

New Strategic Plan Will Focus EDF on Four Key Goals

By Fred Krupp
Executive Director

As the Environmental Defense Fund approached its 30th anniversary, we decided to step back and look at the state of the environment and to reexamine EDF's role in the common effort to protect it. We wanted to identify the most pressing environmental problems and the contributions that we were best equipped to make. We knew we could not effectively address everything that needed doing. What could we do? Over the past year, we discussed and debated these questions among ourselves. The result was a Strategic Plan that will guide our efforts in the years ahead.

What We Face

The effort to protect the environment began around the turn of the century with the primary goal of preserving wild areas. The great national parks and forests were created. The next great effort was to fight pollution in our



Protecting the world's oceans is one of the four essential goals adopted by EDF in its new Strategic Plan.

lives, especially our air and water. The Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act were passed, and the Environmental Protection Agency was created. It was early in this period that the newly established EDF fought and won its battle against the use of DDT.

Today, the air is clearer than it was 30 years ago. More wild rivers and wilderness areas are protected. Some toxic chemicals are more carefully disposed of. And a will to protect the environment is now part of the bedrock of American public opinion.

Important as these accomplishments are, they are dwarfed by the environmental perils we face today. Pollution of the oceans is increasing, and fish stocks are crashing. The composition of the atmosphere is changing in ways that threaten grave damage to entire natural ecosystems and human societies. Species are becoming extinct at an accelerating rate. In fact, a shift has occurred in the balance of strength between nature and humankind. We have passed, almost without noticing it, from a world in which the overall stability of the Earth's environment could be taken for granted to a world in which major, often irreversible manmade alterations of the environment are under way.

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British Petroleum and EDF Efforts Boost Climate Talks

British Petroleum (BP), the third largest multinational oil company in the world, announced a dramatic climate action plan just weeks before the December talks in Kyoto, Japan at which the world's nations hope to complete a treaty to avert global warming. BP agreed to monitor and disclose its worldwide greenhouse gas emissions and to take steps to limit its emissions. With EDF, BP will develop a pilot program, setting performance targets in 10 of its operating units, and, within two years, set a voluntary company-wide emissions



Glacier National Park, above, has lost 100 of its 150 glaciers and 73% of its ice fields in the past century, as global average temperature has risen about 1° F.

limit, years ahead of treaty requirements. By making these moves, BP will learn how to best reduce emissions well ahead of its competitors.

Human activities—particularly the burning of coal, oil, and natural gas—are adding carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. The consensus of more than 2,000 scientists who are advising the world's governments on climate change is that, if emissions of greenhouse gases are not reduced, the Earth is expected to warm by two to six

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EDF Experts are Active on Ocean Protection Issues



T. Charles Erickson

Doug Hopkins and Rod Fujita of EDF's Oceans program staff.

EDF attorney Douglas Hopkins, head of EDF's Oceans program, and marine ecologist Dr. Rod Fujita have been appointed to East Coast and West Coast Advisory Panels, respectively, for a National Academy of Sciences study of Individual Transferable Quotas. ITQs are a method of assigning each fisherman a share of the total allowable catch as a way of keeping fish harvests from exceeding the scientifically determined limit. Hopkins and Fujita are the only representatives of any national environmental group on the Advisory Panels, which Congress created during last year's reauthorization of the Magnuson Act, the law governing marine fisheries.

Victory for the Florida Keys

In an environmental victory for the Florida Keys, a judge has ruled that the state can reduce the number of development permits issued in the area unless the county government improves sanitary sewer and storm water treatment in the Keys in the next five years. In an earlier trial, Dr. Fujita, appearing as an expert witness for 1000 Friends of Florida, testified that pollution from existing development exceeded the carrying capacity of coastal waters of the Keys. Based in part on this key testimony, the judge invalidated a weak growth management plan for the Keys and ordered the state to adopt the stronger plan that has now been upheld.

New Group Formed to Stimulate "Green" Markets

Some of EDF's major environmental achievements have come from creating incentives for businesses to make environmentally sound decisions and for consumers to choose environmentally preferable goods and services. Opportunities remain where "green" markets could bridge the gap between economic and environmental goals.

