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Cleaner Cars Are Coming to the U.S. Market

DETROIT LAGS BEHIND IMPORTS

Ever since the first Model T rolled off the assembly line in 1908, the internal combustion engine has ruled the road. That could change this summer, when Toyota launches its new hybrid gas-electric car called the Prius in the U.S. market. Along with Honda's Insight, introduced in December, the Prius brings motorists one step closer to the zero-emission vehicles of the future.

Already popular sellers in Japan, where they have been fixtures on the market since 1997, hybrids use a combination of a small gasoline engine, electric motor, and batteries to provide performance similar to a conventional car (see driving impressions inside). They are not pollution-free, but they are expected to be 50% more fuel-efficient than other cars in their class.

In the clean car race, the Big Three U.S. automakers appear to be stuck on cruise control. In 1993, the U.S. government challenged Detroit to build a car that can get 80 mpg. But after \$1 billion in federal funding, U.S. hybrid vehicles are still years away, and most prototypes use diesel fuel, which is dirtier than gasoline. In delaying commercial production, Detroit risks yielding the clean-car market to the Japanese, as it did with the small-car market in the 1970's.



Hemmings Motor News

End of the road for the internal combustion engine? New hybrid cars represent a 21st century alternative to wasteful dinosaurs like this 1947 Buick Roadmaster, photographed appropriately in Death Valley.

Now that practical, cleaner cars are truly available, a bigger question looms: can Americans, who guide the world in so many technologies, give up their faded love affair with the internal combustion engine?

SEND A MESSAGE TO DETROIT!

Use the postage-paid reply envelope opposite page 4 to send a message to the Big Three U.S. automakers, letting them know you want to buy the cleanest possible vehicle when you're next in the market. See page 2 for other Environmental Defense initiatives for cleaner cars.



*Why I'm
Buying a
Hybrid
Car*

When I first sat behind the wheel of a Prius, Toyota's new gasoline-electric hybrid sedan, I was admittedly skeptical. Although impressed by the car's green technology, fuel efficiency, and sleek design, I was worried about performance. I wanted a car that would be suitable for family trips, not just my daily commute.

My worries were quickly dispelled. The 57-mpg, four-door Prius drove like a gas-guzzler, but more quietly and more efficiently. It can go 600 miles without a fill-up, never needs plugging in, and fits four six-footers comfortably. All without sticker

I wanted a car that would be suitable for family trips.

shock. At around \$20,000, it's priced about the same as Toyota's best-selling Camry.

Hybrids are not pollution-free, but they are gas sippers rather than guzzlers. I hope the Prius—and Honda's two-door, 66-mpg Insight—will prime the pump for even cleaner battery-powered or fuel-cell vehicles down the road.

I am happy that we finally have a state of the art car available that incorporates an environmental ethic, yet doesn't sacrifice comfort, safety or performance. I look forward to the day when all auto makers are turning out green vehicles.

—Fred Krupp



Focused Images Photography, Inc.

"The mainstream market is ready for gas-electric vehicles," says Environmental Defense staffer Kevin Mills, who test-drove the new 57-mpg Prius. "Hybrids have great acceleration, use conventional gasoline, and never need to be plugged in."

Hybrid Cars Offer a Revolution in the Making

When the Union of Concerned Scientists ranked consumer habits that damage the environment recently, driving topped the list. "Driving less and using a cleaner car are the best things people can do for the environment," said UCS physicist Michael Brower. "Because cars cause so much harm, even modest changes matter."

This summer, the first hybrid cars will appear on America's streets. Hybrids take a clever approach that cuts fuel consumption and air pollution while delivering vehicles people actually want to drive. An on-board computer allows the gas engine and electric motor to work as a unit, matching the power source to driving conditions. And regenerative brakes recharge the batteries as the vehicle slows down.

"The new hybrid technology could revolutionize the automobile industry," says Kevin Mills, director of the Environmental Defense Pollution Prevention Alliance. "It can be applied to any vehicle size or class."

