended the Clean Air Act and gave it teeth. Once known as the Smoky City, a century of iron, steel and coke making created an unrelenting haze that blackened buildings and blotted out the sun until the late 1940s when Pittsburgh got serious about cleaning the air.

budget. EPA Region III is established with offices in Philadelphia and laboratories in Annapolis, Md., and Wheeling, W.Va. paint on cribs and toys. 1972 Clean Water Act is passed, reducing pollution from point sources. DDT is banned. Manufacturers

upgraded their auto inspection and maintenance programs to ensure that vehicle emissions are minimized.

In the metro Washington, D.C., area including northern Virginia, more than 1 million people live in this area which does not meet health-based air quality standards for ozone. Richmond and the Shenandoah National Forest have exceeded the standard several times. More than 6 million Pennsylvanians live in areas that do not meet air quality standards, as do more than 4 million people in Maryland and 500,000 in Delaware.

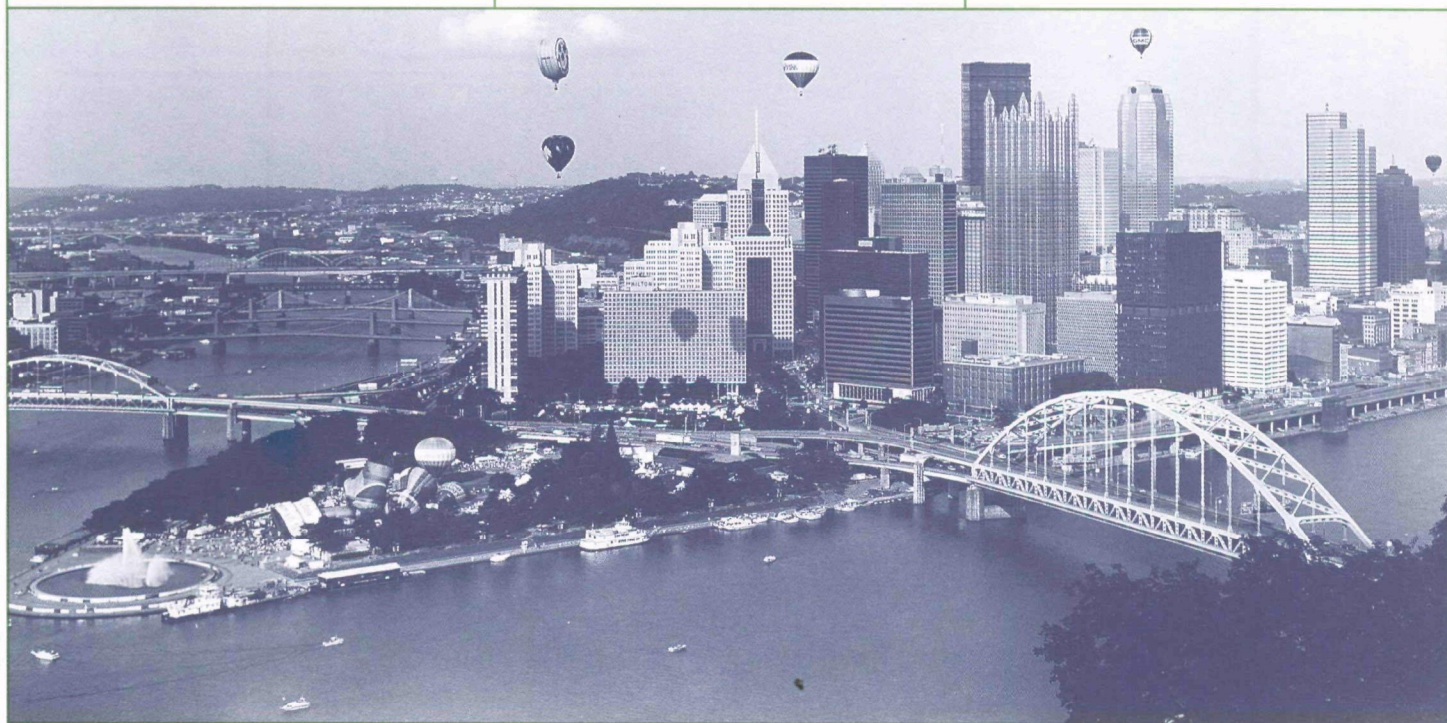
EPA continues to work with the states to reduce sources of smog, and to help businesses develop new cost-saving technologies to reduce pollution. A clear example of our success in reducing ozone is seen by comparing the hot summers of 1988 and 1998. In 1988, mid-Atlantic states had 60 days exceeding the one-hour health-based standard. But by 1998, there were fewer than 10.

Public Awareness of Air Quality

Public awareness of air quality, indoors and outdoors, has advanced significantly. Most new home buyers now test for radon, the second leading

cause of lung cancer in the United States. Mid-Atlantic scientists recognized the harmful health effects of the naturally occurring radon in homes in Reading, Pennsylvania and sounded the alarm across the country. Renters, home owners and builders now know that asbestos is harmful. During the summers, when press reports alert us to ozone action days, citizens now reduce exposure to high levels of this noxious ozone-smog.

With a sophisticated urban air monitoring network in place, we now have a statistical basis to protect our nation's air quality and public health.



Today, Pittsburgh's Golden Triangle offers spectacular evidence of how well Americans can clean up a polluted city.

Courtesy of Norman W. Schumm

Environmental Enforcement

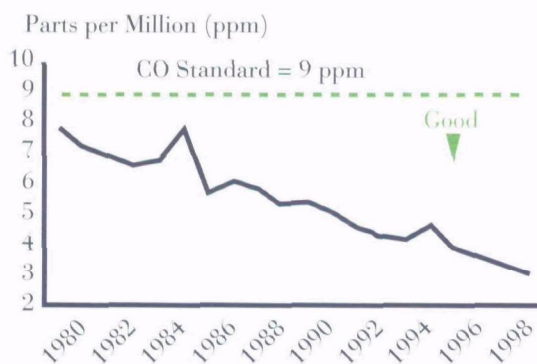
The mid-Atlantic region has always been active in Clean Air Act enforcement. Recently, the region has added sector initiatives, where specific industrial sectors were targeted.

EPA investigated sectors where there had been significant expansion and the necessary permits and pollution control equipment may not have been installed. As a result, in 1998 the pulp and paper industry and in 1999 the utility industry

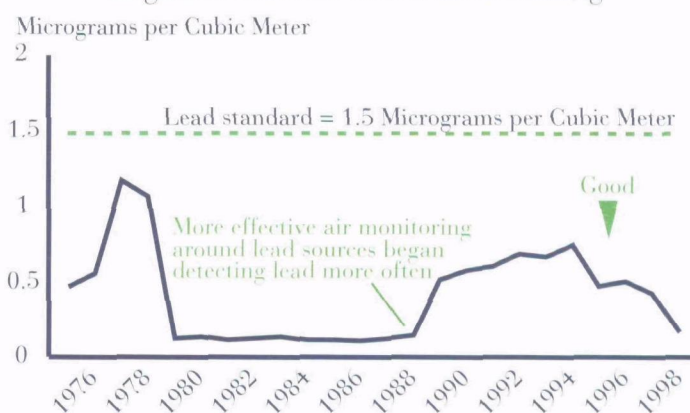
were cited. These enforcement actions promise to reduce tons of pollutants and may require significant penalties. EPA has compliance assistance information for these and other industrial sectors to help them comply with the Clean Air Act.

Serious Reductions Made in 4 of 6 Most Common Air Pollutants Affecting Public Health in the Mid-Atlantic Region

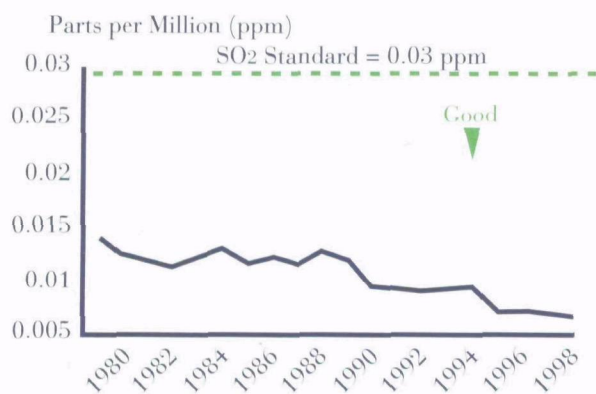
Carbon Monoxide Air Levels Have Dropped Significantly



