

Earth Day 2000 Changes Name for New Millennium

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT IT'S BEEN 10 YEARS since we launched Earth Day 2000 to keep the Earth Day spirit alive.

While our society hasn't met all the goals set out on Earth Day 1990, we have made significant progress in some areas—as you'll read in this special, annual countdown report. As we look back on 10 years of environmental progress in this report, we're looking forward to the future with a new name and a new look—Earthday Resources For Living Green. We hope you'll continue to join us in making everyday Earth Day.

You can already pat yourself on the back for our progress on recycling in the last decade. Today this country recycles 28 percent of our waste, a rate that has almost doubled during the past 15 years. According to the EPA, analysts project that Americans will be recycling and composting at least 83 million tons, or 35 percent of all municipal waste, by 2005.

From school children to municipal leaders, Americans have risen to the challenge of doing their part to protect our natural resources.

At the same time, however, we are far behind in other areas. We have failed, for example, in efforts to create a safe and sustainable energy system. Our original Earth Day 1990 goal was to increase renewable energy generation to 20% of total energy production by 2000. Instead, renewable energy accounts for only about 10% of the energy use in the country.

But even in the area of energy policy, there is hope that we are on the right path. While solar power provides less than 1% of all energy in the U.S., the number of kilowatts of solar power being produced has more than tripled since the early 1990s. And, at least a few far-sighted policy makers are considering greater investment in solar power as a serious solution to the California energy crisis.

Join us on April 22 and commit to another decade of living green. Earthday Resources For Living Green will continue to be your source for tips and tools for making environmentally conscious choices in the market place. We hope you like the new look and name of your bi-monthly newsletter, *Earth Tips*. Make your first Earth Day action a visit to our web site to review the new corporate targets for our ongoing ecopledge.com campaign. **E**

Basic Human Needs
Eating healthier and lower on the food chain

Protecting the Earth's Atmosphere
Reducing automobile pollution to improve our cities air

International Cooperation
Protecting the global environment

Biological Diversity
Reforesting the earth and establishing an international conservation fund

Safe and Sustainable Energy
Tapping energy sources that minimize pollution

Waste Reduction
Slowing down the depletion of our natural resources and the poisoning of our planet

Global Goals for the Green Decade
A summary of the goals set on Earth Day 1990

Resources
Where to look for more information on these issues

Earthday Resources (Formerly Earth Day 2000)
3435 Wilshire Boulevard Suite 385
Los Angeles, CA 90010

1-877-EARTH46
info@earthdayresources.org
www.earthdayresources.org

EARTH TIPS

Meeting Basic Human Needs



Earthday Resources For Living Green is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that seeks to sustain and strengthen the spirit of Earth Day by helping people make choices in their everyday lives that protect the environment. Our aim: a cleaner and healthier planet for all global citizens to celebrate. Members receive Earth Tips six times per year. For membership information, call us at Earthday Resources.

CORRESPONDENCE

We are interested in your questions, comments and suggestions for future topics to be covered in Earth Tips. Please address all correspondence, as well as address changes to:

EARTHDAY RESOURCES
(Formerly Earth Day 2000)
3435 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 385
Los Angeles, CA 90010

1-877-EARTH46
info@earthdayresources.com
www.earthdayresources.org

EARTH DAY 1990 GOAL

Encourage dietary shifts to healthier foods that are lower on the food chain.

PROGRESS TO DATE

There is no evidence that the planet is moving towards a healthier or less resource intensive diet. And, as the Earth's population continues to rise, our environment is being asked to support more mouths than ever.

According to the Worldwatch Institute, Americans are eating more meat than ever before the average American consumes nearly twice his or her weight in meat each year.

Meat production uses water and grain resources inefficiently, not to mention its adverse impacts on the public which consumes it. The U.S. is the most inefficient country in its grain use 68% of its grain is used for feed compared to India which uses just 4% of its grain as feed.

To put it in its starkest terms, the Worldwatch Institute has calculated what level of population the grain harvest can support. The projected world grain harvest of 2.1 billion tons in 2030 could satisfy populations of different sizes, depending on consumption levels. At the U.S. consumption level of 800 kilograms per person per year, a harvest of 2 billion tons would sustain 2.5 billion people. At the Italian consumption level of 400 kilograms, it could support 5 billion, roughly the 1990 world population. And at the Indian level of 200 kilograms, this harvest would support 10 billion people.

The demand for all kinds of meat has steadily risen each of the last forty years growing from 44 million tons in 1950 to 217 million tons in 1999.