Seeking to engage market forces to bridge that gap, EDF economists Dr. Daniel J. Dudek and Dr. Zach Willey and EDF attorney Joseph Goffman helped found a new nonprofit organization, the Environmental Resources Trust. ERT seeks to use traditional financial tools to benefit environmental resources. Besides environmental benefits, ERT's projects should demonstrate economic benefits and thus are likely to produce income. All net proceeds from the projects will be reinvested in ecological projects that might otherwise go unfunded.

Dudek and Goffman are developing ERT projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in an effort to jump-start global climate protection. Willey and consultant Adam Diamant are working with ERT on water marketing projects in the Pacific



T. Charles Erickson

EDF staff Daniel Dudek, Zach Willey, and Joe Goffman are on the board of the Environmental Resources Trust.

Northwest, where ERT will market electricity produced from water it acquires and from increased river flows required to benefit endangered salmon, as well as energy from new and existing geothermal, wind, and solar sources. Other ERT projects will design and advocate market approaches to reduce air pollution and preserve forests and other natural resources.

Congress Watch

By Steve Cochran,
EDF Legislative Director



Congress continues its efforts to reauthorize the Endangered Species Act (*see page 4*) and Superfund. The outlook for both is still cloudy, although some bipartisan support for the Endangered Species Act—including Administration support—is emerging.

House and Senate committees have passed different versions of a bill to reauthorize the national transportation legislation known as ISTEA (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act). Both versions leave largely intact the only funding source for projects to reduce air pollution from transportation (the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality program) as well as most measures that are important to local and regional efforts to develop environmentally preferable transportation options. Efforts in both bills to "streamline" the environmental review process remain troubling, however. EDF continues to work with others to improve the bills.



Steve Cochran

Congress has passed and the President signed the International Dolphin Conservation Act, a major step toward protecting dolphins that swim with schools of tuna and can be snared in tuna nets. Under the Act, no dolphin can die in the catching of tuna if that tuna is to receive a "dolphin safe" label.

EDF Summer Intern Killed in Tragic Accident

Aaron Gastellum, an intern for EDF general counsel James T.B. Tripp in New York this past summer, was struck and killed by a car in August. In his work with Tripp, Gastellum collected and mapped information on the natural resources of the Hudson Highlands. "Aaron was an extraordinarily gifted young man who made an enormous contribution to EDF in his short time here," said Tripp.

EDF Letter

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EDF Will Focus Efforts On Four Major Goals

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The four goals EDF has chosen in the course of our self-assessment are:

1. *Stabilizing the Earth's climate* by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases.
2. *Safeguarding the world's oceans* from pollution and overfishing.
3. *Protecting human health* from exposure to toxic chemicals and pollution.
4. *Defending and restoring biodiversity*, with particular concentration on rivers and watersheds.

We at EDF know we do not have all the skills or resources needed to meet these challenges, but by allying our efforts with others' and concentrating our work on four main goals, we believe we will win important victories for the environment in the years to come.

Concentration on the four goals, however, cannot mean that we give up a wider watchdog role. We must vigilantly monitor other areas, in order to cooperate with our fellow organizations, promptly recognize new challenges, and act accordingly. EDF will remain alert, adaptive, and entrepreneurial.

New Solutions Needed

Today's problems are so large that we must enlist powerful political and economic forces to help solve them. Only governments can set environmental standards, but EDF has discovered that the market, at times, can help find the best ways to achieve those standards. We have also pioneered efforts to work directly with businesses to achieve environmental goals. Our regional offices give us influence at the local level, and they will play an increasingly important role in our work.

A group such as EDF will never equal governments or corporations in the magnitude of its resources. But, with the cooperation of our allies, the benefit of sound scientific findings and wise planning, the support of public opinion, and a rich store of experience at our disposal, we can hope to live up to our organization's name, and fulfill our responsibilities as steadfast defenders of the environment.

Fred Krupp

To receive a copy of EDF's Strategic Plan, contact the Membership Office, listed on page 2.

