

The environmental policy of the United States is a federal governmental action to regulate activities that have an environmental impact in the United States. The goal of environmental policy is to protect the environment for future generations while interfering as little as possible with the efficiency of commerce or the liberty of the people and to limit inequity in who is burdened with.

Antitoxics groups [edit] Antitoxics groups are a subgroup that is affiliated with the Environmental Movement in the United States, that is primarily concerned with the effects that cities and their by products have on humans. This aspect of the movement is a self-proclaimed "movement of housewives". As a result of this dumping the residents had symptoms of skin irritation, Lois Gibbs , a resident of the development, started a grassroots campaign for reparations. Eventual success led to the government having to purchase homes that were sold in the development. During the s, primary responsibility for clean air and water shifted to the federal government. These laws regulated public drinking water systems, toxic substances, pesticides, and ocean dumping; and protected wildlife, wilderness, and wild and scenic rivers. Moreover, the new laws provide for pollution research, standard setting, contaminated site cleanup, monitoring, and enforcement. Groups such as the Sierra Club shifted focus from local issues to becoming a lobby in Washington and new groups, for example, the Natural Resources Defense Council and Environmental Defense, arose to influence politics as well. Larson [citation needed] Renewed focus on local action [edit] In the s President Ronald Reagan sought to curtail scope of environmental protection taking steps such as appointing James G. Watt who was called one of the most "blatantly anti-environmental political appointees". The major environmental groups responded with mass mailings which led to increased membership and donations. The large environmental organization increasingly relied on ties within Washington, D. At the same time membership in environmental groups became more suburban and urban. Groups such as animal rights, and the gun control lobby became linked with environmentalism while sportsmen, farmers and ranchers were no longer influential in the movement. The wise use movement and anti-environmental groups were able to portray environmentalist as out of touch with mainstream values. Larson [citation needed] "Post-environmentalism" [edit] In , with the environmental movement seemingly stalled, some environmentalists started questioning whether "environmentalism" was even a useful political framework. According to a controversial essay titled " The Death of Environmentalism " Michael Shellenberger and Ted Nordhaus , American environmentalism has been remarkably successful in protecting the air, water, and large stretches of wilderness in North America and Europe, but these environmentalists have stagnated as a vital force for cultural and political change. Shellenberger and Nordhaus wrote, "Today environmentalism is just another special interest. Evidence for this can be found in its concepts, its proposals, and its reasoning. These "post-environmental movement" thinkers argue that the ecological crises the human species faces in the 21st century are qualitatively different from the problems the environmental movement was created to address in the s and s. They argue that climate change and habitat destruction are global and more complex, therefore demanding far deeper transformations of the economy, the culture and political life. These "politically neutral" groups tend to avoid global conflicts and view the settlement of inter-human conflict as separate from regard for nature - in direct contradiction to the ecology movement and peace movement which have increasingly close links: However, such groups tend not to "burn out" and to sustain for long periods, even generations, protecting the same local treasures. Local groups increasingly find that they benefit from collaboration, e. However, the differences between the various groups that make up the modern environmental movement tend to outweigh such similarities, and they rarely co-operate directly except on a few major global questions. In a notable exception, over 1, local groups from around the country united for a single day of action as part of the Step It Up campaign for real solutions to global warming. Groups such as The Bioregional Revolution are calling on the need to bridge these differences, as the converging problems of the 21st century they claim compel the people to unite and to take decisive action. Environmental rights [edit] Many environmental lawsuits turn on the question of who has standing; are the legal issues limited to property owners, or does the general public have a right to intervene?