Japanese automakers are betting American consumers will snap up the environmentally friendly cars. Toyota's new hybrid sedan, the Prius, offers many pluses, including its ability to fit four adults comfortably.

Moreover, the Prius is expected to be 50% more fuel efficient than other cars in its class and to meet California's Super Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle (SULEV) guideline, two of three criteria of the Clean Car Standard set by a coalition of environmental groups co-led by Environmental Defense.

To meet the standard, a vehicle must also be manufactured with non-toxic recyclable materials. Environmental Defense has requested data on production processes for the Prius to determine whether it meets that guideline.

One day, the hybrid car will be as common as the Model T once was. Until that time, Environmental Defense has helped win several recent initiatives, detailed on the next page, to combat air pollution from automobiles.

The Prius is 50% more fuel efficient than its competition.

Recent EPA Actions Will Help Americans Breathe Easier

Several recent federal rulings represent major victories for clean air. One requires automakers to build cleaner SUV's, pickup trucks, and minivans by closing the loophole that allowed these vehicles to pollute three to five times more than passenger cars. Another forces oil companies to make cleaner, low-sulfur gasoline. Environmental Defense attorney Vickie Patton and others in the environmental community worked hard to help win these new measures, which could reduce pollutants from these vehicles by 90%.

In another victory, stemming from a lawsuit brought by Environmental Defense and others, EPA announced a settlement requiring some of the nation's most heavily polluted metropolitan areas, including Houston, New York, and Chicago, to submit tougher clean-air plans to reduce urban smog.



PhotoDisk

Urban zones that fail to meet new clean air standards could lose highway funding and face federally imposed clean-up programs.



©1998 Bruyee Biological Consulting

Free to fly: This rare Quino Checkerspot can extend its habitat through banking.

“Mitigation Banking” Aids Wildlife

Many private landowners dread the presence of an endangered species on their property. Stringent land use restrictions have made some landowners regard rare species as liabilities rather than the treasures that they really are. As a result, there is little incentive for landowners to help endangered species recover on their property.

Now Environmental Defense has proposed a model where landowners who restore or enhance habitat for rare species may be able to earn credits for doing so. They can then sell these credits to others who need to mitigate adverse impacts to those species elsewhere. Called “mitigation banking,” this approach could turn endangered species from feared liabilities into welcomed assets by private landowners. Recently, we helped International Paper design a woodpecker conservation bank that spans five Southern states.

“Private landowners need incentives to protect habitat,” says Environmental Defense economist Robert Bonnie. Under mitigation banking, International Paper is restoring red-cockaded woodpecker habitat on a large tract of mature long-leaf pine in its Southland Forest in

Georgia. In exchange, the company will be permitted to harvest trees in less desirable habitat elsewhere, but only after woodpeckers actually take up residence in the restored habitat. The restoration effort has already increased the number of woodpeckers at Southland from three to 16, an impressive return on investment.

A GROWING IDEA

Mitigation banks have been proposed for species from the California gnatcatcher to the nightingale reed warbler. Endangered warblers were recently found on a site scheduled for development on Saipan, in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands. To proceed, the developer will purchase credits from a mitigation bank set up by the Commonwealth government, ensuring that for each pair of warblers disturbed, habitat to support a new pair will be restored.

“Done properly, mitigation banks may offer a means of achieving better conservation than existing Habitat Conservation Plans,” says Michael Bean, head of our wildlife program and principal author of a new report on the use of mitigation banks.

New York State Considers Alternatives To Widening I-287

In late January, New York Governor George Pataki's I-287 Task Force released a report that includes some Environmental Defense-supported alternatives to widening the Cross Westchester Expressway. These include a congestion pricing system on the Tappan Zee Bridge: higher tolls at rush hours, lower off-peak or for car pools, buses, and vans—and an innovative van service program.