EDF Urges Strong U.S. Position at Climate Talks

Continued from page 1.

degrees Fahrenheit in the next century. Small differences in global average temperature can mean dramatic shifts in climate. The global average temperature during the last ice age was only nine degrees cooler than it is today.

The U.S. government has yet to support reduction targets. By contrast, the European Union has supported 15% cuts in emissions, from 1990 levels, by 2010. EDF has intensified its efforts to raise public awareness of the need to cut greenhouse gas emissions and to push for a strong U.S. position on this issue.

EDF executive director Fred Krupp was a panel member at the White House Conference on Climate Change in October. Krupp called upon the U.S. to commit to cutting greenhouse gases as early as possible.

The U.S. has proposed an excellent "cap and trade" framework for maximizing reductions in greenhouse gas emissions while minimizing cost. This plan would place a binding limit—or cap—on each nation's emissions, but would give nations flexibility to use emissions trading and other cost-effective ways to meet the

mandatory reductions. EDF's design suggestions have been largely adopted. Yet, a good mechanism without a strong goal is of limited value.

EDF advocates reducing greenhouse gas emissions significantly below 1990 levels, starting no later than 2005. "This reduction can be affordably achieved through the use of proven market mechanisms to control pollution," said Krupp. "It must be achieved swiftly for the sake of our planet's future."

Key to the success of the effort is providing incentives that harness the world's growing economies to the global imperative of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. By rewarding the entrepreneurs and businesses that innovate to reduce emissions and penalizing those nations and industries that lag in gaining reductions, we can lessen the economic and political costs of tackling this troubling problem. Under the Clean Air Act's acid rain provisions, companies have an incentive to reduce emissions early, and are now 35% ahead of schedule, providing early relief for ecosystems. A similar set of incentives to spur early reductions is vital to achieve timely greenhouse gas reductions.

Study Shows Impacts on White Mountains

In September, EDF released a study of potential impacts of global warming on the White Mountains region of New England. The report, *Seasons of Change: Global Warming and New England's White Mountains*, by EDF scientist Dr. Janine Bloomfield, finds that the region faces substantial risk of disruptive changes as a result of global warming. Among these are a muted fall foliage display, a decline in maple syrup production, a shortened ski season, a dramatic drop in trout habitat, and potential changes in timber productivity.

Massachusetts Senator John Kerry said, "This report should serve as a wake-up call to all of us that global warming is not a distant or remote threat. Under very plausible scenarios, global warming could rob future generations of the beauty and resources of the White Mountains. We



The ski season in New Hampshire may be considerably shortened due to warming temperatures as a result of climate change.

must take action now to prevent that from happening."

Seasons of Change, based in part on scientific data published by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, is available for \$10 postpaid from EDF Publications, c/o the Washington office.

Critical Time for the Endangered Species Act's Future

By attorney Michael J. Bean, head of EDF's Wildlife program.

After nearly six years of stalemate, Congress may finally be moving toward consensus on the future of the Endangered Species Act. On September 30, by a vote of 15-3, and with the support of the Clinton Administration, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved a bill to reauthorize the Act. The bill (S. 1180) is the result of months of negotiations among Committee Chairman John Chafee (R-RI), Democrats Max Baucus (MT) and Harry Reid (NV), Republican Dirk Kempthorne (ID), and Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt. A more far-reaching bill introduced in the House by Rep. George Miller (D-CA) has improved prospects for House action as well.



Michael Bean

The Senate is likely to act on its bill first. Rather than radically overhauling the existing law, the Senate bill leaves in place the law's key requirements: (1) Federal agencies must still ensure that their actions neither jeopardize the continued existence of endangered species nor destroy critical habitat, and (2) private landowners must still refrain from harming endangered species by destroying habitat or by other means. The bill makes other changes, however, that could be problematic unless the concerns below are addressed.

The bill authorizes significant new programs to provide incentives—in the form of cost-sharing assistance—to private landowners who agree to carry out management practices to help endangered species. This may be the bill's most positive feature, but—as EDF stressed in testimony before the committee—the potential benefits of these new provisions will only be realized if the programs are assured of substantial funding.