Stone suggested that there was nothing absurd in this view, and noted that many entities now regarded as having legal rights were, in the past, regarded as "things" that were regarded as legally rightless; for example, aliens, children and women. His essay is sometimes regarded as an example of the fallacy of hypostatization. One of the earliest lawsuits to establish that citizens may sue for environmental and aesthetic harms was *Scenic Hudson Preservation Conference v. Federal Power Commission*. See also United States environmental law and David Sive, an attorney who was involved in the case. Role of science[edit] Conservation biology is an important and rapidly developing field. One way to avoid the stigma of an "ism" was to evolve early anti-nuclear groups into the more scientific Green Parties, sprout new NGOs such as Greenpeace and Earth Action, and devoted groups to protecting global biodiversity and preventing global warming and climate change. But in the process, much of the emotional appeal, and many of the original aesthetic goals were lost. Nonetheless, these groups have well-defined ethical and political views, backed by science. Criticisms[edit] Some people are skeptical of the environmental movement and feel that it is more deeply rooted in politics than science. Although there have been serious debates about climate change and effects of some pesticides and herbicides that mimic animal sex steroids, science has shown that some of the claims of environmentalists have credence. Claims made by environmentalists may be perceived as veiled attacks on industry and globalization rather than legitimate environmental concerns. Detractors note that a significant number of environmental theories and predictions have been inaccurate[citation needed] and suggest that the regulations recommended by environmentalists will more likely harm society rather than help nature. DDT is highly toxic to aquatic life, including crawfish, daphnids, sea shrimp and many species of fish. However, DDT is also used to control malaria. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works to address such concerns and recommended the employment of double-blind experimentation in environmental research. Crichton suggested that because environmental issues are so political in nature, policy makers need neutral, conclusive data to base their decisions on, rather than conjecture and rhetoric, and double-blind experiments are the most efficient way to achieve that aim. A consistent theme acknowledged by both supporters and critics though more commonly vocalized by critics of the environmental movement is that we know very little about the Earth we live in. Most fields of environmental studies are relatively new, and therefore what research we have is limited and does not date far enough back for us to completely understand long-term environmental trends. Clair wrote "The mainstream environmental movement was elitist, highly paid, detached from the people, indifferent to the working class, and a firm ally of big government. Cronon writes "wilderness serves as the unexamined foundation on which so many of the quasi-religious values of modern environmentalism rest. The anthropocentric view has been seen as the conservationist approach to the environment with nature viewed, at least in part, as resource to be used by man. In contrast to the conservationist approach the ecocentric view, associated with John Muir, Henry David Thoreau and William Wordsworth referred to as the preservationist movement. This approach sees nature in a more spiritual way. Many environmental historians consider the split between John Muir and Gifford Pinchot. While the ecocentric view focused on biodiversity and wilderness protection the anthropocentric view focus on urban pollution and social justice. Some environmental writers, for example William Cronon have criticized the ecocentric view as have a dualist view as man being separate from nature. Critics of the anthropocentric view point contend that the environmental movement has been taken over by so-called leftist with an agenda beyond environmental protection. Several books after the middle of the 20th century contributed to the rise of American environmentalism as distinct from the longer-established conservation movement, especially among college and university students and the more literate public. One was the publication of the first textbook on ecology, *Fundamentals of Ecology*, by Eugene Odum and Howard Odum, in 1953. Another was the appearance of the best-seller *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson, in 1962. Her book brought about a whole new interpretation on pesticides by exposing their harmful effects in nature. From this book many began referring to Carson as the "mother of the environmental movement". Another influential development was a lawsuit, *Scenic Hudson Preservation Conference v. Federal Power Commission*, opposing the construction of a power plant on Storm King Mountain, which is said to have given birth to modern United States environmental law. The wide popularity of *The Whole Earth Catalogs*, starting in 1968, was quite influential among the younger, hands-on, activist generation of the 1960s and 1970s. Recently, in addition to opposing

environmental degradation and protecting wilderness, an increased focus on coexisting with natural biodiversity has appeared, a strain that is apparent in the movement for sustainable agriculture and in the concept of Reconciliation Ecology. Environmentalism and politics[edit] This section may contain content that is repetitive or redundant of text elsewhere in the article. Please help improve it by merging similar text or removing repeated statements. February Environmentalists became much more influential in American politics after the creation or strengthening of numerous U. Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act , clean-up of polluted sites Superfund , protection of endangered species Endangered Species Act , and more. Fewer environmental laws have been passed in the last decade as corporations and other conservative interests have increased their influence over American politics. Much environmental activism is directed towards conservation ,[citation needed] as well as the prevention or elimination of pollution. However, conservation movements , ecology movements , peace movements , green parties , green- and eco-anarchists often subscribe to very different ideologies, while supporting the same goals as those who call themselves "environmentalists". To outsiders, these groups or factions can appear to be indistinguishable. As human population and industrial activity continue to increase, environmentalists often find themselves in serious conflict with those who believe that human and industrial activities should not be overly regulated or restricted, such as some libertarians. Environmentalists often clash with others, particularly "corporate interests," over issues of the management of natural resources , like in the case of the atmosphere as a "carbon dump", the focus of climate change , and global warming controversy. They usually seek to protect commonly owned or unowned resources for future generations. Radical environmentalism While most environmentalists are mainstream and peaceful, a small minority are more radical in their approach. Adherents of radical environmentalism and ecological anarchism are involved in direct action campaigns to protect the environment. Some campaigns have employed controversial tactics including sabotage , blockades , and arson , while most use peaceful protests such as marches, tree-sitting, and the like. There is substantial debate within the environmental movement as to the acceptability of these tactics, but almost all environmentalists condemn violent actions that can harm humans.

Chapter 2 : Environmental policy in the s : Reagan's new agenda - Indiana State Library

Abstract. This article will describe the legal and policy burdens of proof applicable to environmental decision-making and the shifts that have occurred in allocating those burdens.