“The Task Force report recommends perhaps the boldest congestion pricing proposal for a tolled facility that has been considered anywhere in the country. We will press for its adoption,” said Environmental Defense General Counsel James T.B. Tripp, a member of the Task Force's special advisory committee who helped develop the bridge congestion pricing proposals and van service program. “When coupled with better van services and other transit options, congestion pricing will help reduce single occupant vehicle congestion in this corridor,” Tripp said. “Everyone will gain in improved mobility.” In 1996, in a move requested by Environmental Defense, Governor Pataki set up the Task Force after canceling his State Department of Transportation's proposal to widen the expressway by adding a high occupancy vehicle lane.



A radical new congestion pricing plan could avoid the need to widen I-287 near the Tappan Zee Bridge.



Renewable energy as produced by these windmills in California could flourish in New Jersey if its producers are rewarded.

Auction Process Could Advance Renewable Energy in New Jersey

Environmental Defense is urging New Jersey's Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to adopt an auction process to distribute government funding for the development of renewable energy in the Garden State. The auction would reward renewable energy producers that generate power at the most competitive prices per-kilo-watt-hour for large, utility-scale production. An auction could also be used to distribute taxpayer subsidies that reduce the high, upfront costs of smaller, on-site power production. In these ways, an auction would help close the gap between clean energy technologies and dirtier system

electricity prices, using funds provided under the state's newly enacted Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act.

“The program's design is crucial,” said Environmental Defense energy policy analyst Natalie Patasaw, who testified at the BPU hearings. “It will introduce a single statewide administrator for renewable energy.” She added that the auction process will help the most competitive producer of renewable energy become even more competitive. The proposed auction mechanism is similar to a successful program designed by Environmental Defense for California.

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257 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10010
Main number: 212-505-2100

©2000 Environmental Defense. Published bi-monthly at New York, NY. ASSN 0163-2566

Contact the editor at 1-800-242-3251, by fax at 212-616-1489, or by email at pklebnikov@environmentaldefense.org.

Member services: 1-800-684-3322 or members@environmentaldefense.org

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McDonald's Partnership Marks 10th Anniversary

The unprecedented alliance of McDonald's and Environmental Defense has produced a decade of progress on waste reduction and recycling. Since we agreed to work together in 1989, McDonald's has eliminated 150,000 tons of packaging, replacing foam-plastic sandwich containers with paper wraps and recycled boxes and making dozens of other packaging improvements in its restaurants and throughout its supply chain.

At a 10th anniversary celebration, McDonald's CEO Jack Greenberg and Environmental Defense executive

director Fred Krupp called for further environmental progress. McDonald's pledged to set ambitious new targets to reduce waste, and it plans to reduce energy use in its restaurants by at least 10% from 1999 levels.

"McDonald's is proving that a company can do well by doing good,"

Krupp said. "Our alliance added a new dimension to the relationship between corporate America and environmental organizations, showing that combining diverse talents in a spirit of cooperation can yield sustained environmental results."

Our work with McDonald's has been made possible only by contributions from our members and friends, since we accept no payments from McDonald's or any other corporate partners.

Building on the success of our partnership with the fast food giant, Environmental Defense

joined The Pew Charitable Trusts in forming the Alliance for Environmental Innovation. The goal was simple: to assist companies in developing business-based solutions to environmental problems.

"The McDonald's partnership opened a lot of doors," said Jackie

—
*Environmental
Defense accepts
no payments
from our corpo-
rate partners.*
—



Ken Levinson

By replacing individual ketchup packets with these dispensers at its restaurants nationwide, McDonald's has eliminated mountains of waste.

Prince Roberts, Director of the Alliance for Environmental Innovation. "McDonald's challenged its direct competitors and other industries to become environmental leaders, and many companies responded."