The bill focuses mainly on the recovery planning process. Its intent is to make recovery plans more influential in guiding the actions of Federal agencies and others in furthering the conservation of imperiled species. To do so, the bill requires that plans identify the Federal agencies that could contribute most to species recovery and the actions needed from them. Today, Federal

agencies often ignore recovery plans, since nothing obliges them to implement such plans. S. 1180 would, for the first time, require relevant Federal agencies to enter into formal “implementation agreements” that commit them to carry out specific actions in recovery plans. States and private landowners may do so as well, and cost-sharing aid to private landowners who commit to help carry out recovery programs is one of the new incentives created by the bill. A serious concern is that the new planning procedures are unduly complex and costly. EDF has urged that they be significantly streamlined.

The bill makes less substantial changes in “habitat conservation plans,” the main means of accommodating both endangered species conservation and development interests on private land. The most significant change is that the bill raises the standard for approval of plans

Ending the six-year impasse over the future of the Endangered Species Act is critically important.

that encompass both listed and unlisted species (typically plans that cover large geographic areas). This desirable change would make it less likely that the long-term assurances given to landowners who enter into such plans will put species at risk. Nevertheless, EDF has vigorously pressed the Senate to add, as a further backstop against such risk, a generous “insurance fund” from which the Secretary of Interior could draw if he needed to step in and correct an inadequate conservation plan. The Miller bill in the House also gives assurances to plan participants, but limits the impact by imposing bonding requirements on participating landowners.

The Senate bill also codifies the government's authority to enter into “safe harbor” agreements with private landowners. EDF, with the generous support of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, pioneered the safe harbor concept as a means of overcoming private landowners' reluctance to create, restore, or enhance habitat for endangered species. The bill also authorizes cost-sharing assistance to landowners who



B. Lasley/VIREO

This male Attwater's prairie chicken is puffed up in a courtship display. The safe harbor program offers hope to the species, long listed as endangered yet still declining, because its habitat is primarily found on private land.

enter into such agreements. The active management needed by many endangered species is expensive; cost-sharing will help landowners who might otherwise be unable to bear alone the costs of carrying out essential actions for improving the well-being of endangered species.

The House is likely to await Senate action—which could come very quickly—before it begins a serious reauthorization effort. None of the House conservatives who in the last Congress backed a radical overhaul—indeed, a virtual repeal—of the Endangered Species Act has yet shown any inclination to follow the lead of their Senate counterparts who have moved toward the middle in an effort to find consensus. If the Senate passes its bill, it will likely put pressure on House members not to let the issue die, as it has done in each of the last three Congresses.

Ending the six-year impasse over the future of the Endangered Species Act is critically important. The status quo, in which the great majority of imperiled species are not making clear progress toward recovery, is simply not adequate.

EDF MEMBER ACTION ALERT

Senate action is likely in the very near future. EDF members can help by urging their Senators now to (1) add an assured source of substantial funding to S. 1180 so that the proposed new landowner incentives programs (and the habitat conservation plan insurance fund) can accomplish their full potential benefits, and (2) reduce the cost and complexity of the new recovery planning procedures.

Lifelong Love of Birds Spurs Planned Gift to EDF

Elizabeth Cauley's environmentalism has flourished for nearly six decades. Now 81 and living in Placida, Florida, Ms. Cauley recently established a \$10,000 charitable gift annuity for EDF.

"My interest in the preservation of the natural world started in my early 20's," says Ms. Cauley. "At the Cranbrook Museum of Science in Bloomfield, Michigan, I joined a group that was led by the naturalist Walter Nickel—he was quite well known in Michigan. He probably had more influence on my life than anyone else. We had weekly hikes, mostly birdwatching, but we also visited geological sites and other natural areas."

"This was 50 years ago," she continues. "I really wanted to get into conservation. There were hundreds of jobs in natural resource parks that I would have loved, but back then there was no room for a woman." Under Walter Nickel's influence, Ms. Cauley—who had already earned a master's degree—signed up for undergraduate classes in physics, geology, botany, and chemistry. She later taught grade school science

in Detroit for 34 years.