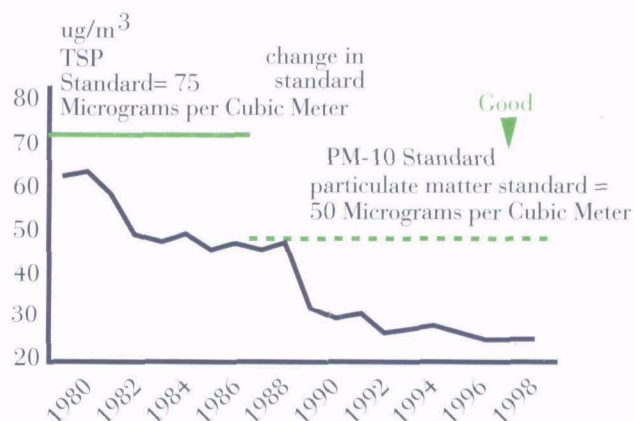
Regional Lead Air Levels are Declining



Sulfur Dioxide Air Levels are Far Below the Standard



TSP & PM-10: Less Dust and Soot in Air

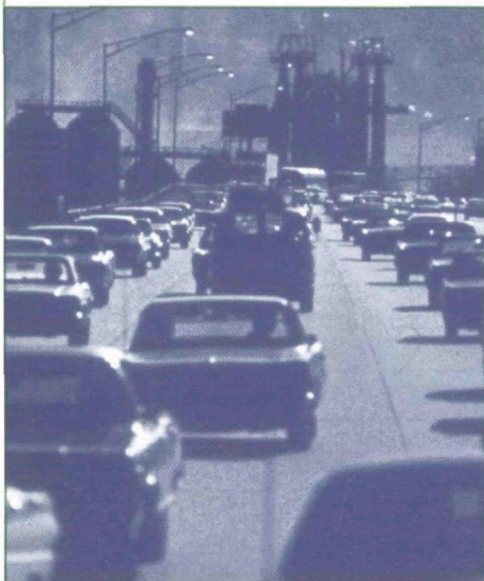


Source: EPA AIRS Database

EPA's efforts to reduce air pollution began with six criteria air pollutants: carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), particulate matter which is dust and soot (PM-10), lead (Pb), ozone, and nitrogen dioxide. Progress has been made in reducing all six of these criteria pollutants. Utilities and industry's compliance with the Clean Air Act have brought about serious air quality improvements by reducing CO, SO₂, and PM-10. Removing lead from gasoline has brought about more air quality gains.

Representatives of 114 countries meet in Stockholm, Sweden in first global environmental conference. 1973 Congress passes out lead in gasoline. Energy crisis grips the world, exacerbated by an Arab nations oil embargo. 1974 Theory is published on

Courtesy of S. C. Delaney/EPA



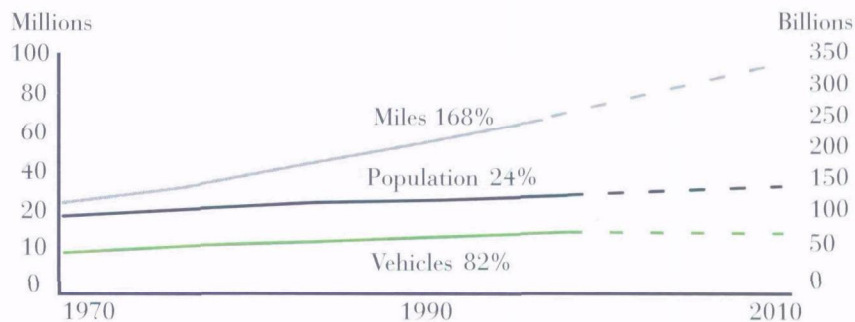
The automobile is one of the major producers of smog. Motorists drive 35 percent more miles than in 1957. Freeways are clogged during rush hours from urban sprawl as the number of vehicles on the road has increased faster than the population.

D.C. Metro Center Courtesy: WMATA, Phil Porlock



Taking mass transit, sharing a ride or car pooling reduces traffic congestion, air pollution, and saves money.

Number of Vehicles and Vehicle Miles Traveled Increases Dramatically



During the past 30 years, air quality has improved significantly while the GDP grew by 140 percent, the population grew by 24 percent, and the number of motor vehicle miles driven increased by 168 percent.

Cleaner Air for the New Century

In addition to more efficient automobiles and cleaner fuels, state managed inspection and maintenance programs have also contributed to cleaner air.

In December 1999, in another key step to protect America's public health, President Clinton announced the strongest standards ever for controlling harmful tailpipe emissions. For the first time, sport utility vehicles, mini-vans and pickup trucks will also meet the same new low tailpipe emissions required for passenger cars. This also provides for cleaner gasoline with lower sulfur content.

The public health benefits of these new standards are truly significant. Over the next few decades, almost 50 million tons of smog-causing air pollution will be removed from the air. This means 260,000 fewer asthma attacks in children, 4,300 premature deaths prevented and 173,000 respiratory-related illnesses avoided. The new rules will save the nation \$25 billion in medical and other health-related costs and prevent 683,000 missed workdays and more than 5 million days when people restrict their activity because of bad air.

To get real time information about smog and air quality in your area, click on to www.epa.gov/airnow/



Congress passes the Safe Drinking Water Act. 1975 Car makers begin installing catalytic converters in new vehicles. 1976 polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). 1977 National energy plan of President Jimmy Carter focuses on conservation and

CLEAN WATER

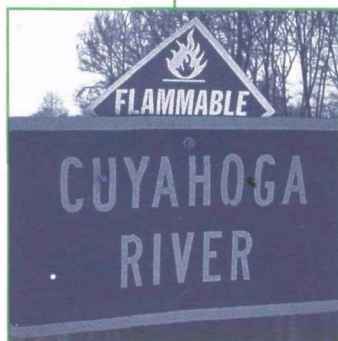
Safe Drinking Water for Everyone - A Presidential Mandate

America has come a long way since 1969, when rivers in many cities were open sewers and the Cuyahoga River, polluted with volatile chemicals, caught fire in Cleveland, Ohio. From a world of waterways contaminated with industrial waste and inadequate sewage treatment, we tackled our problems head on and solved many of the big ones.

Armed with legislation and funding from Congress, the Environmental Protection Agency led the fight to reclaim and restore the nation's rivers, lakes and harbors. The Clean Water Act, passed in 1972, only two years after EPA was established, gave the agency its first authority to reduce industrial discharges into public waters. During the next 28 years, the American people have kept more than one billion pounds of toxic pollution every year from entering our waterways.

Responding to public concern over findings of harmful chemicals in drinking water supplies, EPA established health-based standards under the 1974 Safe Drinking Water Act. Today, thanks to successful environmental protection, the United States enjoys one of the best supplies of safe drinking water in the world. Two-thirds of our people get their drinking water from lakes and rivers and the balance from ground water.

Courtesy of Dave Stroud, Ohio EPA



Drinking water standards are now in place for more than 80 different contaminants, which public water suppliers monitor to ensure our safety. In 1998, President Clinton called on community water suppliers to tell customers where their water comes from and what chemicals it contains.

Fish are now plentiful in rivers once too contaminated to support aquatic life. Massive fish kills were in recent memory common and threatened the fishing industry in the Chesapeake Bay, Delaware Estuary and other primary fisheries.

People now swim and fish in many lakes and rivers where before it was unthinkable. The Clean Water Act has doubled the amount of water suitable for fishing and swimming.

Ocean dumping of sewage sludge, industrial waste, plastic debris and medical waste has been banned. More than 30,000 major industrial dischargers pretreat waste before it enters local sewers. This has removed from our sewers 75 percent of the toxic discharges that include heavy metals and PCBs. Since 1990, through site planning, facility inspection and oil spill exercises, EPA has decreased spills at oil storage facilities.

However, despite this tremendous progress, 40 percent of our surface waters are still not safe for fishing and swimming. About half of the country's 2,000 major watersheds, including the Chesapeake Bay, have water quality problems that threaten living creatures and pose a public health risk.

To eliminate these health threats, hundreds of billions of federal, state and local dollars have helped to upgrade sewage treatment plants and build new drinking water facilities for 73 million people in thousands of communities. More than 85 percent of all Americans now have safe, healthy drinking water. President Clinton has challenged EPA to raise this to 100 percent.

The Public's Right to Know

A new consumer confidence rule requires local water

Courtesy of Andy Lloyd



The Ohio River is shown flowing by Wheeling, W. Va. This river is the source of drinking water for millions of people in Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois.

companies to tell customers about the source, quality, ingredients and possible contaminants in their water; and to include health education statements for children, the elderly and people with immune system disorders.

EPA and the states regulate more than 21,000 water

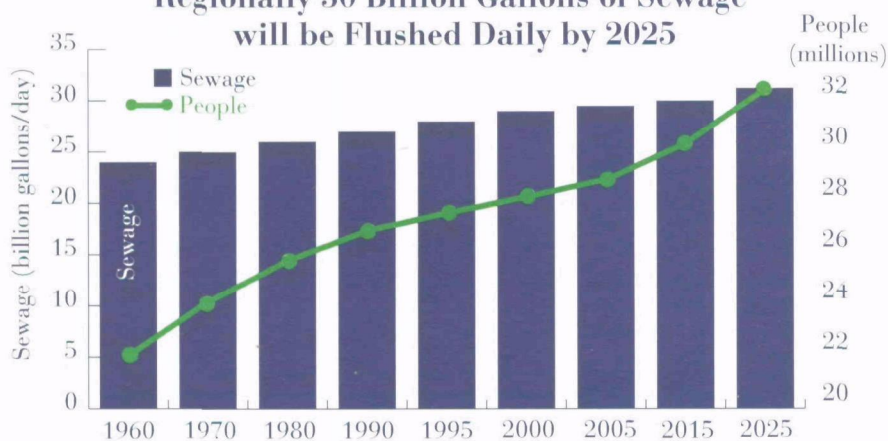
supplies in the mid-Atlantic region. The 600 largest systems supply 90 percent of the water consumed by 26 million residents. Only 10 percent of public water is supplied by the remaining 20,400 small- and medium-size water systems.