The Alliance is now engaging leading retailers in efforts to reduce waste in the catalog industry, which last year pumped out over 17 billion catalogs. In a recent success, the Alliance studied the overnight shipping industry and worked with UPS to increase use of recycled materials. FedEx quickly followed suit, switching to 100% recycled (35% post-consumer) non-bleached overnight envelopes.

"Greener purchasing as a whole is one of the most promising areas of cooperation between environmentalists and corporations," said Roberts. A specialist in environmental strategy for business, Roberts has worked at the Harvard Business School where she helped develop the school's environmental management program for a new generation of business leaders.

The Greening of McDonald's Restaurants

SOME RESULTS TO DATE

- **Less waste:** McDonald's cutback on materials by redesigning straws, napkins, cups, French-fry containers, clamshells, and other items.
- **Recycling:** McDonald's recycled more than one million tons of cardboard boxes, reducing restaurant waste by 30%.
- **Buying recycled:** McDonald's has spent more than \$3 billion for products made from recycled paper, plastic, rubber, and glass, including construction blocks, booster seats, tables, trays, and roof tiles.
- **Saving energy:** McDonald's installed energy-efficient lights in its restaurants, saving more than 510 million kilowatt hours and 4,000 tons of greenhouse gases.



Ken Levinson

The clamshell that almost ate America: Since entering into a joint task force with Environmental Defense, McDonald's has eliminated billions of these foam-plastic sandwich containers.

Greener Alternatives to Grass

More and more environmentally conscious residents are giving back segments of their lawns to nature. For them, an area planted with wildflower seeds—bursting with color and teeming with birds and animal life—has more allure than a homogenized lawn decorated with fluttering “pesticide application” flags.

Some homeowners have even declared a “lawnmower-free zone” allowing woodland plants to reclaim a portion of their backyard.

- Convert your green carpet into a wilder lawn. By raising your mower deck to the highest setting, you will encourage violets, cinquefoil, and speedwell to take hold and bloom.
- In shady spots, native ground covers such as low-bush blueberry, wild ginger, and moss phlox remain green year-round. They also provide food and shelter for wildlife.
- Conserve water through creative landscaping. In arid regions, you can reduce thirsty turf by planting a rock garden strewn with drought-resistant plants.
- If you have the space, a natural meadow area planted with wildflowers and tall, waving prairie grasses is a low-maintenance alternative that requires mowing just once a year (in late autumn, to disperse seeds).



Audrey Gottlieb

To the meadow born: A natural meadow is a magnet for birds, butterflies, and other animals.

The Chemical Meadow

A PERFECT LAWN MAY NOT BE THE BEST THING TO HAVE AROUND YOUR HOUSE.

The Great American Lawn, stretching nearly unbroken from the bedroom communities of New York to the coastal enclaves of Malibu, consumes \$8 billion in annual spending and untold hours of human toil. Although

—
From the editors of E:
The Environmental Magazine
—

a close-cropped lawn is anything but a natural environment, we’ve elevated our manicured patches of earth into an American icon, symbolic of freedom itself. A community in New York State even fined a resident \$30,000 for failing to cut his grass. (The fine was later reduced to \$500.)

The idea of a smooth, green carpet as a necessary adjunct to the perfect home is a 20th century invention. By the 1950’s, a magazine article boasted

that lawn chemicals would give suburbanites “a weapon with which to outwit their old enemy, Mother Nature.” The advice proved irresistible. In 1999, homeowners dumped nearly 50 million pounds of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers on their lawns. And in mowing our lawns, we produced as much pollution every half hour as a car driven 172 miles.

In pursuit of this ecological monoculture, homeowners also squander water and create an environment that is inhospitable to butterflies, songbirds, and other wildlife. And when we keep the grass short, we deny it the biomass it needs for its roots to grow. As a result, most lawn care consists of giving back to the grass the things we’ve taken from it—food, water, and shelter.