The problems of meat consumption are not limited simply to the inefficiencies of grain use. Livestock grazing contributes to soil erosion and livestock factory farms increasingly contribute to massive waste problems. The Worldwatch Institute estimates, for instance, that one 50,000-acre hog farm under construction in Utah will produce more waste than the city of Los Angeles.

As the non-profit advocacy organization Food First points out, over the last 35 years, global per capita food production has outstripped population growth by 16 per cent. We now have more food available per person than ever before in human history. Our world hunger problems relate not to a lack of food but to our food choices as well as inefficiencies and inequities in distribution and consumption.

EARTH DAY 1990 GOAL

Provide family planning information and contraceptives to every woman in the world who wants them helping to stabilize the world population at no more than 8 billion people.

PROGRESS TO DATE

A good plan is in place to meet this goal, but the requisite funding has been slow to materialize.

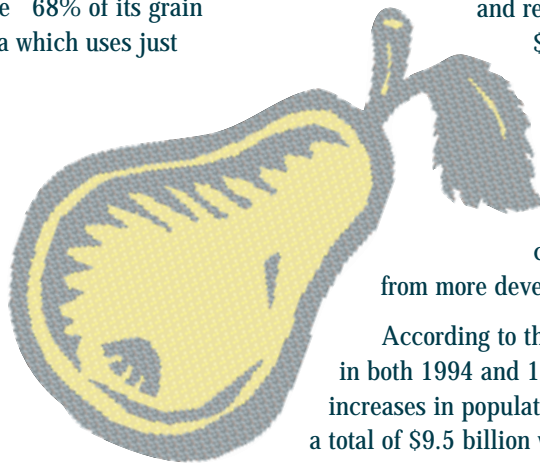
A 1994 Cairo conference put forth a bold proposal to stabilize world population at 7.8 billion by the year 2050. To reach the Cairo goals, governments after hard negotiation and based on considerable research agreed to increase spending on population and related programs to

\$17 billion a year by the turn of the century, climbing to nearly \$22 billion by 2015. Two-thirds would come from developing countries and one-third from more developed countries.

According to the U.N. Population Fund, in both 1994 and 1995 there were substantial increases in population funding. In 1995, a total of \$9.5 billion was earmarked for population programs and projects globally.

The bad news is that the \$2 billion devoted to population activities in 1995 was only a third of the \$5.7 billion in donor assistance needed by the year 2000 to finance the Cairo Programme of Action. The Fund's World Plan of Action calls for providing universal primary education for both girls and boys and making secondary education available to at least half of all girls as well as boys. If implemented, this program would move the world onto a low-growth demographic path where population would rise from today's 5.5 billion to 7.27 billion in 2015 and stabilize at 7.8 billion in 2050.

And, in further bad news, the very first major announcement to come out of the Bush administration was to reinstate the global gag rule. Most family planning experts agree that this global gag rule is not about abortion but is a ban on providing women with complete reproductive health-care counseling in the developing world. **E**



Protecting the Planet's Atmosphere

Tri-met

EARTH DAY 1990 GOAL

Improve urban air quality in the world's major cities by reducing all automobile pollutants by at least 50% by 1995. Improve future health through investments in urban planning, public transportation, and alternative fuel vehicles.

PROGRESS TO DATE

While there has been a steady decline in automobile air pollutants since 1990, the reduction has not been 50%. In nearly every category, the reductions are in the single digits. And, most importantly, the number of people living in areas where the air quality does not meet national ambient air standards has more than doubled since 1990, mostly because the standards have been tightened.

Some of the most significant advancements in transportation related to air quality are new Environmental Protection Agency rules regarding heavy duty trucks and buses. The new standards, which take effect in 2007, require new heavy-duty engines to be more than 90% less polluting than they are today. In order to meet these emission standards, the diesel fuel must also be clean. Therefore, the rules require oil refiners to eliminate much of the sulfur that currently contaminates diesel fuel.

According to EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman, once this action is fully implemented, 2.6 million tons of smog-causing nitrogen oxide emissions will be reduced each year. Soot or particulate matter will be reduced by 110,000 tons a year. An estimated 8,300 premature deaths, 5,500 cases of chronic bronchitis and 17,600 cases of acute bronchitis in children will also be prevented annually. This action is also estimated to help avoid more than 360,000 asthma attacks and 386,000 cases of respiratory symptoms in asthmatic children every year. In addition, 1.5 million lost work days, 7,100 hospital visits and 2,400 emergency room visits for asthma will be prevented.