Enforcing Drinking Water Standards

A significant factor in cleaning up drinking water supplies is enforcement of our anti-pollution laws. During the last five years, EPA has taken 64,393 enforcement actions against public water systems in the mid-Atlantic region. These actions can be informal or formal, ranging from a phone call asking why a particular report is late, to a full-blown criminal action that can carry a jail sentence for the worst polluters.

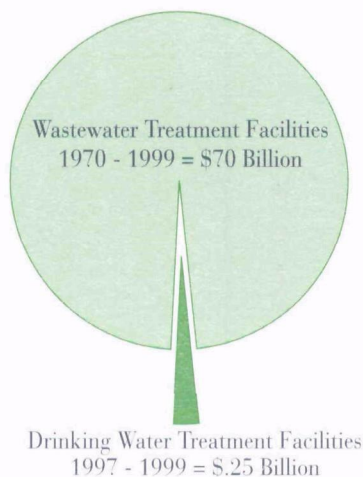
In 1995, Washington, D.C. residents awoke to the news that they had to boil their water to make it safe to drink. The city-owned-and-managed

Regionally 30 Billion Gallons of Sewage will be Flushed Daily by 2025

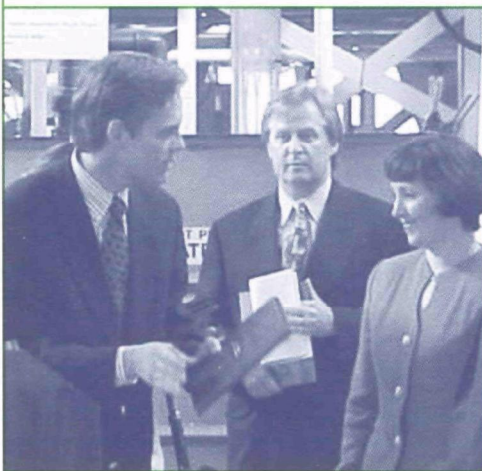


Population in the mid-Atlantic states has increased significantly and is projected to be 31 million by 2025. 30 billion gallons of human waste is flushed every day, and will grow with the population. The water we flush today may be the water we drink tomorrow. That's why sewage treatment and drinking water standards are so important.

Billions of Dollars in Funding to Improve Water Quality in Region III



The mid-Atlantic region has 5,100 community water systems that provide water for more than 27 million people. EPA provides funds for communities to improve their wastewater and drinking water treatment and trains sewage treatment and drinking water operators.



In Region III there are 267 large drinking water systems. Three have chosen to surpass federal and state drinking water standards and have been recognized with EPA's Directors Award. Above, Deputy Administrator W. Michael McCabe is presenting this award to Philadelphia's Water Department.

utility had diverted water revenues to other city projects, resulting in serious deterioration of the drinking water system. EPA worked with Congress to clean up the contaminated distribution system and to establish a new regional water and sewer authority with an accountable financing and management structure.

New Threats to Drinking Water

The biggest source of pollution to the nation's waters today is agricultural runoff. It affects 70 percent of our rivers and streams and 49 percent of our lakes. For example, common practice by farmers is spreading manure on fields as fertilizer. Over the years, farmland has become saturated with nutrients that far exceed the ability of crops and soil to absorb them. The excess nitrogen and phosphorus flow as pollution into rivers, streams, and ground water.

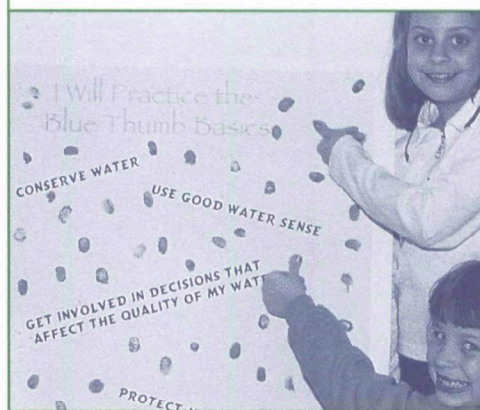
As part of President Clinton's Clean Water Action Plan in 1998, EPA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture released a national strategy to minimize water pollution from animal feeding operations. Toxic waste also can threaten water supplies.

The movie, *A Civil Action*, was a reminder of how contaminated ground water could become toxic drinking water. Now state environmental agencies are assessing surface and ground water — our drinking water sources — to identify potential contamination.

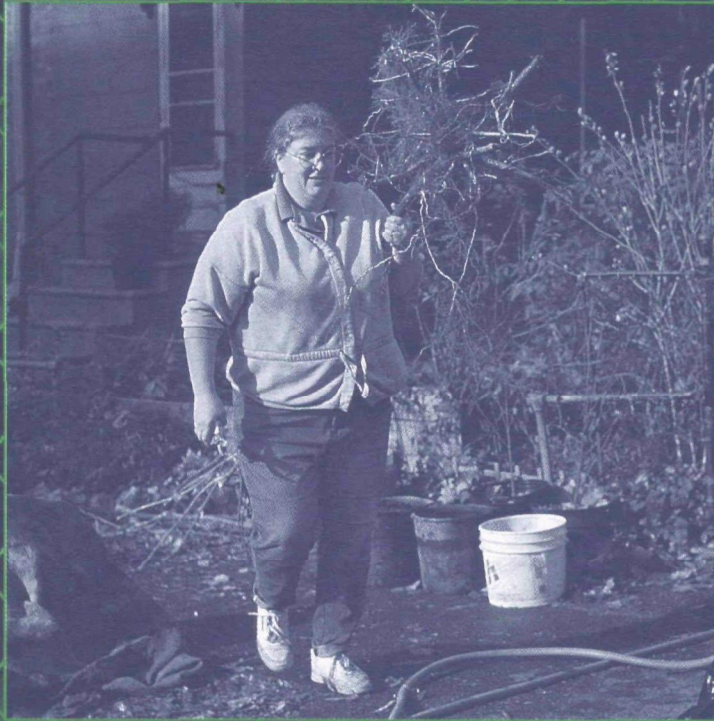
- For specific information about your local drinking water, access the web site <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/> which links to more than 300 reports serving nearly 100 million people or call *The Safe Drinking Water Hotline* at (800) 426-4791.

Enforcing Water Quality Permits

EPA's mid-Atlantic region set a national precedent in its action against Smithfield Foods's pollution of the James River basin. EPA struck a blow on behalf of the Chesapeake Bay by forcing Smithfield to stop dumping an estimated 3 million gallons a day of animal waste into the Pagan River, and treat it at a sewage plant. The \$12.6 million judgment in 1997 is the second highest awarded in Clean Water Act litigation.



Students, seniors and citizens promise to conserve and protect drinking water by taking the Blue Thumb Pledge.



safe disposal of nuclear waste from power plants and weapon production. 1983 The Chesapeake Bay Agreement signed activities. 1984 Union Carbide plant accident in Bhopal, India releases methyl isocyanate, killing more than 2,000 people. 1985

CLEAN LAND

From Superfund to Super Parks

There was a time when people didn't think twice about burying their garbage and hazardous wastes wherever and whenever was convenient. Industries buried waste in their own backyards, and for years, communities deposited both trash and toxic waste at the town dump.

The infamous Love Canal provided our nation with a much-needed catalyst for action. Used as an industrial dumping ground since the 1930s, community activists turned a spotlight on this suburban area in upstate New York and it was found to be contaminated by buried, leaking chemical containers, in 1978. It was immediately declared a grave and imminent peril to the health of hundreds of residents.

Proper waste disposal was catapulted to an issue of national significance. With Love Canal as a symbolic poster community, Americans learned the hard and fast way that unchecked dumping of hazardous materials posed serious health risks.

Then came Superfund.

Established in 1980, Superfund empowered EPA to not only protect the environment, but also to clean our nation's worst abandoned hazardous waste sites. Today, hazardous wastes and toxic materials are tracked from production to disposal. The public is informed about the presence and potential danger of all toxic materials in their

community, whether it's emitted from a smokestack or stored in a warehouse.

Yet solutions aren't always evident, and the hurdles to cleanup are immense. Industries in the mid-Atlantic states alone generate 50,000 tons of hazardous waste a day. Cities are running out of space to dump their waste and must dispose of it elsewhere.