Past, Present, and Future by Alvin L. NEPA established a national policy to protect the environment the same year Earth Day was first celebrated. The National Environmental Policy Act NEPA , signed into law on the first day of , stands in stark contrast to other environmental legislation enacted in the s and s. Beginning with the Clean Air Act, passed in late , environmental legislation became increasingly prescriptive, detailed, and complex. NEPA, on the other hand, was short, simple, and comprehensive. It established a national policy to protect the environment, created a Council on Environmental Quality CEQ , and required that environmental impact statements be prepared for major federal actions having a significant effect on the environment. This simple Act can be compared to the current crop of environmental laws that take up hundreds of pages and generate bookshelves worth of regulations. With little statutory guidance, the newly created CEQ set about building a staff and staking out an agenda. The environmental impact statement and annual report requirements were both lower priority. CEQ made major advances in the policy area. During its formative years, CEQ laid the groundwork for almost all current environmental legislation except for Superfund and asbestos control legislation. CEQ also developed guidelines for the environmental impact statement process. At the time they were developed, CEQ staffers had no idea how revolutionary the environmental impact statement process would become. It happened when the U. Department of Transportation refused to release agency comments on the environmental impact statement for the proposed Supersonic Transport. Congress took subsequent action. The courts generally came down on their side. The initial impacts were dramatic. Outer Continental Shelf oil drilling was held up until a proper environmental impact statement was prepared. Controversy over the Alaska Oil Pipeline was brought to a close only when Congress decreed the environmental impact statement process was completed. NEPA had other unexpected results. The Courts interpreted NEPA to cover not only direct impacts from federal projects and activities but also indirect effects. These indirect effects might include increased traffic or secondary development from projects. For example, the initial proposal for a John F. Kennedy library at Harvard University was dropped when the environmental impact statement projected increased congestion and air pollution. Some have granted that the NEPA process has also been misused at times. For example, environmental impact statements have been used to challenge public housing projects. The real concerns in these cases were only partially environmental; in many, they were predominantly neighborhood issues; sometimes, they were racial issues. By the middle of the s, environmental concerns were routinely being built into government actions. In most cases, a major defeat or slow-down of a project precipitated action. Environmental staffs were formed, consultants mobilized, an line staff became more sensitive to environmental concerns. Also, through the last part of the s and during the s, the composition of government projects and actions changed. Lower energy prices created less demand for a host of energy projects, particularly electric powerplants. The federal highway system was essentially complete; most of the funds were used to upgrade existing routes. By and large, government agencies have institutionalized environmental quality concerns in decision-making. Few projects proceed today that provoke an environmentally unsatisfactory rating from EPA. Many projects contain environmental safeguards that would not have resulted without the NEPA prod. In some cases, generic programs have been fundamentally altered because of NEPA concerns. This strategy resulted in large part from concerns over stimulating urban sprawl and development in sensitive areas by financing long interceptors into undeveloped areas. The CEQ, created by NEPA, played a major policy and education role, as well as becoming the caretaker of the environmental impact process. Its annual reports were authoritative and well respected. Not only did the CEQ develop major pollution control legislation and policy, but it also addressed a range of non-pollution issues, such as the urban environment, clearcutting, predator control, and off-road vehicle use. CEQ still provides coordination of some large programs, such as the National Acid Precipitation Action Plan, but these types of responsibilities have been rarer in recent years. Overall, NEPA has been a quiet but effective success after

turbulent and dynamic beginning. CEQ continues to play a positive, although diminished, role. The CEQ annual reports are still the best overall review of environmental issues and trends. The NEPA process has wrought a major change in the way government deals with environmental issues, and this model has been replicated in whole or in part in 23 states. All in all, NEPA has codified an important national policy commitment and created helpful procedural and organizational tools to further that policy objective.

Chapter 3 : Project MUSE - U.S. Environmental Policy and Politics: From the s to the s

The item Environmental policy in the s: Reagan's new agenda, [edited by] Norman J. Vig, Michael E. Kraft represents a specific, individual, material embodiment of a distinct intellectual or artistic creation found in Indiana State Library.