CREATING A GREENER LAWN

Despite their drawbacks, lawns are probably here to stay. But thankful-

This Green Living article is one of a series by the editors of E, the leading independent environmental magazine. Opinions in these guest articles are those of the authors and not necessarily those of Environmental Defense staff.

ly, there are some options that eliminate the need for chemical warfare and are kinder to wildlife.

One solution is to plant grass suited to your local climate. For example, if you live in the East, you may want to grow a variety of fescue. In you live in the Midwest, you may want to grow a variety of prairie grasses. In arid Southern California, buffalo grass is more suitable.

Minimize watering (brown is the natural color of grass in late summer)



John Michael/International Stock

Mowing the lawn with a gas mower produces as much pollution in half an hour as driving a car 172 miles.

and use nitrogen-fixing clover instead of fertilizer; forgo herbicides and don't bag your grass clippings (they're an excellent natural fertilizer). And in the autumn, allow your fallen leaves to fertilize the ground through the winter, rather than bagging them for disposal.

Before "going wild," draw up a plan, inform your neighbors, and talk to town officials to make sure you're not violating any local ordinances. Pick up one of the natural gardening books

that are proliferating at bookstores these days. Among the best are: *The Wild Lawn Handbook: Alternatives to the Traditional Front Lawn*, by Stevie Daniels (MacMillan) and *Landscaping with Wildflowers: An Environmental Approach to Gardening*, by Jim Wilson (Houghton Mifflin). For more guidance, contact the Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program at the National Wildlife Federation (703-790-4499).

—By Jim Motavalli

Earth Day 2000: Sending a Message to Congress

On Saturday, April 22, more than half a billion people in more than 160 countries will take part in Earth Day 2000. A major focus of this year's Earth Day is the Clean Energy Now! campaign, an effort to influence policy makers to make renewable energy a practical and competitive alternative to fossil fuels. Clean Energy Now! also aims to encourage individuals and businesses to become more energy efficient.



Since the launching of the first Earth Day in 1970, we've seen the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency, the passage of the Clean Air Act, and the first Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1990. Now, the democratizing force of the Internet is helping to inform and mobilize people to change U.S. energy policy.

By registering on our Action Network online, members can receive email alerts and contact legislators on pressing environmental issues such as global warming. For the past couple of years, opponents in Congress have been successful in stifling debate on climate change and have repeatedly tried to block any positive action.

Critical negotiations for the Kyoto agreement on climate change will take place this November in the Netherlands. For Earth Day 2000, we urge you to use Action Network to send a fax, or email your representatives requesting that they oppose any riders on bills that block U.S. action to reduce greenhouse gases.

Environmental Defense, an Earth Day Network partner, also has a host of energy-saving ideas on its website (www.environmentaldefense.org/makeadifference). Visitors will find suggestions for saving energy and 20 Simple Steps to Reduce Global Warming. These and many more "News You Can Use" ideas can help you make a difference on Earth Day 2000 and beyond.

Earth Day 2000 will involve thousands of events, from rallies and teach-outs to concerts and earth fairs. To volunteer, or to find the fun on April 22, visit www.earth-day.net. If you're in Washington, DC, don't miss the Environmental Defense booth on the Mall.



Andrew Revkin

Will this summer bring yet another heat wave?

Our New Name and You

With this issue, we introduce our new name, Environmental Defense, and a new look for our newsletter. We shortened our name from Environmental Defense Fund because “Fund” was a source of confusion and “EDF” led some to mistake us for a government agency. So we decided to simplify things.

We’ve also adopted a new logo, the “e” from our name, as a symbol of the Earth and of recurring themes in our work—environment, economy, equity, empowerment. We are grateful to Young & Rubicam for donating their efforts to update and strengthen our materials.

“EDF” IN YOUR WILL

If you have included Environmental Defense Fund or EDF in your will, your bequest to us will not be



affected by our name change.

We do suggest, however, that when your attorney is otherwise making changes to your will, you include language such as the following:

“I hereby give and bequeath _____ to Environmental Defense, a not-for-profit membership organization incorporated by the laws of the State of New York, having as its principal address 257 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10010, for its general purposes.”