In 1986, the ship *Khian Sea* left Philadelphia with 15,000 tons of incinerator ash. Waste that no one wanted. The ship dumped some ash in Haiti and traveled the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans before arriving — empty — in Singapore. Almost a decade after Love Canal, the *Khian Sea* incident provided Americans with another staggering reminder of a very valuable yet limited resource — clean land.

Communities realize that the concept of environmental protection extends far beyond waste removal. The Superfund and companion hazardous waste management programs go a step further, finding creative solutions to solving the nation's shrinking landfill space and developing waste management alternatives like land recycling, reuse and waste reduction.

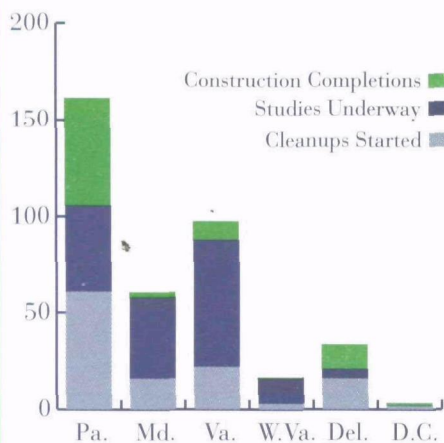
Looking back over the past 20 years, EPA's Superfund accomplishments are substantial. While not without its problems, Superfund has cleaned up

more than 675 of the nation's most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites with 85 more completions expected by the close of 2000.

In the past seven years alone, EPA has built a better Superfund through comprehensive administrative reforms. During this time, Superfund has completed construction at three times as many sites as in the previous 13 years combined. The program's emphasis on involving communities, state partners and local governments has been an integral facet to this surge in construction completions.

There is a financial chapter to the Superfund success story. The program uses innovative agreements with responsible

Superfund Progress in Region III Since 1983



parties to result in faster, more cost-effective settlements. These settlements, in turn, conserve the Superfund Trust Fund for use at sites without capable and willing responsible parties.

So far, responsible parties have paid 70 percent of the cleanup costs, saving U.S. taxpayers billions of dollars. Since 1982, the mid-Atlantic region has cleaned up 83 sites, and using innovative technologies, changed 40 cleanup decisions to accelerate construction time and save more than \$100 million.

Where the responsible party has been defunct or financially insolvent, the region bridged the funding gap with \$26.6 million at 12 "orphan" sites.

At 23 sites, the agency reached settlements with hundreds of minor defendants saving them and the agency millions in legal costs and unnecessary litigation.

Restoring and Reusing the Land

EPA's mid-Atlantic success stories speak volumes about the region's emphasis on comprehensive and timely cleanups. For example, the mid-Atlantic region deleted one of the first sites ever from the National Priorities List of most hazardous and abandoned waste sites. Based in Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, the Lehigh Electric & Engineering site's dangerously high concentrations of PCBs once threatened nearby residents. Thanks to Superfund, local residents now rest assured that the site is not only clean, but that their families are safe.

Dedication to cleaning the environment and restoring economic vitality back to affected communities is a driving force behind EPA's success. In 1997, the mid-Atlantic region completed the nation's 500th Superfund cleanup at the former Publicker Industries on the Philadelphia waterfront.

Hailed as a redevelopment milestone, Publicker was once severely contaminated with laboratory wastes, flammable gas cylinders, VOCs and PCBs. Today it is being redeveloped as a shipping terminal that will create 1,500 new jobs. Nationally, more than 150 Superfund sites have been put back to productive use, support 11,000 jobs, generate revenues for states and local



In Anacostia, a Washington D.C. neighborhood, the "Day on the River Program" not only provides recreational access to the river, it gives children in the community an opportunity to make new friends while enjoying a piece of nature in the city.

are at risk from chemical releases. British scientists report a giant "hole" in the ozone layer is opening up each spring over the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the former Soviet Union, resulting in the worst accidental release of radioactive materials in



Superfund clean-up underway. Once Superfund sites are cleaned, the land can then be redeveloped into wildlife preserves, nature refuges, industrial parks, and community spaces including golf courses.



communities, while creating 13,000 acres of new recreational and beneficial green space.

Soccer and softball fields now occupy almost 30 acres where fly ash was disposed at Chisman Creek in York County, Virginia. Once a blight to the local community, groundwater at the site was highly contaminated, threatening nearby estuaries. EPA took action, partnering with state and local governments, community members, and responsible parties to develop sound cleanup solutions resulting in a sports park that is widely enjoyed today.

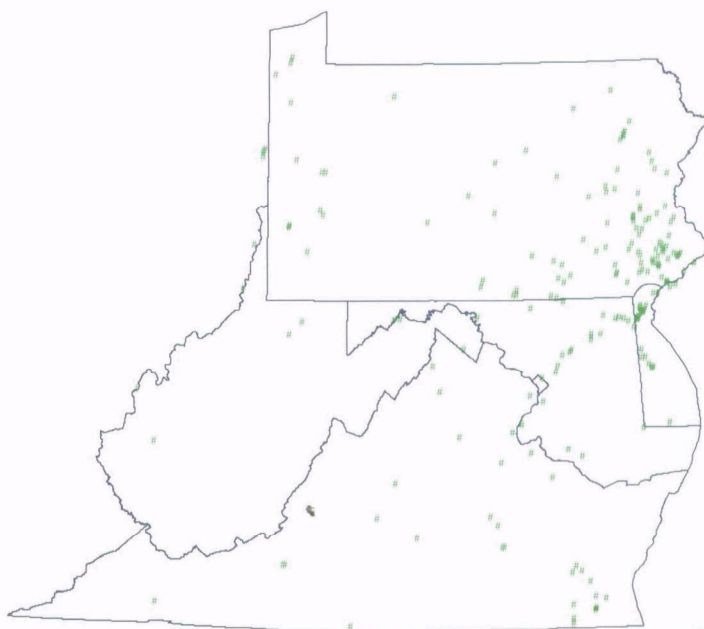
Chosen as one of the 10 Superfund recycling pilot programs in the country, the former Avtex Fibers plant in Front Royal, Virginia will provide the community with a recreation and wildlife conservancy, soccer fields and a

business park-office. In addition to nearly \$20 million spent on cleanup by a responsible party, that party has reimbursed EPA \$9.1 million and agreed to perform the remaining cleanup

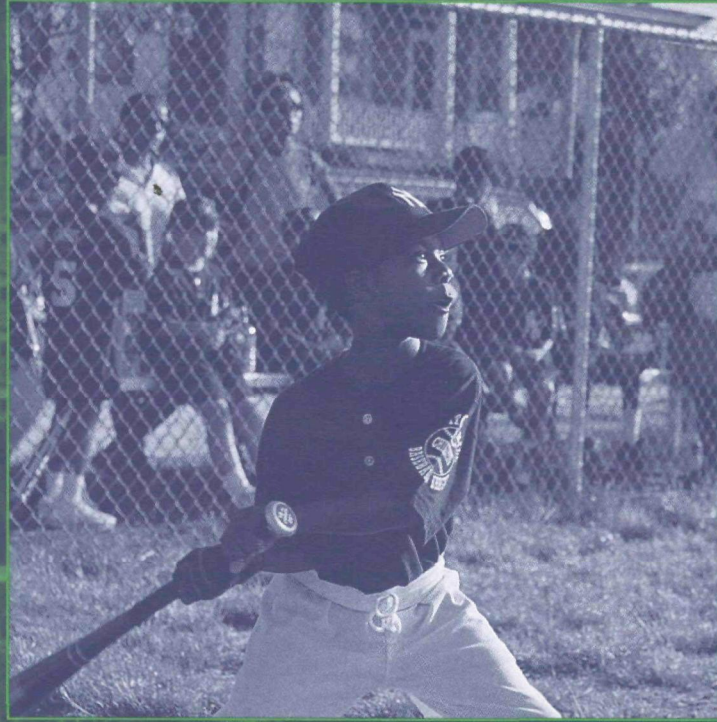
estimated at \$63 million and pay EPA a portion of its oversight cost.

Other regional reuse projects include the Ohio River Park near Pittsburgh, redeveloped into a multi-million dollar sports complex; Mill Creek Landfill in Erie, Pennsylvania will be a golf course; the Kane & Lombard Drums site in Baltimore has reopened as a golf driving range; and the Army Creek Landfill in New Castle, Delaware was restored to a nature and wildlife preserve. Once desolate eyesores, Superfund has helped transform these sites into vital, attractive and productive assets of communities across the nation.

Location of Superfund Sites in Region III



Source: EPA



quality standards. 24 nations commit to phase out production of CFCs. Yucca Mountain, Nevada is selected as the disposal site. Surgeon General urge every homeowner to test for radon gas, a cause of lung cancer. 1989 Exxon Valdez spills nearly 11 million

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

A Decent Home and Suitable Living Environment — A Congressional Mandate

Congress mandated “a decent home and suitable living environment for every American family” in 1949, and reaffirmed it in 1968. President John F. Kennedy warned in 1963 that if we neglect our cities, we will neglect the nation.