In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content: Environmental Policy and Politics: From the s to the s Michael E. Kraft bio Environmental policy and politics in the United States have changed dramatically over the past three decades. What began in the late s as an heroic effort by an incipient environmental movement to conserve dwindling natural resources and prevent further deterioration of the air, water, and land has been transformed over more than three decades into an extraordinarily complex, diverse, and often controversial array of environmental policies. Those policies occupy a continuing position of high visibility on the political agenda at all levels of government, and environmental values are widely embraced by the American public. Yet throughout the s environmental policies and programs were characterized as much by sharp political conflict as by the consensus over policy goals and means that reigned during the early to mids. As the twenty-first century approaches, there is considerable value in looking back at this exceptional period to understand the nature of the transformation and its implications for the future. In this article I use a framework of agenda setting and policy change to review and assess some of the most important developments in environmental policy and politics from the s to the late s. I give special attention to the establishment of the environmental protection regulatory regime of the s and the maturation and expansion over time of the institutions charged with policy implementation. Finally, I look to the early stages of what promises to be the next major transition in environmental policy as policymakers, business leaders, and citizens seek to establish sustainability as a concept and set of practices that can help to reconcile and integrate what have often been clashing environmental, economic, and social values. Among the most appropriate for environmental policy development over the last three decades are those advanced by John Kingdon, Frank Baumgartner and Brian Jones, and Paul Sabatier and Hank Jenkins-Smith. The convergence reflects the actions of policy entrepreneurs and activists, and processes of debate and learning that take place as differing advocacy coalitions compete. The problem stream influences the policy agenda by providing data about the state of environmental conditions and trends such as air quality, use of toxic chemicals, or loss of biological diversity. The data and assessments circulate among policy specialists, affecting their perceptions and understanding of the problems regardless of whether they produce any immediate effects on policy decisions. The problem stream is also affected by catalytic or focusing events such as crises or disasters, which may increase the salience of the issues and influence the credibility of pertinent studies and reports. They become the objects of political speeches, legislative hearings, task-force studies, and published articles and reports. They may also be the focus of pilot projects and experimental programs, especially at the state and local level. In these ways proposals get tested by the policy community for technical acceptability and political and economic feasibility. Policy ideas that are inconsistent with the prevailing political mood, such as recommendations during the s to use economic incentives as an alternative to regulation, may be dropped from consideration and relegated to the policy back burner for warming or incubation until the climate improves-as it did during the s. The same shift in the political climate You are not currently authenticated. View freely available titles:

environmental policy in the s reagans new agenda Online Books Database Doc ID 8a Online Books Database Environmental Policy In The s Reagans New Agenda Summary of: environmental policy in the s reagans new agenda.

Healthy Forests Initiative There are many more environmental laws in the United States, both at the federal and state levels. The common law of property and takings also play an important role in environmental issues. In addition, the law of standing , relating to who has a right to bring a lawsuit, is an important issue in environmental law in the United States. Origins of the environmental movement[edit] Main article: Environmental movement in the United States The history of environmental law in the United States can be traced back to early roots in common law doctrines, for example, the law of nuisance and the public trust doctrine. The first statutory environmental law was the Rivers and Harbors Act of , which has been largely superseded by the Clean Water Act. However, most current major environmental statutes, such as the federal statutes listed above, were passed during the modern environmental movement spanning the late s through the early s. Prior to the passage of these statutes, most federal environmental laws were not nearly as comprehensive. During this period, the U. Forest Service was formed and public concern for consumer protection began, epitomized by the publication of *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair. Carson argued that nature deserved human protection and referred to pesticides as the atomic bomb for insects. She stated that these pesticides would cycle through the environment hurting humans and nature and thought they should be used wisely. Carson played a big role in environment activism that was later to come. The movement that formed held three key values: These valuesâ€”that we depend and are interconnected with the environment, that insults to the environment can affect our health, and that we should limit our dependence on non-renewable resourcesâ€”along with a uniquely sympathetic president and Congress, led to great environmental policy change in the s. In the Club of Rome report came out which was a scholarly effort to gauge the severity of the environmental problem. A team of researchers concluded with one of the most alarming appraisals of the time and set off widespread debates over the findings, its methods, and policy implications. The model was built mainly to investigate major trends of global concerns such as accelerating industrialization, rapid population growth, widespread malnutrition, depletion of nonrenewable resources and a deteriorating environment. They concluded that if the present growth trends in world population, industrialization, pollution, food production, and resource depletion remains unchanged than the limits to growth on this planet will be reached sometime within the next one hundred years. Federal Power Commission, decided in by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals , prior to passage of the major federal environmental statutes. The case has been described as giving birth to environmental litigation and helping create the legal doctrine of standing to bring environmental claims. Later in the year, Nixon created the Environmental Protection Agency EPA , which consolidated environmental programs from other agencies into a single entity. The legislation during this period concerned primarily first-generation pollutants in the air, surface water, groundwater, and solid waste disposal. Air pollutants such as particulates , sulfur dioxide , nitrogen dioxide , carbon monoxide , and ozone were put under regulation, and issues such as acid rain , visibility , and global warming were also concerns. In surface water, the pollutants of concern were conventional pollutants bacteria , biochemical oxygen demand and suspended solids , dissolved solids, nutrients, and toxic substances such as metals and pesticides. For groundwater, the pollutants included biological contaminants, inorganic and organic substances, and radionuclides. Finally, solid waste contaminants from agriculture, industry, mining, municipalities, and other sectors were put under control. The new CAA standards that were to be promulgated were unattainable with existing technologyâ€”they were technology-forcing. The standards that the EPA put into place called mainly for state implementation. The CAA also enacted deadlines and penalties for automobile emission standards in new cars, resulting in the development and adoption of catalytic converters and greatly reducing automobile pollution. For wastewater, each discharging facility was required to obtain a permit, and EPA began to issue new federal standards " effluent guidelines " that required industries to use the " best available technology " for treating their wastes. Congress also established a massive public works program to assist in the