"When I was in a position to contribute financially," Ms. Cauley says, "I decided to give to EDF, because I have confidence in your organization to do what's necessary to protect our natural resources. I'm particularly alarmed by the disappearance of wetlands, and I'm glad EDF is trying to protect them." In addition to providing unrestricted support for EDF, the charitable gift annuity offers Ms. Cauley a lifetime income—the rate of return for a person of 81 is now 9.6%—as well as a tax deduction, and enables her to avoid paying a capital gains tax on the transfer of the asset. She has also chosen EDF to receive a significant gift through her will.

As with many EDF members and donors, a love of birds underlies Elizabeth Cauley's conservation-oriented outlook, and, in fact, predates her experience with the Cranbrook Museum of Science. "When I was 8, my bird book had a picture of a painted bunting—red, green, blue, and yellow, all on one bird," she says. "I still haven't



B. Schorre/VIREO

The beautiful painted bunting that Ms. Cauley has long wanted to see.

seen one. They come to Audubon Corkscrew Swamp in Florida in the winter, and I'm going to ask them to let me know when they're there."

For information on planned giving, contact:

Anne B. Doyle, Director of Planned Giving,
EDF, Box 57, 257 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10010 (212) 505-2100.

What Happens When YOU Flip the Light Switch?

Now, for the first time, anyone with access to the Internet can quickly and easily calculate the environmental consequences of his or her own electricity use. The interactive "Electricity Label Generator" is located on EDF's World Wide Web site at www.edf.org; just click on "Energy," then on

"Find Out About Your Electricity." This easy-to-use computer program produces a detailed set of environmental facts that are akin to the "Nutrition Facts" included on every food label.

The Label Generator will prompt you to enter the dollar amount of your average monthly electric bill and to click on your location on a map of the United States. The computer then shows you what kinds of power plants are used to generate your electricity and how much pollution is produced.

You can also find additional information about electricity generation technologies and their environmental impacts, and learn about the exciting new "green" electricity options, such as solar and wind power, that will be offered by an increasing number of electric companies for their environmentally conscious customers.

Customers Will Need the Facts To Make Wise Choices

Beginning January 1, 1998, customers in California, parts of New England, and possibly other states will be able to choose what company will provide their electricity. EDF's on-line Electricity Label Generator demonstrates the kind of information everyone can and should have to make responsible decisions about electricity pur-



T. Charles Erickson

Wind power is one of the "green" energy options that will be offered by an increasing number of electricity companies to environmentally concerned customers.

chases, once they have a choice. EDF is asking all electric companies to give their customers full information about what kinds of power plants are used to generate their electricity and how much pollution results. These details ought to be provided on a standard, easy-to-read label included with electricity bills, EDF believes.

"Information disclosure is not a new idea," notes Karl Rábago, manager of EDF's energy program. "Already consumers get far more information from snack food packages than they do from their electric service provider. We believe this easy-to-use web feature is a first step toward changing that."

California Electricity Facts

Where Your Electricity Comes From

Coal	0%
Oil	0%
Natural Gas	32%
Nuclear	25%
Hydropower	39%
Renewable	4%

Your Annual Electricity Use

Kilowatt Hours Consumed 6,718 kWh

Your Annual Emissions

Carbon Dioxide . . .	7,801 lbs.
Nitrogen Oxides	20 lbs.
Sulfur Dioxide	0 lbs.

These are the Electricity Facts that EDF's Electricity Label Generator would calculate for a California residential utility customer with a \$65 per month electric bill—average for the state. Residents of other states and regions would see a different mix of sources and emissions.

John Wilson Takes the Helm as EDF's New Chairman

The new chairman of EDF's board of trustees, John H.T. Wilson, knows a thing or two about wilderness. He also knows how to work with companies to get things done. Tall and lean, with angular, weathered features, Wilson looks like he would be more at home hiking in the back country than negotiating in a corporate boardroom wearing a three-piece suit. In fact, he does both expertly.