Yet since families began moving from the city into post-World War II houses in Levittowns, in New York and Pennsylvania, our nation’s cities have been under attack. Seeking the dream of home ownership, families moved to the suburbs. New roads and freeways provided easy automobile access to abundant and affordable land, encouraging new development and urban sprawl while threatening farm land and open space.

As masses left the inner city, the character of neighborhoods changed. Productive industrial factories and buildings became Superfund or brownfields sites. Vacant lots became garbage dumps. The tax base disappeared. Schools were neglected. America’s great cities were in peril.

Cities faced a myriad of environmental problems. Polluted air. Lead paint hazards. Asbestos. Radon. Vehicle gridlock. Hazardous waste sites. Aging and outdated infrastructures. All of this threatened the health of children. As urban

sprawl expanded, many of these same problems inevitably moved to the suburbs.

“We will help you build what we hear you are asking for and what is no less than you and your families deserve: livable communities, comfortable suburbs, vibrant cities, and, for your grandchildren’s well-being and for their grandchildren’s too, green spaces.”

— Vice President Al Gore, January 11, 1999

Working with its state partners and cities, EPA has made tremendous progress in cleaning the air, land and water in communities throughout our country. Since 1978, average blood-lead levels in children have declined by nearly 75 percent. Now, sellers and landlords must disclose known lead paint and its hazards to both renters and buyers. To increase citizens’ understanding, any contractor involved in remodeling or renovation is now required to give home owners a copy of a new booklet, *Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home*.

Between 1985 and 1994, 90 of the nation’s largest cities — with the exception of Los Angeles — saw a 72 percent reduction in the number of days when the air was considered unhealthy. In the mid-Atlantic region, we went from 60 ozone

action days in 1988 to fewer than ten in 1998.

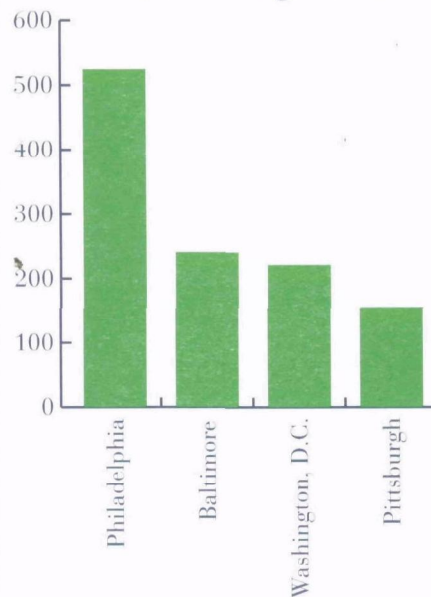
Making Communities Safer and Healthier

Housing and facility siting patterns to often have exposed low-income and minority communities to disproportionate exposure to environmental hazards, diminishing the quality of life.

The agency is aggressively addressing the issues of environmental justice. An innovative settlement of a lawsuit in Chester, Pennsylvania, for example has reduced lead paint hazards in a playground located in a minority neighborhood.

Through our Green Communities Program, we

Houses with Lead Cities in Region III



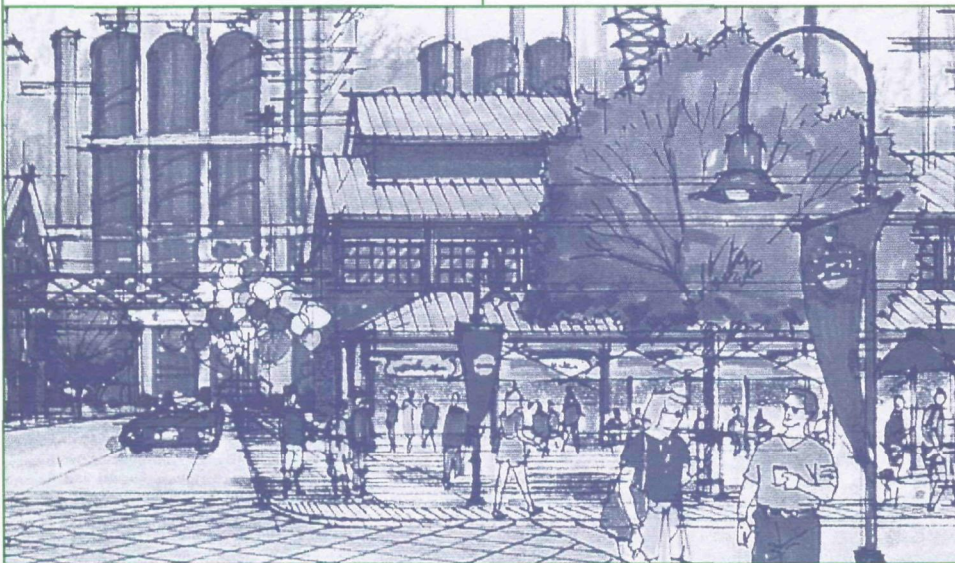
There are approximately 7.5 million houses in the region that have lead based paint. Children six years old and younger are most vulnerable to lead poisoning and there are more than 2 million living in the region. 16 percent of whose families live below the poverty level.

help local communities protect their environmental resources, as they develop community-based partnerships for sustainable development. An assistance kit is available at www.epa.gov/region_3/greenkit which provides a step-by-step, framework for communities to take common-sense steps that will improve the environment and protect the health of their families.

Recycling Land and Buildings

EPA has eliminated environmental hazards in abandoned land and dilapidated buildings left behind by the old economy or urban sprawl and eliminated the environmental hazards to make the property developable and livable — generating new jobs, an increased tax base and a better partnership between public and private sectors. Grants to cities make the development possible. Thanks to a \$1.6 million grant, Baltimore has inventoried 1,000 acres of potential brownfields ranging in size from less than an acre to 60 acres.

A shining example of turning a former industrial site to a new use is the old Bethlehem Steel plant in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, a \$450 million multi-use development called Bethlehem Works. It has the potential to become the largest brownfields redevelopment project in the country. The



Above is an artist's rendering of an entrance to the Bethlehem Works with the blast furnaces in the background. The former brownfields project retains the existing historic industrial character of Bethlehem Steel Corporation's former plant by retention and adaptive reuse of existing buildings and the addition of new buildings designed in a compatible industrial style.

Courtesy of Bethlehem Works Project

chemicals are being released from specific industrial facilities. New York State declares parts of Love Canal area habitable and federal agency to promote, support, and encourage environmental education for people of all ages. Clean Air Act amended

mixed-use development is the result of EPA working with state agencies and Bethlehem Steel. It retains the existing historic industrial character of the former steel plant. When completed it will house the National Museum of Industrial History, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, a hotel conference center, restaurants, stores, a movie theater complex, and an incubator for high-tech startup companies. An adjacent 1,600 acres of land is being developed as a commerce center with distribution, transportation, manufacturing and commercial facilities.

A state wildlife preserve and a large recreational area with sports fields and hiking trails will soon be on land that was once part of an industrial facility in Glasgow, Delaware. The site is being cleaned up by the previous owner. With EPA's assistance, it has been acquired by the State of Delaware and W.L. Gore, which will use 150 acres for a manufacturing complex. Three hundred acres of wetlands and woods will be preserved as public parks, preserving open space and natural habitat.

Teaching Children About the Environment

Through its environmental education office, each summer, the agency has been teaching students from inner-city

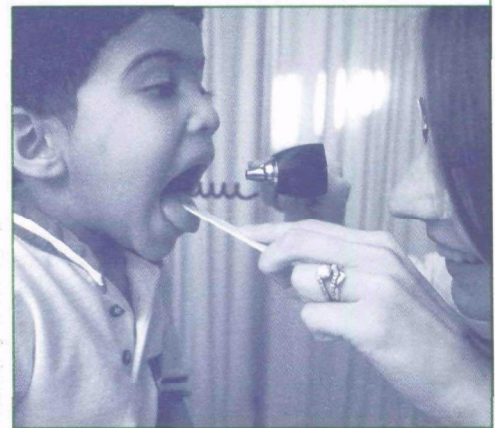
middle schools about the environment and training them to return to their neighborhoods and schools as mentors for others. In 6 years, the program has graduated 150 students who in turn have been instructors for more than 30,000 people. Many states now include education about the environment as a part of core curricula. Since 1991, EPA has funded many environmental education projects of states, cities, schools and non-profit organizations.

Better America Bonds

Recent national focus on livability contains several ambitious initiatives including \$10 billion "Better America Bonds" that cities can use to preserve green space, create or restore parks, protect water quality and clean up brownfields sites. EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner met with the National



Administrator Carol M. Browner talks with Delawarean Leah Roedel, about creating sustainable communities.



The majority of the region's children live in cities and surrounding urban areas. Children are particularly vulnerable to environmental health risks because they are still developing and least able to protect themselves from exposure.

Association of Home Builders to launch, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, an initiative to renovate or build 1 million new inner-city housing units in the next 10 years.