construction of sewage treatment plants for municipalities, and most plants were required to meet secondary treatment standards. The Ford Administration [edit] This section needs expansion with: You can help by adding to it. May The Carter Administration [edit] This section needs expansion with: May The Reagan Administration [edit] Ronald Reagan entered office skeptical of environmental protection laws and campaigned against harsh government regulation with the environmental arena in mind. As Reagan entered office, he was given two transition reports [edit] one called "Mandate for Leadership" from the Heritage Foundation and one called "Avoiding a GOP Economic Dunkirk" from conservative Congressman David Stockman R-MI [edit] that called for drastic changes in environmental regulation, primarily through administrative changes. Watt at the Department of the Interior were overtly hostile to environmental protection. Through his appointments, Reagan changed the operations of environmental protection from stiff regulation to "cooperative regulation. During the first Reagan administration, the OMB was given the power to require a favorable cost-benefit analysis of any regulation before it could be implemented. This was used to delay new regulations, and changes that resulted in regulatory relief often had this requirement waived. At the beginning of the second Reagan administration, the OMB was given more power- all regulatory agencies were required to submit proposals each year for all major environmental regulation- allowing it to reduce regulatory efforts before such proposed regulations became public. Corporate self-interest, he felt, would steer the country in the right direction," the author Natalie Goldstein wrote in "Global Warming. Bush Administration [edit] Environmental policy during the first Bush administration contained a mixture of innovation and restriction. Bush appointed the first environmentalist, William Reilly , to head the EPA, along with others with strong environmental inclinations. Sununu , Richard Darman , and Dan Quayle. While considerable regulation was initially passed, during his last two years in office he severely restricted regulation, and in , a total freeze was put on new regulations. Clinton eliminated the Council on Competitiveness, returning regulatory authority to agency heads, and Clinton and Gore argued that environmental protection and economic growth were not incompatible. Through a number of middle-of-the-road positions, on issues such as grazing fees in the West and clean-up of the Everglades , and through his support of the North American Free Trade Agreement in and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in , Clinton dissatisfied some environmentalists. Despite criticism from environmental purists, the Clinton administration had several notable environmental accomplishments. Supreme Court cases from this period included *United States v. Weitzenhoff* , et al. This section needs expansion with: May See also: Domestic policy of the George W. Bush announced an environment legislative initiative titled Clear Skies. Clear Skies was to use a market based system [23] by allowing energy companies to buy and trade pollution credits. The president argued that since Clear Skies would use a market based system, millions of tons of pollution would be eliminated when compared to the Clean Air Act. The NSR initiative would require power plants to upgrade to anti-pollution technologies before they can expand existing facilities and add new technologies. Environmental advocates and their political allies would eventually prevail in defeating the Clear Skies initiative. Global environmental policy[edit] President Bush refused to sign the Kyoto Protocol , citing fears of negative consequences for the U. Also, Eileen Claussen, president of the Pew Center on Global Climate Change said the idea of a head of state putting the science question on the table was horrifying. Campaign promise on the environment[edit] In , President Bush broke a campaign environment promise by reversing a promise he had made during his presidential campaign to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from coal-burning power plants. Governor Bush pledged power plants would have to meet clean-air standards while promising to enact tougher policies to protect the environment. For example, the Bush administration ruled that factory farms can claim they do not discharge animal waste to avoid oversight from the Clean Air Act. Environmental regulation[edit] The actions taken during the Bush administration were seen by environmentalists as ideological rather than scientifically based. The Bush presidency was viewed as being weak on the environment due to ideology and close ties with big oil. However, Eli Lehrer from the Competitive Enterprise Institute contended that the Bush administration issued more regulations than any other administration in U. CAIR was aimed at reducing 70 percent of pollution from coal burning plants. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in CAMR was created for the purpose of establishing a permanent national cap on mercury emissions. Bush environmental legacy[edit] In the later years of the Bush

administration, the president engaged in a series of environmental proposals. He called on countries with the largest greenhouse gases to establish a global goal to control emissions [32] and initiated the U. S to join the United Nations to negotiate a post global climate plan after Kyoto expires. The plan calls for inclusion of both developed and developing nations to address greenhouse gas emissions. The president had taken steps in the later years of his presidency to address environmental criticism of his broken campaign promises, and argued that the Kyoto protocol was a plan to cripple the US economy. This stern position caused him serious credibility challenges on environmental issues both nationally and globally. Upon election, appointments such as that of the Nobel prize -winning physicist Steven Chu were seen as a confirmation that his presidency was serious about environmental issues. The Trump Administration