U.S. PIRG, the United States Public Interest Research Group, called these rules the most significant vehicle pollution steps since eliminating lead from gasoline. **E**



Public transit such as the light-rail system MAX, in Portland, Oregon, is helping us reach our goal of protecting the earth's atmosphere.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CLEAN AIR

COURT VICTORY

A recent U.S. Supreme Court opinion reaffirmed the cornerstone of clean air policy, which is that we set standards based on what is necessary to protect public health and the environment, not based on cost considerations. Costs are considered only in the process of determining how to meet the health standards. This formula has made the Clean Air Act one of our most successful and cost-effective environmental laws, saving \$44 in health and related costs for every dollar spent reducing pollution.

In 2002, DaimlerChrysler will deliver the first city buses with fuel cells, followed in 2004 by the first passenger cars with fuel cells. **E**

Ensuring Healthy Water

EARTH DAY 1990 GOAL

Reduce per capital residential water use by 30%.



PROGRESS TO DATE

While information on residential water use is difficult to obtain, the use of water for public supply purposes including all non-agricultural and non-industrial uses has remained steady at about 154 gallons a day, rather than showing a decline. In other words, while actual water use has increased by nearly 2 billion gallons from 1990 to 1995, the increase is almost entirely due to population increases.

We might expect to see some decreases in the United States in the second half of the decade due to amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act which has created guidelines for state and local water conservation efforts. Unfortunately, more aggressive efforts will be necessary to actually ensure conservation.

While conservation is important in times of drought, conservation is essential to ensure an ongoing supply of clean drinking water sources in the U.S. and around the world. **E**

Enhancing, Protecting Biological Diversity

EARTH DAY 1990 GOAL

Reforest 130 million hectares (52 million acres) per year by 2000.

PROGRESS TO DATE

According to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), there have been approximately 4.5 million hectares per year of newly established forests on previous non-forest land, or afforestation during the 1990s, for a total of 45 million hectares, a far cry from the 130 million hectares called for in 1990.

M. Vasilevic-NC Forest Exp. Station



This national forest in Missouri provides recreational opportunities for people and habitat for wildlife.

This does not count reforestation efforts aimed at replacing stands after harvesting or other temporary changes such as windfalls.

In January of 2001, the FAO noted that the global rate of net forest loss has slowed to 9 million hectares per year

The assessment shows a rate 20% lower than the global figure previously reported in 1995. Forests are disappearing most rapidly in Africa and Latin America,

whereas in Asia, the reduction of natural forests is largely compensated by new plantation forests. In Europe and North America, the forest area is increasing, according to the FAO survey. Overall, the world contains around 6000 square meters of forest for each person, which is reducing by 12 square meters every year.

The current survey is the latest in global forest assessments by FAO spanning a 50-year period and the first of its kind to be implemented using a uniform global definition of forest. The findings reveal a diverse picture, where some countries still have very high levels of deforestation (mainly conversion of forests to other land uses) while others show significant increases in forest cover through plantations or natural re-growth. ■

▼ C R E A T I N G A S A F E A N D S U S

EARTH DAY 1990 GOAL

Increase renewable energy generation to 20% of total energy production by the year 2000.

PROGRESS TO DATE

We did not meet this goal. Renewable energy accounts for only about 10% of the energy use in the country with traditional forms of renewable energy such as solar and wind still comprising a small portion of the renewable energy pool.

While the number of kilowatts of solar power being produced in the U.S. has more than tripled since the early 1990s, its energy contribution is still minimal, providing less than 1% of all energy in the U.S.

Wind power fares even worse with less than half a percent of power being provided by the wind and that small amount is generated by a limited number of producers. In fact, one utility, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) generates 99% of all utility generated wind power through one plant, its Solano wind power plant.

More than 16,000 wind turbines in California generate enough electricity to meet the residential requirements of a city of about 1 million people (the population of Denver is about 500,000).

Promoting International Cooperation

EARTH DAY 1990 GOAL

By 1996, reduce world military expenditures by 50%, to approximately \$500 billion per year.

PROGRESS TO DATE

We have not met this goal. Military expenditures reached a low point in 1995, however, spending rose to \$842 billion in 1997, down from a peak of \$1,360 billion in 1987. This number likely underestimates actual spending because many countries perennially under-report military spending.

The U.S. continues to be the biggest military spender on earth, accounting for 33% of the world's military expenditures in 1997. While total spending has gone down, the fact remains that the military continues to contaminate the air, land and water with nuclear waste and other toxic chemicals.

EARTH DAY 1990 GOAL

By 1992, convert the United Nations Environmental Programme into an international regulatory agency with the authority to safeguard the atmosphere, the oceans and other global commons from transboundary environmental threats.