If you have questions about your will or other planned giving opportunities, please call Anne Doyle at 1-877-OSPREYS (1-877-677-7397).

A Note from Fred Krupp

I am delighted to welcome Peter Klebnikov as senior editor. Peter is a seasoned investigative reporter who began his career at *The New York Times* in 1983 and later worked for Hearst as editor-in-chief of the first Western publication launched in Russia. He looks forward to your comments on this newsletter.

You can leave a message for him at 1-800-242-3251 or contact him by fax or email (see contact infor-

mation on page 4.)

I thank Norma Watson, our longtime editor who is retiring after more than 25 years of service. Norma started as a volunteer bicycling to our Long Island farmhouse office, became newsletter editor in 1977, and, when the office moved to Manhattan in 1979, began her long commute by train. It has been my pleasure to work with Norma and I wish her all the best in the years ahead.

—Fred Krupp
Executive Director



Gray wolves, denizens of Yellowstone until exterminated by humans in the 20th century, have been reintroduced to the park.

Yellowstone Wolves Win Appeal

The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver has ruled that 250 reintroduced wolves can remain in Yellowstone National Park and in central Idaho. The decision reversed a 1997 trial court ruling that had ordered the wolves removed and almost certainly would have led to their deaths. The new decision enables the animals to remain where they once roamed for centuries.

“The reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone was the greatest conservation success story of the past decade,” said attorney Michael Bean, director of our wildlife program. “Wolves have regained their place in Yellowstone faster, at less expense, and with fewer livestock conflicts than in even the most optimistic predictions.”

EVERY ENDANGERED SPECIES WINS

Bean filed a “friend of the court” brief that influenced the Circuit Court decision. The court’s opinion quotes two lengthy passages from his brief arguing why it is legally appropriate for the wolves to remain.

The case revolved around whether the government had acted lawfully in establishing “experimental populations” of wolves in Yellowstone. The American Farm Bureau Federation argued that the presence of a few naturally occurring lone wolves there meant that the government could not introduce other wolves as an experimental population. The Court of Appeals rejected that argument.

The court’s decision removed a cloud of uncertainty that has hung over reintroduction efforts of other free-ranging species such as the northern aplomado falcon, the rarest of America’s falcons. The Peregrine Fund, with help from Environmental Defense, is hoping to return this bird to its native New Mexico.

CENTRAL Regional News

U.S.-Mexico Clean Air Projects Win International Award

Gustavo Elizondo, mayor of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, presented the first-ever Cielito Limpio (clean skies) award to Dr. Carlos Rincon of our Texas office in December. The award honors his pioneering work to reduce air pollution along the border at Ciudad Juarez and El Paso, Texas.

Rincon, a Mexican citizen and director of our U.S.-Mexico Projects, had previously received a National Environmental Education Award for his work with border industries.

“Dr. Rincon’s innovative approaches are a model for jointly solving ecological crises,” said Elizondo. The El Paso-Juarez program will soon be replicated in the San Diego-Tijuana area.

The award recognized Environmental Defense efforts to reduce traffic congestion and vehicle emissions in the border area, which included a highly successful, voluntary program to train Mexican auto mechanics to diagnose and repair polluting vehicles.



Mayor's office, Ciudad Juarez

Dr. Carlos Rincon (right) has shown how air pollution can be reduced through cross-border cooperation.



Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

This black-capped vireo once threatened Texas ranchers. Now major landowners are enlisting in our species recovery project.

Texas Ranchers Support Endangered Wildlife

In just six months, our new Landowner Conservation Assistance Program has enrolled more than 34,000 acres of private Texas ranchland in a variety of endangered species recovery projects. The two-year pilot program, directed by attorney Melinda Taylor of our Texas office, has quickly developed into a coordinated effort to help endangered wildlife. It has yielded agreements with more than 20 ranchers on initiatives ranging from fire management and livestock fencing to habitat restoration and tree planting.