present [edit] Main article: Environmental policy of the Donald Trump administration The environmental policy of the Donald Trump administration represents a shift from the policy priorities and goals of his predecessor, Barack Obama. Within days of taking office he signed executive orders to approve two controversial oil pipelines and to require federal review of the Clean Water Rule and the Clean Power Plan. He also invited American manufacturers to suggest which regulations should be eliminated; industry leaders submitted comments, of which nearly half targeted Environmental Protection Agency rules. Several of his cabinet picks, such as Rick Perry as Secretary of Energy and Scott Pruitt as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency , were people with a history of opposition to the agency they were named to head. While the initial emphasis was on conventional air and water pollutants, which were the most obvious and easily measurable problems, newer issues are long-term problems that are not easily discernible and can be surrounded by controversy. Acid deposition[edit] Acid deposition, in the form of acid rain and dry deposition, is the result of sulfur and nitrogen dioxide being emitted into the air, traveling and landing in a different place, and changing the acidity of the water or land on which the chemicals fall. Acid deposition in the Northeast United States from the burning of coal and in the West United States from utilities and motor vehicles caused a number of problems , and was partially exacerbated by the Clean Air Act, which forced coal power plants to use taller smoke stacks , resulting in farther transmission of sulfur dioxide in the air. During the Carter administration, the United States undertook a risk-averse policy, acting through the EPA and Council on Environmental Quality CEQ to research and control the pollutants suspected to cause acid deposition even in the face of scientific uncertainty. The Reagan administration was more risk tolerant. It argued that, given the scientific uncertainties about harm and exposure levels, new expenditures should not be undertaken that would curtail energy security and economic growth. In , after he was elected, amendments to the Clean Air Act were finally passed that cut emissions by over 12 million tons per year, set up a market-like system of emissions trading, and set a cap on emissions for the year These goals were achieved to some degree by the installation of industrial scrubbers. Part of the reason for the relatively low costs is the availability of low-sulfur coal. Chlorofluorocarbons CFCs , which were used beginning in the s in a number of important areas, were determined in to be responsible for much of the depletion of the ozone layer. As research in the s indicated that the problem was worse than before, and revealed a controversial massive hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica , three international agreements were made to reduce the ozone-damaging substances- the Vienna Convention , the Montreal Protocol , and a third agreement in London. Although the phase-out of CFCs took almost two decades, the policy is generally seen as a success. While a crisis seems to be averted, due to the longevity of CFC particles in the atmosphere, the ozone layer is only expected to start showing sign of recovery by

Chapter 5 : Environmental policy of the United States - Wikipedia

Environmental Politics and Policy in the s Secondly, environmental regulation has been highly devolved and decentralised. In most cases responsibility for taking direct action.

The modern environmental movement differed from an early form of environmentalism that flourished in the first decades of the twentieth century, usually called conservationism. Led by such figures as Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot, the conservationists focused on the wise and efficient use of natural resources. Modern environmentalism arose not out of a productionist concern for managing natural resources for future development, but as a consumer movement that demanded a clean, safe, and beautiful environment as part of a higher standard of living. Since the demand for a cleaner, safer, and more beautiful environment that would enhance the quality of life could not be satisfied by the free market, environmentalists turned toward political action as the means to protect the earth. Still, the preservationist strand of the conservationist movement was an important precursor to the modern environmental movement. As represented by such figures as John Muir of the Sierra Club and Aldo Leopold of the Wilderness Society, the preservationists argued that natural spaces such as forests and rivers were not just raw materials for economic development, but also aesthetic resources. Thus, they stated that the government needed to protect beautiful natural spaces from development through such measures as establishing national parks. Thus, preservationist ideas came to enjoy widespread popularity. No longer simply the province of small groups led by pioneers such as Muir and Leopold, preservationism became part of a mass movement. While preservationism focused on protecting specially designated nonresidential areas, environmentalists shifted attention to the effects of the environment on daily life. In the s and s, the environmental movement focused its attention on pollution and successfully pressured Congress to pass measures to promote cleaner air and water. In the late s, the movement increasingly addressed environmental threats created by the disposal of toxic waste. Toward the end of the century, the environmental agenda also included such worldwide problems as ozone depletion and global warming. Environmentalism was based on the spread of an ecological consciousness that viewed the natural world as a biological and geological system that is an interacting whole. The spread of ecological consciousness from the scientific world to the general public was reflected in popular metaphors of the planet as Spaceship Earth or Mother Earth. An ecological consciousness was evident even in works of popular culture. *Poison is the wind that blows from the north and south and east Radiation underground and in the sky, animals and birds who live near by all die What about this overcrowded land How much more abuse from man can she stand? Silent Spring*, which spent thirty-one weeks on the New York Times best-seller list, alerted Americans to the negative environmental effects of DDT, a potent insecticide that had been used in American agriculture starting in World War II. Kennedy to establish a presidential advisory panel on pesticides. Thus, *Silent Spring* conveyed the ecological message that humans were endangering their natural environment, and needed to find some way of protecting themselves from the hazards of industrial society. The movement began with a newfound interest in preservationist issues. In that decade, membership in former conservationist organizations like the Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club skyrocketed from , in to , in President Lyndon Johnson also took an interest in preservationist issues. Among these laws, the most significant was the Wilderness Act of , which permanently set aside certain federal lands from commercial economic development in order to preserve them in their natural state. The federal government also took a new interest in controlling pollution. Congress passed laws that served as significant precedents for future legislative action on pollution issues—for instance, the Clean Air Acts of and , the Clean Water Act of , and the Water Quality Act of During the s, environmentalism became a mass social movement. Drawing on a culture of political activism inspired in part by the civil rights and antiwar movements, thousands of citizens, particularly young middle-class white men and women, became involved with environmental politics. The popularity of the environmental agenda was apparent by In New York City, , people thronged Fifth Avenue to show their support for protecting the earth. Organizers estimated that fifteen hundred colleges and ten thousand schools took part in Earth Day , and Time magazine estimated that about twenty million Americans participated in the