PROGRESS TO DATE

There has been no progress towards establishing an international regulatory agency. Instead, at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the United Nations Development Program created the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Endowed with \$2 billion, the GEF supports countries' efforts to combat key global environmental problems like global warming, loss of biodiversity, and pollution of international waters.

WHAT'S HAPPENING GLOBALLY

Over the last decade, new trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trades (GATT) have undermined international environmental protections. Public Citizen, founded by Ralph Nader, notes that of the seven known challenges under NAFTA, six involve U.S. corporations attacking federal- or state-level environmental measures in Canada and Mexico. In three cases, the U.S.-based companies are suing Mexico for the right to open hazardous waste disposal facilities. Globalization has meant less, rather than more, environmental protections.

E

TAINABLE ENERGY SYSTEM

This is equivalent to a medium-sized nuclear plant. California, overall, is the second largest producer of renewable electricity, in the U.S.

Researchers estimate that there is enough wind potential in the United States to displace at least 45 quads of primary energy annually used to generate electricity. That's the equivalent of about 4 trillion gallons of oil.

In Europe, renewable energy sources continue to constitute a larger share of energy resources, though the renewables share has moved from only 13.8% to 14.2% between 1995 and 1998.

According to the WorldWatch Institute, wind turbine sales grew by 65% in 1999, almost as fast as mobile phone sales. And, in trying to answer the question of whether or not renewable energy can supply energy for the world, Worldwatch cites Denmark scientist Brent Sorenson as concluding that it is possible, and in addition, he finds renewable energy technologies more expensive only when environmental costs of traditional fuels are unaccounted for.

EARTH DAY 1990 GOAL

No new nuclear power plant commissions.

PROGRESS TO DATE

No nuclear power plants have been commissioned in the U.S. since the Three Mile Island accident in 1979.

In 1990, 112 plants were in operation. By 1997, this number was reduced to 107. Unfortunately, worldwide the number of plants grew by 14% from 1990 to 1995 and the threat of global warming has given new life to attempts to argue for revitalizing the nuclear industry.



Solar sensor light from Real Goods Trading Company in Ukiah, Calif.

Nuclear power remains one of the least environmentally sensitive forms of energy production, largely because of the intractable disposable problems for the waste generated from these plants. E

Reducing Waste and Toxic Pollution

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON WASTE AND TOXINS

While recycling has grown in general, recycling of specific materials has grown even more drastically: 42% of all paper, 35.5% of all plastic soft drink bottles, 59.5% of all aluminum beer and soft drink cans, 61% of all steel packaging, 92% of all automobiles, and 64.3% of all major appliances are now recycled.

Ford Motor Company used more than 60 million 2 liter plastic soda bottles in their car manufacturing in 1999. This amounted to more than 7.5 million pounds of plastics recycling. ■

Recycling prevents the emission of many greenhouse gases and water pollutants, saves energy, supplies valuable raw materials to industry, creates jobs, stimulates the development of greener technologies, conserves resources for our children's future, and reduces the need for new landfills and incinerators.

EARTH DAY 1990 GOAL

Clean up all existing toxic, hazardous, and nuclear waste sites to acceptable levels of safety.

PROGRESS TO DATE

We have a long way to go in getting all sites cleaned up. The federal Superfund program is the primary program charged with responsibility for cleaning up the sites.

The Environmental Protection Agency reports that it has screened over 35,000 potential hazardous waste sites for federal action. The agency has already completely cleaned up a total of 285 sites; a total of 320 sites will be cleaned up by the end of 1995; another 485 sites have been partially cleaned up.

Nuclear waste dumps are much more problematic. The federal government has not yet been able to establish a federal dump site for the expected 77,000 tons of high level nuclear waste expected to be generated from the nation's nuclear reactors. ■

EARTH DAY 1990 GOAL

Reduce solid waste by 75% by the year 2000 by establishing effective recycling and composting programs, enacting international design standards that ensure ease of recycling at the end of every product's lifetime and banning all packaging that is not recyclable.


PROGRESS TO DATE

While solid waste generation has not been reduced by 75% in the United States, recycling is one of the best environmental success stories of the late 20th century. In 1997, recycling and composting activities prevented nearly 61 million tons of material from ending up in landfills and incinerators, up from 34 million tons in 1990. Today, this country recycles 28% of its waste, a rate that has almost doubled during the past 15 years. According to the EPA, analysts project that Americans will be recycling and composting at least 83 million tons, or 35% of all municipal waste, by 2005.

Unfortunately, at the same time, solid waste production has increased with the advent of more and more disposable packaging. In 1996, U.S. residents, businesses, and institutions produced more than 209 million tons of municipal solid waste, which is approximately 4.3 pounds of waste per person per day, up from 2.7 pounds per person per day in 1960.