From a Good Idea to a Habitat

Families all across the region are developing good environmental habits. Parents car-pool children to school. A stop at the recycling center is often on the Saturday to-do list. More and more native plants are thriving in community and backyard gardens. Efforts to reuse, reduce, and recycle can be seen at home, work, and school. These practices, along with monitoring and planning, help build sustainable, more enjoyable communities.



countries attend the United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. 1993 EPA reports secondhand smoke poses a serious recycling triples from 7% in 1970 to nearly 22% in 1993. 1994 The American bald eagle is upgraded from an endangered to

HEALTHY *The Dynamic Interaction of Habitat and People* ECOSYSTEMS

When explorer John Smith arrived at the Chesapeake Bay in 1607, forests covered 95 percent of the land, sweeping in an ocean of green beyond the western mountains. Settlement reduced this great primordial forest — the home of all that lived in its life-sustaining embrace — by 60 percent by the late 1800s.

Today, forests once again are the dominant land cover of the Bay region, covering 59 percent of the Chesapeake watershed. Yet we are losing forests at the rate of 100 acres per day to sprawl and development.

As Smith sailed the bay, huge oyster reefs filtered all the water in the Chesapeake Bay in less than a week, a process that now takes a year for the reduced oyster population that remains due to pollution and overfishing. In response to public demands EPA and Bay states have developed more than a dozen protected artificial reefs. Diseases still threaten mature oysters, but Maryland's 1997 new young osyters were the second highest since monitoring began in 1939. Between 1988 and 1997, industries have reduced toxic releases into the bay by 67 percent. Some 3,600 species of plants and animals live in the

Chesapeake ecosystem. Striped bass are back in record numbers. Streams have been unblocked and fish passages constructed to restore migratory spawning for shad and herring, an important food source for many birds and fish. Unfortunately, the harvest of blue crabs and oysters, once plentiful and economically significant, is down dramatically from 20 years ago because of overharvesting and disease. But restoration efforts have begun.

Healthy ecosystems are vitally important to man. Man both threatens and restores the ecosystems of the mid-Atlantic states, from extensive shorelines, wetlands and coastal plains to the rolling foothills of the Piedmont Plateau and the Appalachian Mountains. Forests help filter and clean the air while wetlands filter and clean water. Both are disappearing.

Where urban sprawl and changing land use have destroyed habitat and wetlands, Maryland has developed a model "smart growth" policy that deters development that would have adverse environmental effects. And many states are buying land to preserve farmland and open space and retard sprawl. Urban runoff and farm



In Anacostia brownfields program, in a Washington D.C. neighborhood, renewed recreational use is one of the goals of the river cleanup project. The "Day on the River Program" is one program designed to give community youths access to the river.

manure pollute the bays and estuaries with excess nutrients — nitrogen and phosphorus — triggering algae blooms that block sunlight needed to grow aquatic grasses, an important habitat for fish and shellfish. But as nutrient pollution has been perceived as a serious problem, the growth of underwater grasses that provide food for waterfowl and habitat for fish and crabs has rebounded since the 1980s.

Today the Chesapeake Bay is one of the most closely monitored bodies of water in the world.

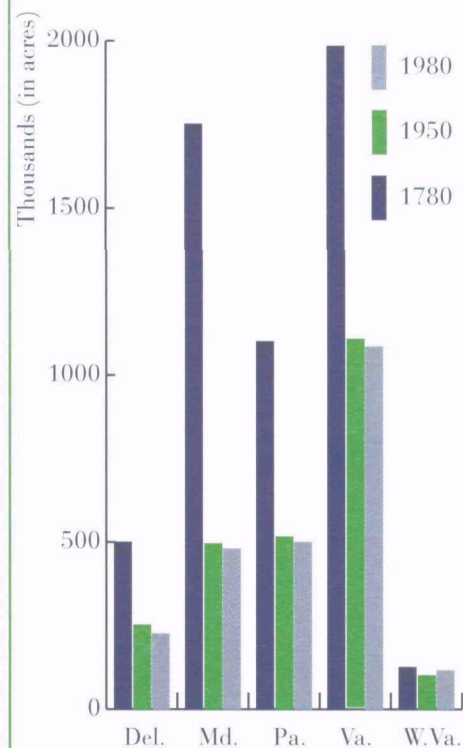
Chesapeake Bay Watershed



The Bay receives about half of its freshwater flow from the Susquehanna River, followed by flow from the Potomac and James rivers. The rest drains from the thousands of creeks and streams that crisscross the Bay's 64,000 square mile watershed. The rivers and main Bay are affected by the natural tidal flow from the Atlantic Ocean. The Bay program to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay is a partnership between EPA, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and the states of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

Pollution has taken its toll on the region's ecosystems, but by working with other federal agencies, state and local governments, industry, farmers, environmentalists, conservation associations and citizen groups, EPA and the Chesapeake Bay Program have achieved significant results. The Bay Program's most important goal of reducing by 40 percent

Region III's Wetlands Loss

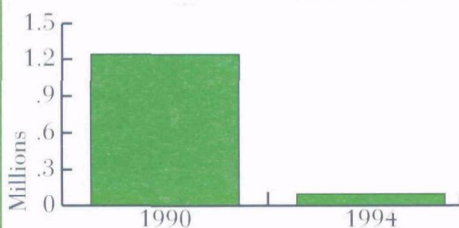


Source: USGS

As wetlands disappear, we lose their many benefits including nursery and habitat areas for many threatened and endangered species, flood control, water purification and recreational opportunities. Since 1780, 50 percent of the region's wetlands have disappeared.

Superfund cleanups accelerated, resulting in as many cleanups in 12 months as were completed in program's first decade. them to productive use. List of toxic chemicals reported to public under community right-to-know law doubles. 1995 Region

Loss of Horseshoe Crabs



Even with a serious decline in numbers, the Delaware estuary is home to the world's largest population of horseshoe crabs. This unique marine organism is an important food source of migratory birds and also indispensable in medical research in preventing bacterial contamination of medicine. This chart dramatically illustrated our need to preserve balance in the way we interact with our environment.

controllable nutrients entering the bay by 2000 will be met for phosphorus. The nitrogen goal, however, can be met only if current reduction efforts are accelerated. Scientists estimate that 21 percent of all the nitrogen in the bay comes from the air.

The Delaware River and Estuaries

Another significant mid-Atlantic estuary is the

Delaware River and its related inland bays. In the 1940s and 1950s, the Delaware was acidic and black, bacterial levels were very high and the stench, which overcame many riverside workers, could be smelled by people in planes 5,000 feet high. In what was once the best fishery on the east coast, the fish had virtually disappeared. Hulls of ships blackened. These conditions persisted until the 1970s.

With help from EPA funding, three major wastewater treatment plants were

constructed. In response to new regulations, industries upgraded or installed new equipment to reduce pollutants being discharged from their facilities. Today, along what was once the worst stretch of the Delaware, lie marinas, condominiums, parks, amphitheatres, restaurants and a state aquarium. The striped bass and shad have returned. More still needs to be done, especially in controlling stormwater runoff from streets, homes and businesses of pollutants such as pesticides, gasoline, antifreeze and salt.

Delaware Estuary Watershed



Courtesy of S. C. Delaney/EPA



properties. EPA ensures that cleanup actions reflect cost-effective technological advances. Updating remedies at Superfund toxic emissions by 90%. Project XL Initiative launched: companies, facilities, states and localities develop innovative ways to

HEALTHY *The Responsibility of All Nations* PLANET

Threats to clean air, clean land, and clean water recognize no national borders or continental divides. They are global problems, ultimately requiring solutions that span oceans and continents. Planet Earth is, after all, a large ecosystem.

This is especially evident with global warming and climate change. Look at what has happened in the past 100 years. The average temperature worldwide has increased one degree Fahrenheit; the polar ice caps are melting and Glacier National Park, Montana has lost 70 percent of some of its glaciers. Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is at all-time record levels, the highest in the last 160,000 years. Sea level has risen, and is projected to rise from six to 37 inches, permanently flooding many coastal areas in the next century.

The 11 hottest years on record have occurred in the past 13 years. Last year was the hottest since recordkeeping began 100 years ago. Throughout the world, extreme and erratic weather has caused violent hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, drought, fire, ice, and electrical storms. Catastrophic wildfires in Florida, Mexico, Brazil and Indonesia only made

matters worse by releasing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere from burning forests.

To slow climate change, all nations must reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. These gases cause acid rain and smog, and trap the sun's heat close to the earth's surface. As global temperatures rise, the planet drifts closer to a greenhouse effect.

Recognizing that the United States is the world's largest energy consumer and emits 22 percent of all carbon dioxide, Vice President Gore negotiated the global warming treaty in Kyoto, Japan. All developed nations agreed to reduce greenhouse gases during the next decade. The treaty still needs to be approved by the U.S. Senate.

Helping Other Countries

Americans know that industrialized nations can help emerging Third World nations prevent many pollution problems that industrialized nations already have solved.