event in some fashion. Earth Day was organized by Wisconsin senator Gaylord Nelson, who wanted to send "a big message to the politicians" a message to tell them to wake up and do something. Examples include the blowout of an oil well platform off the coast of Santa Barbara, which contaminated scenic California beaches with oil, and in the same year the bursting into flames of the Cuyahoga River near Cleveland, Ohio, because of toxic contamination. In the 1970s, Congress passed important legislation to control pollution. These laws established national environmental quality standards to be enforced by a federally dominated regulatory process known as command and control. The Clean Air Act, for instance, established national air quality standards for major pollutants that were enforced by a federal agency. Other significant environmental legislation passed in the 1970s included the preservationist measures of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. Another significant piece of legislation, the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act, or Superfund Act, was passed in 1980. Designed to help control toxic hazards, the act established federal "superfund" money for the cleanup of contaminated waste sites and spills. An independent federal agency, the EPA was given consolidated responsibility for regulating and enforcing federal programs on air and water pollution, environmental radiation, pesticides, and solid waste. In response to the flurry of environmental regulation passed by Congress in the 1970s, the EPA expanded its operations: Enforcing environmental regulations proved to be a difficult and complex task, particularly as new legislation overburdened the agency with responsibilities. The enforcement process required the gathering of various types of information—scientific, economic, engineering, and political—and the agency needed to contend with vigorous adversarial efforts from industry and environmental organizations. The flurry of federal environmental regulation resulted in part from the rise of a powerful environmental lobby. Environmental organizations continued to expand their ranks in the 1970s. Membership in the Sierra Club, for instance, rose from 100,000 in 1970 to 1,000,000 in 1980. During the 1970s, mainstream environmental organizations established sophisticated operations in Washington, D.C. Besides advocating new environmental legislation, these groups served a watchdog function, ensuring that environmental regulations were properly enforced by the EPA and other federal agencies. While these organizations focused on their own specific issues and employed their own individual strategies, a Group of Ten organizations met regularly to discuss political strategy. During this decade, mainstream environmental organizations became increasingly professionalized, hiring more full-time staff. They hired lobbyists to advocate for environmental legislation, lawyers to enforce environmental standards through the courts, and scientists to prove the need for environmental regulation and counter the claims of industry scientists.

Environmental Backlash and Radical Environmentalism In the 1980s, environmental goals enjoyed a broad bipartisan consensus in Washington. The election of Ronald Reagan in 1980 changed that. Espousing a conservative, pro-business ideology, Reagan sought to free American corporations from an expanding regulatory apparatus. Reagan capitalized on the late 1970s Sagebrush Rebellion of westerners who sought to have federal land transferred to the states in order to avoid federal environmental regulations. Watt took a strong pro-development stand hostile to the traditional resource preservation orientation of the Interior Department. He used his post to portray all environmentalists as radicals outside the American mainstream. Between 1981 and 1982, the EPA lost one-third of its budget and one-fifth of its staff. Underfunded and understaffed, these cuts had a lasting effect on the agency, leaving it without the resources to fulfill all of its functions. Yet while Reagan was able to stalemate the environmental agenda, his anti-environmentalist posture proved unpopular. The American public still overwhelmingly supported environmental goals. In 1982, Reagan was forced to replace Watt and Buford with more moderate administrators. On Earth Day 1983, President Bush stated that "Every day is Earth Day" and even major industries that were the target of environmental regulation, such as oil and gas, took out advertisements in major newspapers stating, "Every day is Earth Day for us. A number of radical environmentalist groups challenged the mainstream environmental organizations, claiming that they had become centralized bureaucracies out of touch with the grassroots and were too willing to compromise the environmental agenda. One of the groups to make this challenge was Earth First! Two other radical environmentalist organizations were Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace—each was a global organization formed in the 1970s that had significant support in the United States. It pursued activist strategies and argued that protection of the environment required fundamental political and social change. In addition, some radical