We seem only to have learned the last adage of reduce, reuse, and recycle. International design standards have not been adopted and international efforts to certify products has been relatively stagnant since 1994 through the Global Ecolabeling Network, which has 21 members around the world.




PROCLAIMED ON EARTH DAY 1990, THESE GOALS ADDRESS THE MOST CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES FACING GLOBAL SOCIETY. OUR QUALITY OF LIFE, AND QUITE POSSIBLY OUR SURVIVAL, DEPEND ON ATTAINING THEM. THE  SYMBOL INDICATES GOALS THAT ARE DISCUSSED IN THIS YEAR'S COUNTDOWN REPORT.

CREATE A SAFE, SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SYSTEM

Reduce per capita residential energy consumption by 30% and industrial energy use by 40% by the year 2000.



Increase the global research and development budget for hydrogen and other solar fuels 50-fold over the next ten years.


 Increase renewable energy production to 20% of the total energy generated by 2000.

 Stop commissions for new nuclear power plants

MEET BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

Promote low input sustainable agriculture, with crops grown as close as possible to markets. Reduce global pesticide use by 75%. Emphasize low-tillage crops to reduce soil erosion.

 Encourage dietary shifts to healthier foods that are lower on the food chain.

 Provide family planning information and contraceptives to every woman in the world who wants them and stabilize the world population to no more than eight billion people.

ENSURE HEALTHY WATER


Outlaw all dumping of untreated industrial and medical wastes in surface streams, rivers lakes and oceans.

 Reduce per capita residential water use by 30%

Design all future sewage treatment facilities to segregate human sewage from industrial discharges, returning the former to the land and recycling the latter.

PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

 By 1996, reduce world military expenditures by 50%, to approximately \$500 billion per year.

 By 1992, convert the United Nations Environmental Programme into an international regulatory agency with the necessary authority to safeguard the atmosphere, the oceans and other global commons from trans-boundary environmental threats.

ENHANCE AND PROTECT BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Ban all logging in ancient forests and provide the greatest possible protection for the world's remaining rainforests.



 Reforest 130 hectares (52 million acres) by the year 2000.

Triple the world's parkland and ecological reserves.

Establish an International Fund for the Conservation of Biological Diversity, following the model developed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

Restructure international lending policies to relieve the current pressure put on many developing countries to destroy global environmental treasures to service their debt. Link all future development assistance to criteria ensuring sustainable development.

REDUCE WASTE AND TOXIC POLLUTION

 Reduce solid waste by 75% by the year 2000 by establishing effective recycling and composting programs, enacting international design standards that ensure ease of recycling at the end of every product's lifetime, and banning all packaging that is not recyclable.

Eliminate 80% of hazardous waste production by the year 2000 through comprehensive source reduction programs.

*Clean up all existing toxic and hazardous waste sites to acceptable levels of safety.



PROTECT THE PLANET'S ATMOSPHERE

Ban all CFCs and other ozone depleting chemical emissions by 1994 and halt production of such chemicals by 2000.

Combat acid rain by reducing sulfur dioxide emissions by 90% and nitrogen oxide by 75% by the year 2000.



Curtail carbon dioxide production from the combustion of fossil fuels by 20% by the year 2000. By 2020, worldwide carbon emissions from fossil fuels should be reduced to two billion tons per year (down from 5.66 billion tons in 1988).

 Improve urban air quality in the world's major cities by reducing all automobile pollutants by at least 50% by 1995. Improve future health through investments in urban planning, public transportation and alternative fuel vehicles. 

EARTH DAY RESOURCES
3435 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 385
Los Angeles, CA 90010
1-888-EARTH46
www.earthdayresources.org

COUNCIL ON
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Washington, D.C. 20503
www.whitehouse.gov/CEQ

ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY

401 M Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20460
202-260-2090
www.epa.gov

FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZA-
TION

Rome, Italy
+39-06-5705-2714
www.fao.org

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
STATE PIRGS
218 D Street, SE
Washington, D.C. 20003
202-546-9707
www.pirg.org

PUBLIC CITIZEN
215 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20003
202-833-3000
www.publiccitizen.org

WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE
10 G Street, NE
Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20002
202-729-7600
www.wri.org

WORLDWATCH INSTITUTE
1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036
202-452-1999
www.worldwatch.org

WORLD WILDLIFE FUND
1250 Twenty Fourth Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20037
1-800- CALL WWF
www.wwf.org

ZERO POPULATION GROWTH
1400 16th Street, #320
Washington, D.C. 20036
202-332-2200
www.zpg.org