In exchange for such voluntary actions, the program offers incentives including grants of up to

\$10,000 from the Texas Stewardship Fund and legal protection through the Safe Harbor program developed by Environmental Defense and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

“Talking about imperiled songbirds like the black-capped vireo and golden-cheeked warbler does not always inspire landowners, who fear regulations,” says Taylor. “But our project invites participation because it allows landowners to manage their land in their best interest, while helping species in dire need.” With continued success in Texas, the program could expand throughout the United States.

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Member services: 1-800-684-3322 or members@environmentaldefense.org

Environmental Defense Offices

New York, NY • Washington, DC • Oakland, CA
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Federal Commission Raises the Bar For Natural-Gas Pipeline

Marking a victory we pursued for more than three years, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission imposed unprecedented environmental requirements on a proposed 622-mile natural gas pipeline from Canada to the Eastern United States. The project includes the much-contested 440-mile Independence Pipeline, which would run from Distance, OH, to Leidy, PA, connecting to another proposed pipeline across New Jersey. The commission required proof of binding sales contracts for the gas from the pipeline and mandated strict rules on site restoration and compliance with environmental standards. It also prohibited companies from building any part of the pipeline until all state environmental permits are obtained.

Environmental Defense engineer Lois Epstein, who testified at the request of Ohio pipeline opponents, said, "The commission now recognizes the adverse environmental impacts posed by gas pipeline construction and operations. New proposals for gas pipelines will now have to meet significantly higher environmental and public-need standards than in the past." Since 1996, the Ohio-Pennsylvania Landowners Association and we have pushed for full examination of the need for the project and the potential impacts on land use and the environment.



Fearing a pipeline explosion, protesters across Ohio have mobilized and forced Federal restrictions on a major pipeline.



Now being tried in Midwestern pilot cities, our new livability index could be applied to any urban area.

Environmental Defense Develops Livability Index for Cities

The Environmental Defense Pollution Prevention Alliance is developing an environmental livability index that focuses initially on three pilot cities: Cleveland, Dayton, and Milwaukee. Designed to measure and track environmental progress on issues contributing to urban quality of life, this tool will empower urban residents to understand the nature and causes of local problems and will help solve them.

We worked with local environmental groups and university and government representatives in Ohio and Wisconsin to identify a common set of environmental measures that are relevant, easily quantified,

and understood by the general public. They include air quality, industrial pollution, childhood lead poisoning, water quality, transportation, and contaminated area cleanup needs.

"Shining a spotlight on local problems is an important step to getting the problems fixed," says Carol Andress, Environmental Defense economic analyst. "We believe our work in the pilot cities provides a model that can be used to achieve environmental improvements in any urban area." For more information on the project, contact Carol Andress or Lisa Gomes Casseres at (202) 387-3500.

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North Carolina's Edenton Bay Is A Model for Restoration

An integrated restoration plan developed by Environmental Defense for North Carolina's Edenton Bay has begun to restore water quality and revive spawning and nursery habitat for the once-abundant river herring. The state's Clean Water Management Trust Fund committed \$3.28 million last fall to fund the project's first phase. The overall plan will remove major sources of pollution sources in the floodplain, including a hog farm and a welding and metal finishing plant. It will also restore riparian forests and convert an old fish hatchery for use in storm water management.

"Our plan will restore the nursery function of one of the East Coast's most important fish production areas," said Environmental Defense scientist Dr. Douglas Rader. Rader drew up the plan in consultation with our project partners, the town of Edenton, Chowan County, and the North Carolina Wetland Restoration Program. "Restoring river herring is of more than local interest," said Rader. "These fish are prey for other fish from Long Island Sound to Cape Canaveral." Highly mobile, the river herring spend their first few years at sea before returning to spawn in the coastal areas where they hatched.