environmentalists showed a new interest in deep ecology, which challenged the traditional anthropomorphism of the environmental movement. The s also saw the growth of grassroots organizations that organized to oppose threats to their local environment: Because their concerns were locally oriented and generally consisted of the removal of a specific environmental threat, they were referred to as NIMBY Not in My Backyard organizations. The threat of contaminated waste sites raised concerns throughout the country, particularly after the publicity surrounding the evacuation of Love Canal , New York , in the late s after it was revealed that the town had been built on contaminated soil. Grassroots environmental groups continued to form throughout the s. NIMBYism often limited the impact of these groups, since they frequently disbanded once their particular issue of concern was resolved. Yet participation in these organizations often raised the consciousness of participants to larger environmental issues. The late s saw the growth of the environmental justice movement, which argued that all people have a right to a safe and healthy environment. Those concerned with environmental justice argued that poor and minority Americans are subjected to disproportionate environmental risks. It concentrated on such issues as urban air pollution , lead paint, and transfer stations for municipal garbage and hazardous waste. Environmental justice organizations widened the support base for environmentalism, which had traditionally relied upon the educated white middle class. The Global Environment and the s By the end of the s, the environmental movement had increasingly come to focus its attention on global issues that could only be resolved through international diplomacy. Issues such as global warming , acid rain , ozone depletion, biodiversity, marine mammals, and rain forests could not be dealt with merely on the national level. While the United States was a reluctant participant in international efforts to address environmental concerns compared with other industrial nations, the federal government did take steps to address the global nature of the environmental issue. The protocol pledged the signees to eliminate the production of chlorofluorocarbons, which cause destruction to the ozone layer. In , representatives from nations, including the United States, met in Brazil at the Conference on Environment and Development, where they drafted a document that proclaimed twenty-eight guiding principles to strengthen global environmental governance. While some environmental organizations endorsed that agreement, others claimed that it did not go far enough in countering the negative environmental effects of NAFTA. In , Clinton committed the United States to the Kyoto Protocol , which set forth timetables and emission targets for the reduction of greenhouse gases that cause global warming. Bush, however, rescinded this commitment when he took office in . Environmentalists were an important part of an "antiglobalization" coalition that coalesced at the end of the s. It argued that the expansion of the global economy was occurring without proper environmental and labor standards in place. In , globalization critics gained international attention by taking to the streets of Seattle to protest a meeting of the World Trade Organization. In , environmentalists critical of mainstream politics formed a national Green Party, believing that a challenge to the two-party system was needed to push through needed environmental change. In and , the Green Party ran Ralph Nader as its presidential candidate. In , Nader received 2. The party elected a number of candidates to local office, particularly in the western states. Achievements and Challenges As the twentieth century ended, American environmentalists could point to a number of significant accomplishments. The goal of protecting the planet remained a popular one among the general public. In , Americans celebrated the thirty-first Earth Day. In , the thirty largest environmental organizations had close to twenty million members. Meanwhile, the country had committed significant resources to environmental control. In , the U.

Chapter 6 : Environmental Policy from to The Politics of Prevention - Oxford Scholarship

This chapter discusses environmental policy between and During this period, New Right conservatives sought to influence environmental politics and policy in two distinct but related ways.

Chapter 7 : EPA History: National Environmental Policy Act | EPA History | US EPA

Note: Citations are based on reference standards. However, formatting rules can vary widely between applications and

fields of interest or study. The specific requirements or preferences of your reviewing publisher, classroom teacher, institution or organization should be applied.

Chapter 8 : Environmental movement in the United States - Wikipedia

Seventeen environmental experts explore the major changes in environmental policy that took place during the first three years of the Reagan presidency. By focusing on the process the administration used to shape its environmental program, the book attempts to answer this question: to what extent.

Chapter 9 : Environmental policy in the United States - Ballotpedia

Environmental NGOs vary widely in political views and in the amount they seek to influence the environmental policy of the United States and other governments. The environmental movement today consists of both large national groups and also many smaller local groups with local concerns.