EPA actively assists countries all over the world. Since 1990, EPA has conducted more than 70 environmental projects abroad. This includes sharing expertise and training in assessing

sites save potentially responsible parties and the program more than \$1 billion. EPA requires municipal incinerators to reduce achieve results in common-sense and cost-effective ways. 1990 The Safe Drinking Water Act is revised to require public water



As businesses and municipalities throughout the world employ innovative programs to reduce their energy use, they save money and prevent pollution.

environmental impacts, managing air quality, and controlling hazardous waste and municipal trash.

The result — cleaner air, cleaner water, cleaner land, sustainable waste management plans and technology that saves energy and keeps on paying dividends years into the future.

For example, the mid-Atlantic region has just completed a comprehensive 10-year program in Poland that includes helping that nation develop environmental policy and enforcement.

The region is also helping environmental partners in South Africa, China and Chinese Taipei. This year a new program was launched in Ghana and training has been provided

in Jordan and Israel. The expenses of these initiatives are borne by the recipient countries or international organizations.

Preventing Pollution

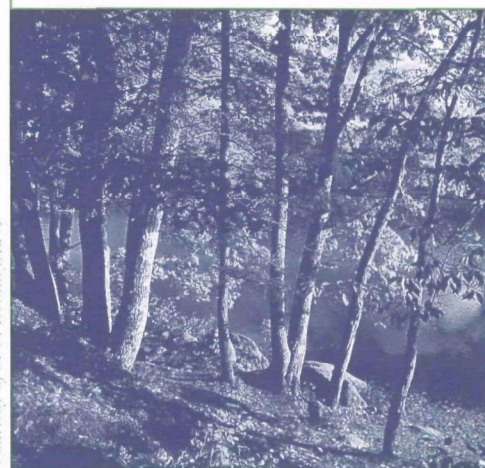
EPA has introduced and adapted successful U.S. programs to other countries. Our WasteWiSe program encourages business and industry to reduce solid waste through prevention, reuse and recycling, and buying or manufacturing products with recycled content. In the Energy Star Building™ program, organizations upgrade their buildings with energy-efficient lighting. In our region alone, 506 participants are saving \$32 million in energy costs, and achieving pollution reductions that would equate to removing 75,000 automobiles from highways annually and planting

100,000 acres of trees.

Other programs include: Project XL which allows companies to test alternative approaches that achieve cleaner and cheaper environmental results than would be realized under existing requirement; AgSTAR which promotes cost-effective methods for reducing methane emissions at dairy and swine operations through improved manure management; and Pesticide Environmental Stewardship which promotes integrated pest management and reduces pesticide risk in agriculture and nonagricultural settings.

The value of safe drinking water

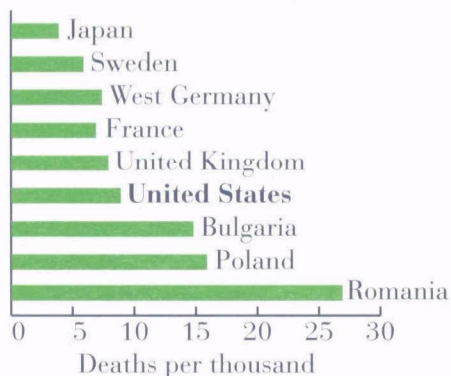
Each year, 5.3 million people die world-wide from diseases caused by unsafe water, according to a study released in March by the United Nations. A child dies every 8 seconds from water-related disease, and 80 percent of diseases in the developing world are linked to contaminated water, according to U.N. Environment Program statistics.



Courtesy of S. C. Delaney/EPA

suppliers tell customers what's in their water, where it comes from and how it meets water quality standards. Sellers and Shope Landfill, Pa., is the 400th Superfund construction completion in the nation. The Food Quality Protection Act requires

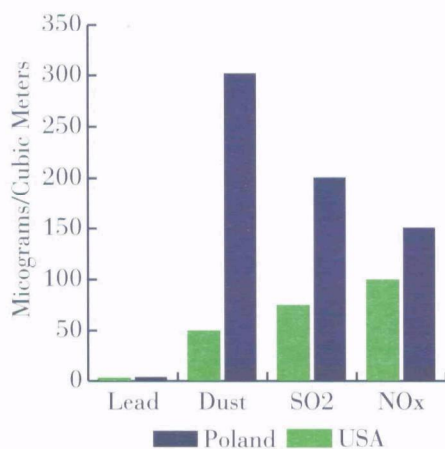
Infant Mortality Rate



*Data taken from Population Reference Bureau, Inc.

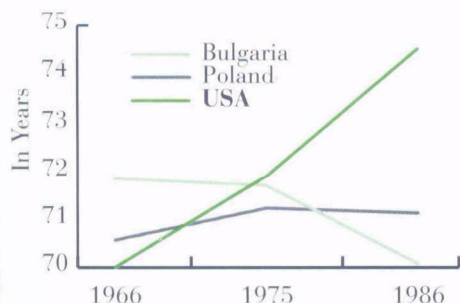
Infant mortality rates are significantly lower in industrial countries where pollution has been effectively managed.

Air Pollution



The protected American environment (above) helps to prolong life (below).

Life Expectancy USA vs. Poland & Bulgaria



Protecting Our Communities

Emergency Response

Working with state and local governments, the agency protects citizens, businesses, and the health of the environment in emergency situations. Since its inception, the region has cleaned 107 million cubic yards of solid hazardous waste and 5 billion gallons of liquid, and removed more than 13,000 drums and tanks from various sites.

Responding to the Public's Right-to-Know

Citizens can be informed about chemicals in their community through the Toxics Release Inventory. Updated annually, the TRI reports toxic chemical pollution released into the environment by businesses throughout the country. It is available on the internet at www.epa.gov/enviro or at www.epa.gov/opptintr/tri. With TRI data the public, state and local government, and EPA can analyze industries' progress toward reducing pollution and make informed decisions. An integral part of community life, citizens discover the types and amounts of toxic chemicals released in or near their neighborhoods.

Brownfields

In addition to the Superfund program, recycling of land and buildings also is achieved through the brownfields program. Through its innovative assessment pilots, EPA awards \$200,000 grants to qualified

communities to assess, clean and reuse abandoned and mildly contaminated properties.

The Cape Charles Sustainable Technology Park in Virginia leveraged \$4.5 million in federal funds, including a grant from the mid-Atlantic region, to develop the nation's first eco-industrial park that emphasizes zero emissions, resource efficiency and pollution prevention.

The mid-Atlantic region created the popular Brownfields Yellow Pages, used by municipalities as a valuable redevelopment tool. The Yellow Pages highlight EPA's partnership with other federal agencies to help communities in their redevelopment efforts.



Courtesy of Roy Seneca

Urban livability is a top priority for EPA. Philadelphia Mayor John F. Street and EPA Regional Administrator Bradley M. Campbell at the signing of a new partnership to help Philadelphia residents make their neighborhoods cleaner and safer.



Children's Health Protection. American Heritage Rivers Initiative is launched to help communities restore and revitalize waters together to fulfill the goal of fishable and swimmable waters for all Americans. Underground storage tanks must meet strict

FUTURE *We've Still Got a Long Way to Go* CHALLENGES

In the past 30 years, a basic American equation has changed. Prosperity does not equal high levels of pollution. We have the strongest economy in history while setting even tougher standards to protect human health and the environment. We have learned that pollution prevention pays. Investments in new technology to improve the quality of our air, water and land have returned substantial cost benefits in both health and productivity. This trend continues under pressure from a growing population's increasing demand for energy.

EPA has progressed from reducing immediate human health threats to improving human and ecological health. The agency's direction is long-term habitability and global sustainability. Many of the obvious, visible sources of pollution are largely under control, but pollution from past years still must be cleaned up, and many subtler pollution problems are equally pernicious. We also are moving to control pollution from smaller businesses and runoff, which cumulatively causes environmental and health problems.

In the mid-Atlantic states and across the country, the foreseeable future challenges include urban sprawl,

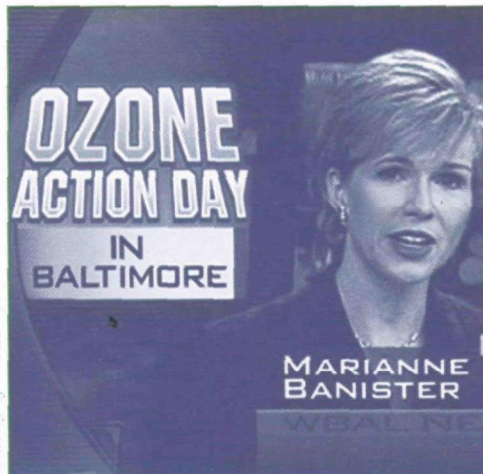
the essential need for safe food, protecting low-income communities living near heavy industrial areas, the invisible menace of pesticides and toxics, and erratic climate change.