Doug Rader

Eliminating industrial and agricultural sites will revive a vital fishery and restore Edenton Bay to its natural beauty.



Raleigh News & Observer/Robert Willett

Hardly hog heaven: North Carolina takes action to prevent a repeat of last year's environmental disaster.

State To Buy Out Hog Farms That Lie In Floodwater Zone

North Carolina's Department of the Environment and Natural Resources is pushing ahead with a beneficial \$5.7 million hog farm buyout program focused on vulnerable floodplain areas.

Under this voluntary program, the state is offering to purchase farmers' permits, close their hog confinement houses and waste lagoons, establish conservation easements on the land, and plant 35-foot forested buffers in waterfront areas. The department met with interested hog farmers in January and received bids the following month.

This first effort will close some 15 hog farms situ-

ated in the 100-year floodplain. "It's a small step in the right direction," says Environmental Defense economist Kathy Cochran. "We hope it sets a precedent."

Environmental Defense is working with the state agency to set firm rules on conservation easements and waterfront buffers. We are also working to enroll farms in the more extensive Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, which combines state and federal funds to retire farmland in sensitive areas. "We need to get more of the floodplain protected," says Cochran. "Not just the first 35 feet."

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Environmental Justice Sought in Los Angeles Brownfield Project

In Los Angeles's Chinatown, Environmental Defense is leading a battle to reclaim a 47-acre industrial site to allow construction of a desperately needed public park and school. At one time a cornfield and later a railroad yard, the so-called brownfield site is also being sought by developers who want to build industrial warehouses there, using \$14 million in federal subsidies from Housing and Urban Development. The warehouse development would take away some of the last unused land in Chinatown, where there are no parks, middle schools, or high schools.

Our Los Angeles project office demanded an environmental impact statement and opposed the \$14 million grant on the grounds that the federal funding would unfairly harm a community of color. The federal agency set a January 1 deadline for the developers' response, which the developers failed to meet. "Public funds should be used for public benefit and not for a project that marginalizes an already underserved community," said Environmental Defense attorney Robert Garcia. "The school and park initiative is not only a better alternative, it is the legal alternative."



Kathleen Clark/LA Weekly

The Battle of Chinatown: Environmental Defense leads a growing coalition that wants a park and school here.



Joanne Huellmoeller

Many species of endangered fish, such as this rockfish, cannot be protected without limits on sportfishing.

California Limits Sportfishing To Protect Depleted Species

The California Fish and Game Commission has adopted strict limits on sportfishing for key species including rockfish, lingcod, and abalone. The action was urgently needed, since overfishing in California waters has reduced some species, such as the bocaccio rockfish, to less than 10% of their natural population levels.

Our previous efforts to protect these species at the federal level had focused on limiting commercial fishing harvests and establishing no-take marine reserves (areas in which catching these fish is prohibited). These efforts have been successful, but

they failed to offer protection from sportfishing. Together with the Center for Marine Conservation and the Natural Resources Defense Council, we pressed the state for strict sportfishing limits, leading to the recent action.

"California stepped up to the plate," said Environmental Defense scientist Dr. Rod Fujita, who led the battle for fishing limits and marine reserves. "With protected areas and the coordination of state and federal fishing limits throughout our waters, we may see a substantial recovery of our most prized species, benefiting fishermen and fish alike."

Environmental Defense Newsletter

Editor: Peter Klebnikov
257 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10010
Main number: 212-505-2100

©2000 Environmental Defense. Published bi-monthly at New York, NY. ASSN 0163-2566

Contact the editor at 1-800-242-3251, by fax at 212-616-1489, or by email at pklebnikov@environmentaldefense.org.

Member services: 1-800-684-3322 or members@environmentaldefense.org

Environmental Defense Offices

New York, NY • Washington, DC • Oakland, CA
Boulder, CO • Raleigh, NC • Austin, TX
Project Offices: Boston, MA • Los Angeles, CA

Online at www.environmentaldefense.org