Wilson embodies EDF's philosophy that what's good for the environment can also be good for business. He has helped EDF work with companies to improve their environmental performance and to make environmental considerations part of their bottom-line business decisions.

More than once in his 35 years at Morgan Stanley—where he remains an advisory director—Wilson had his wilderness vacations interrupted when corporate clients called him back to put out financial fires. Once he was rafting in the Grand Canyon with his wife Sandy and four children, and when they hiked out he got word that one of his clients needed him. He left his fami-

As a Boy Scout growing up in Connecticut, Wilson loved hiking and sleeping under the stars.

ly and boarded a waiting corporate jet that whisked him off to Houston. "I don't miss that part of my life," he says.

Wilson still commutes from Connecticut to his midtown-Manhattan office at Morgan Stanley, but he now spends more than half his time on community and philanthropic pursuits. Besides EDF, these include Classroom, Inc., a nonprofit organization that produces computer-based educational software simulations to introduce students to the world beyond school, and Union Settlement, an East Harlem-based child care and community services group.

He grew up in Connecticut, where as a Boy Scout he loved hiking and sleeping under the stars. That experience seems to have cemented in Wilson a love not just of nature but of the wildest part of nature. On their honeymoon, he and Sandy went backpacking in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, staying in a tent rather than the available mountain huts. "Too civilized," Wilson calls that option.



John Wilson on a wilderness vacation in Wyoming's Wind River Range.

He was hired by Morgan Stanley & Co. in 1960, four years after graduating from Princeton, where he wrote a senior thesis on Andrew Mellon, played rugby, and pole vaulted 13'6" in an era long before springy fiberglass poles. When he joined the firm, Morgan Stanley had 120 employees. Today, it has more than 11,000.

Not surprisingly, Wilson feels confident about helping organizations grow, plan for the future, and stick to their plans. He begins leading EDF's board at a time when the challenge is to "focus on areas where EDF can make a difference without getting spread thin," he says. "It is difficult to stay focused when there are so many different problems."

When Wilson joined EDF's board in 1989, one thing that attracted him was EDF's broad agenda. He was impressed, he says, by the organization's expertise on issues ranging from wildlife and rainforests to toxic chemicals and pollution. As a trustee, he helped develop the new Strategic Plan that focuses this expertise on four main goals: climate, oceans, health, and biodiversity.

Another trait that attracted Wilson was EDF's habit of not just identifying a problem, but also finding a solution. "It is easy to find fault," he says, "but much harder to devise solutions that are a step forward environmentally and also make economic sense."

Although Wilson has found some business leaders wary of working with environmental groups, EDF has a growing reputation for effective partnerships with business. Wilson was already a trustee when EDF initiated the partnership with McDonald's that led to the demise of the foam plastic ham-

burger box, its replacement with far less-wasteful packaging, and 40 additional steps to cut McDonald's solid waste. Later, Wilson helped bring *Time* magazine into an EDF project with other large paper users, which led to recommendations for buying environmentally preferable paper. Wilson says the publisher appreciated EDF's combination of technical expertise and willingness to work with the companies to find economically viable ways to improve their paper use.

Perhaps EDF's hands-on, shirtsleeves approach to environmental problems appeals to Wilson because that is the way he approaches his other activities. His work with Classroom, Inc. and Union Settlement stems from a desire to give something back to the people of New York City, where he once lived and still works. He and colleagues at Morgan Stanley founded Classroom, Inc. in 1991 when the company moved some of its operations to Brooklyn and had trouble finding qualified entry-level employees from local high schools. Classroom, Inc. developed computer-based business simula-

"It's easy to find fault, much harder to devise solutions that are a step forward environmentally and also make economic sense."

tions that allowed high school students to act as hotel managers or bank employees to learn about business, law, ethics, and customer relations. The latest simulation, produced with EDF's involvement, lets students make decisions as the manager of a paper mill, reacting to environmental problems and opportunities.