Acidification is a regional challenge which impacts 4,500 miles of streams. Acidification comes from two sources, abandoned coal mines and sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides in the air, primarily power plants. It destroys aquatic life and degrades water quality. EPA has a goal to reduce 150 miles of acidified streams a year. This will take cooperation and collaboration with our state partners, many agencies and organizations.

Land use in the mid-Atlantic states has changed dramatically in the past century. The region has become a victim of urban sprawl. There are more paved surfaces and less forests, especially in the western rural communities. These trends result in polluted natural resources and increased flooding, human diseases, and loss of recreational opportunities. As sprawl continues, there will be further increases in runoff of pollutants, forest fragmentation, habitat loss in streams, and a use of vast amounts of energy.

Two recent reports, *The Ecological Assessment of the mid-Atlantic Region's Landscape Atlas* and the *Condition of the mid-Atlantic Estuaries*, describe these trends. The reports were produced by the mid-Atlantic Integrated Assessment program, an interagency consortium. They demonstrate EPA's new role in integrating and analyzing complex data. EPA is also providing more high quality scientific analyses and real-time data about the condition of the environment. These are important tools for scientists and decision makers to take on future challenges, including those brought about by land use changes.

Courtesy of HBAI - TI



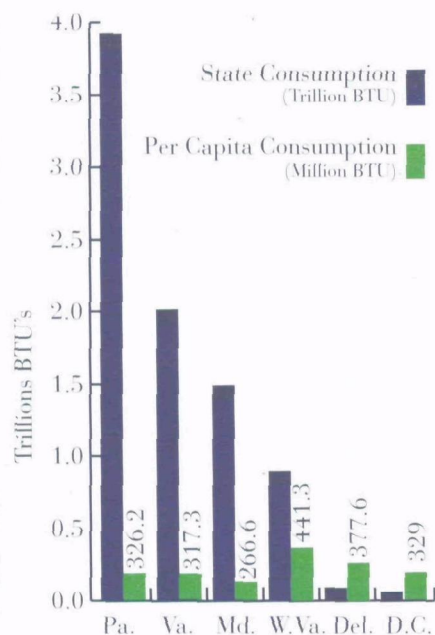
Although we have had significantly fewer ozone action days over the past ten years, our challenge is that ozone alerts are occurring in areas that are getting larger and larger, primarily due to uncontrolled growth.

wiser energy use. Preserving lands, building livable communities, and reducing global climate change begins one person at a time, one family at a time, one community at a time.

At home, families can reduce pollution and save money by conserving electricity, using public transportation and restricting the number of auto miles driven. There will be further reductions with a properly maintained, fuel-efficient car which can slow the spread of ozone-smog.

Citizens can help minimize the negative impacts of landscape changes by getting involved with local organizations that monitor land management and manage growth by improving existing roads and schools instead of

West Virginia Has The Highest Per Capita Energy Consumption



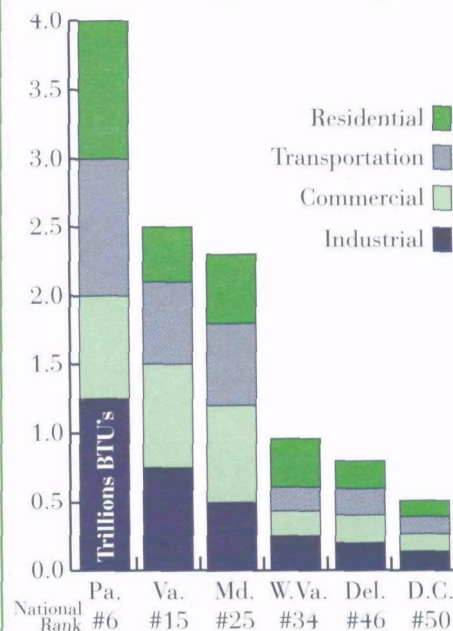
Above is total energy use per capita, sources are shown in chart on the right

EPA has designed a score of voluntary programs where business, industry and institutions can partner with EPA to prevent pollution. These include, Waste Minimization, Project XL, Waste WiSe, Energy Star[™], Water Alliances for Voluntary Efficiency, and many other programs.

These voluntary programs help businesses reduce waste and energy use, resulting in significant cost savings and reductions in pollutants and toxic emissions. Although not a complete solution, increasing participation in these programs are essential to curb global climate change, ozone smog, and other environmental challenges.

America needs smart growth, sustainable development and

Pennsylvania Leads in Total Energy Consumption



Superfund completion. The Environmental Science Center opens at Fort Meade, Md., featuring green building or half of all site cleanups are completed. Radon testing is required to buy a home in most states. Occupants living in pre-

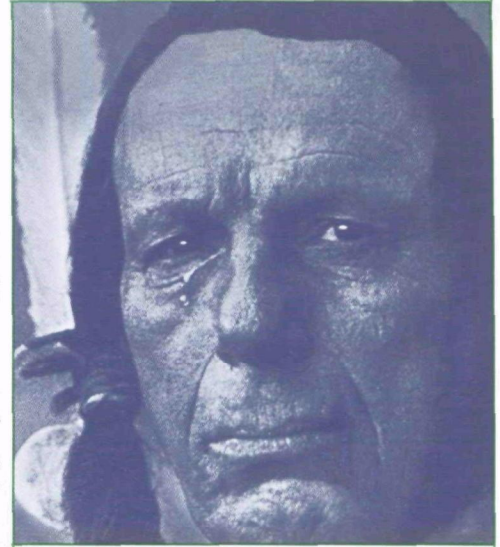
building new infrastructure. Planting trees, especially near waterways, reduces non-point source pollution runoff.

An entire industry has been created to meet today's environmental challenge by solving problems left from our industrial and agricultural heritage. Hundreds of thousands of people now work in environmental protection and technology in the private and non-profit sectors and in federal, state and local governments. This new environmental industry includes scientists, physicians, engineers, technicians,

journalists, researchers, and policy makers; and educators in schools, nature centers and businesses. Colleges and universities offer courses and degrees in environmental law, business, science, engineering, and communications. Experts assess, communicate, and manage environmental risk. Non-profit organizations focus on areas of environmental concern.

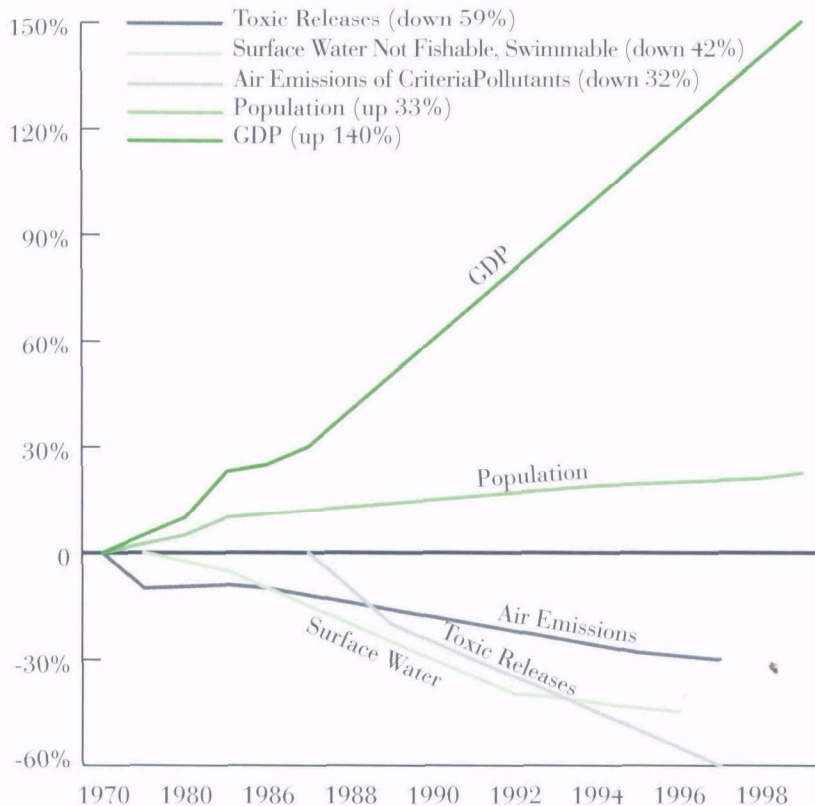
In the mix of growth and change, government's role has expanded as well. EPA maintains its traditional and important role in setting

Courtesy of Keep America Beautiful, Inc.



Many baby-boomers remember this image as a symbol of how our environment has suffered and how it's our responsibility to protect the earth.

National Environmental Improvements/Economics and Population Growth



standards and enforcing laws so that polluters will pay the penalty for not meeting their environmental responsibility. However, the agency just as often is a collaborative partner and regulator, sharing resources, data, and other environmental expertise.

Continued use of sound science is essential to deal with many of the 21st Century's pollution problems, that will most likely be more insidious, more complicated, and pose even greater challenges to our scientific and business leaders.

Our nation can, and must face the tomorrow's challenges to protect human health and the environment and create communities free from toxic wastes, with healthful air quality, restored rivers, lakes and streams, and healthy children.

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