There is nothing "simulated" about Wilson's wilderness adventures. Several years ago, he and his family visited Africa, opting to canoe the Zambezi River rather than take the tamer approach of riding in four-wheel-drive vehicles in the Serengeti. Stalking a pride of lions that was itself stalking several impala was exciting enough, Wilson says, but their native guide provided an even more visceral thrill when Wilson asked what they would drink. The guide, in a canoe in the middle of the Zambezi, dipped his leather sack into the river, pulled it out, and said, "Here's your drinking water."

By Billy Goodman

How to Build or Redesign a “Green” Office or Home

By Tracy Dyke, research associate at the Alliance for Environmental Innovation, a joint project of EDF and The Pew Charitable Trusts.

When the Alliance for Environmental Innovation moved into its office space in Boston’s historic Faneuil Hall marketplace, the staff wanted the physical environment to reflect the Alliance’s mission: to reduce waste, conserve resources, and prevent pollution associated with consumer products. “By choosing environmentally sound construction materials for our office interior, we put our principles into action,” said Alliance Director Ralph Earle.

The principles that guided the Alliance can also help make your home or office a more environmentally sound and pleasant place to be. Here are a few things to consider when building or remodeling.

1. Use environmentally preferable paint.

For the interior walls, the Alliance chose a low-odor, water-based paint to minimize emissions that contribute to indoor and outdoor air pollution. The use of low-odor paint also allowed the staff to work while painting was in progress.

Look for paints labeled “low odor” or “low VOC” for their low level of volatile organic compounds. VOC’s are used as solvents and contribute not only to fumes from fresh paint but also to the formation of smog. Environmentally preferable paints are comparable to traditional paints in color selection, price, and durability. Recycled paint is also available from a growing number of retailers. Buy only what you need, and donate leftovers.

2. Reduce environmental impacts from carpet and vinyl flooring.

The Alliance used carpet remnants that would otherwise have been thrown away, at a cost savings of 75%.

If you choose a new carpet, look for low-odor carpet with natural jute backing. New carpets can emit chemicals from the glue used to attach carpets to their backings and from the carpets themselves; these chemicals can contribute to indoor air pollution. Have your carpet tacked down instead of glued, or ask for low-solvent adhesives that release fewer chemicals into the air.

Vinyl flooring is also a significant source of pollution because toxic chemicals are used in making it. Fortunately, there are alternatives. Look for natural linoleum (made with wood resin), cork flooring, or ceramic tiles as alternatives to vinyl flooring.

3. Use energy efficiently.

All the Alliance’s appliances, computers, printer, copier, and lighting are energy-efficient models. The office had existing fluorescent lighting and energy-efficient windows, and the Alliance insulated the wall where heat loss was most severe. The office is served by a steam-absorption heating and cooling system. The system uses no ozone-depleting chemicals and is powered by natural gas, a much cleaner source of energy than is used by the local electric utility.

Using fluorescent lights can be a major factor in cutting greenhouse gas emissions. A new compact fluorescent bulb uses about a third as much power as a standard incandescent and lasts about 10 times as long.

If you plan to replace a home appliance, look for the wide variety of environmentally improved appliances now in stores. New refrigerators do not use ozone-depleting CFCs. Front-loading clothes washers use significantly less water (and energy for heating the water) than conventional machines. Energy-efficient refrigerators, clothes washers, dryers, and dishwashers are all available, and regulations require continued improvement.

4. Consider reusing or salvaging materials.

To brighten its space, the Alliance added windows to the interior walls, letting natural light pass through from the outside windows. The added windows were salvaged at no cost from a nearby town dump, saving natural resources and \$1,500. Also, the Alliance purchased used furniture, including walnut desks and a conference table, saving lumber resources and approximately 60% of the cost of similar new furniture.

Wherever possible, consider reusing or salvaging materials. Furniture, lighting fixtures, windows, carpets, and many construction materials can all be rescued from your local bulk disposal area, saving natural resources and your financial resources at the same time.

The Alliance office demonstrates a key principle of sustainable design and construction: many ecologically sound choices can be cost-effective and contribute to high-quality construction. “We couldn’t have met the Alliance’s tight budget without taking advantage of reused materials,” said Dawn



The Alliance office, redesigned using environmentally preferable construction materials, is a pleasant and healthy place to work.

Larry Volk

Harris, of GHK Interior Architecture and Design, who worked to remodel the Alliance office. “Taking the environment into consideration demands creativity—and the results are fabulous!”

For more ideas on how you can reduce the environmental impacts of your home or office, check the following resources:

Books:

- *Your Natural Home* includes information on environmental and health problems in the home; case studies for building, remodeling, and decorating with environmentally preferable materials; and a compendium of projects and materials.
- *The Natural House Catalog* provides overviews of environmental issues in the home as well as a directory of products, resources, and services.

The World Wide Web:

- www.oikos.com focuses on sustainable design and construction. It is oriented towards professionals, but full of information and resources.
- www.ebuild.com, the web site for Environmental Building News, covers energy-efficient, resource-efficient, and healthy building practices.

Mail Order Companies:

- Big City Forest (New York City) manufactures furniture and flooring from recycled wood. 718-731-3931
- Environmental Construction Outfitters (New York City) offers environmentally responsible building materials and systems, oriented towards professionals in the building industry. 800-238-5008
- Environmental Home Center (Seattle) provides both individuals and institutions with building materials that offer an environmental advantage. 800-281-9785
- Also check your local home center or hardware store. Many companies are increasing their selection of environmentally preferable materials and may be able to help.

EDF Approach to Wildlife Conservation Wins Support

Safe harbor, the conservation approach developed by EDF to help endangered species on private land, has picked up important new support from the Federal government. Safe harbor allows property owners to manage their land to benefit endangered species without fear of incurring additional legal liability under the Endangered Species Act if the species increase in number.

In June, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service proposed a national safe harbor policy which, when final, will encourage greater use of this approach. A strong letter of support for the safe harbor concept was submitted by a group of distinguished scientists, including Dr. Thomas Eisner of Cornell, EDF trustee and American Association for the Advancement of Science chair Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Dr. E.O. Wilson of Harvard University, and the heads of the American Institute for Biological Sciences, the Ecological Society of America, and the Society for Conservation Biology. EDF filed supporting comments on behalf of American Farmland Trust, the Center for Marine Conservation, The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, World Wildlife Fund, and grassroots conservation groups from California, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

In August, South Carolina officials approved a statewide safe harbor program for the red-cockaded woodpecker. The plan was developed by EDF and the Westvaco Corporation, which plans to



David Wilcove

“Safe harbor” programs give private owners of forests and other land a new incentive to improve the habitat of endangered species.

enroll a 9,000-acre tract north of Charleston in the program. Westvaco offers forestry advice and assistance to thousands of non-industrial forest landowners in the state through its cooperative forest management program and will use those contacts to provide information about the new program to private forest landowners. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must approve the South Carolina program before it goes into effect.

Celebrate Recycling on Nov. 15

Saturday, November 15, is America Recycles Day, when more than 3,000 events in communities across the country will celebrate the environmental benefits of recycling and urge Americans to choose products and packaging made from recycled materials.

Keep Recycling Working: Buy Recycled is the message of the national campaign, for which Vice President Gore is honorary chair. EDF serves on the America Recycles Day executive committee along with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Recycling Coalition, and other public and private organizations.

To draw attention to the wide variety of products now made from recycled materials, a new 3-bedroom home with an estimated value of \$200,000 will be built using such products and will be given away in the “American Green Dream House” contest. Construction materials, donated by the manufacturers, include steel framing made from recycled steel cans, drywall made with recycled newspapers, carpeting made from recycled plastic soda bottles, and an outdoor deck made with

recycled plastic grocery bags. The house will be built in a location of the winner’s choice, with \$50,000 allotted for land purchase.

More information about local America Recycles Day activities is available by calling the state coordinators listed on EDF’s web site (www.edf.org). State coordinators’ phone numbers are also available from EDF member services at 1-800-684-3322.

To enter the American Green Dream House contest, print your complete name and address on a 3” x 5” piece of scrap paper and mail it before November 15, 1997, to: America Recycles Day Contest, c/o National Recycling Coalition, 1727 King Street, Suite 105, Alexandria, VA 22314-2720.



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