

## Helping the Catalog Industry Green Up Its Act

With the holiday shopping season just behind us, it will come as no surprise to learn that more than five dozen separate



Ken Levinson

More than 60 catalogs are printed each year for every man, woman, and child in America. See page 7 for tips on how to cut down on unwanted mail at your house.

catalogs were produced for every man, woman, and child in the United States in 1998, the last year for which data are available. More than 17 billion catalogs were mailed that year, and about 3.3 million tons of paper were used to produce them.

Not nearly enough consideration was given to the environment in designing, producing, and distributing those catalogs, according to a recent report by the Alliance for Environmental Innovation, a joint initiative of Environmental Defense Fund and The Pew Charitable Trusts. The report, *Greener Catalogs: Improving Paper Practices in the Catalog Industry*, outlines a nine-step action plan to help catalog companies produce greener catalogs by using less paper, using more recycled

paper, recycling old catalogs, and working with suppliers on cleaner manufacturing and forest management.

The Alliance examined the practices of ten leading catalog retailers: Blair, Brylance, Coldwater Creek, Cornerstone Brands, Hanover Direct, Intimate Brands, J. Crew, L.L. Bean, Lands' End, and Spiegel. Our study found that the companies are over-

*Continued on page 7.*

### Environmental Defense Fund Newsletter to Sport New Look

Your next issue of this bimonthly member newsletter will feature a new, easy-to-read type style and a new design. Watch for it in the new year!

## Nations Make Progress on Global Warming Treaty

An improved negotiating atmosphere marked the 11-day United Nations conference on climate change in Bonn, Germany, in November, bringing fresh momentum to the international effort to combat global warming. Although some thorny technical questions were left unresolved, substantial progress was made toward establishing guidelines for implementing the 1997 Kyoto Protocol.

The Kyoto accord commits industrial nations to accept binding limits on emissions of greenhouse gases. It also establishes an innovative emissions-trading system that we helped develop to provide incentives for global investments in cost-effective emissions reductions.

"The Kyoto process is alive and well," said Environmental Defense Fund chief scientist Dr. Michael Oppenheimer, who



### Global Warming's Early Warning Signs

We worked with six other environmental organizations to create a map illustrating local consequences of global warming. Some are current manifestations of a warming trend as indicated by climate models; others foreshadow the types of impacts that may become more frequent with continued warming. Copies of the full-color 24" x 36" map are available for \$5 from EDF Publications, c/o the Washington office (see address, p. 2).

headed an eight-person staff delegation in Bonn. "But it's time for governments that have hesitated—such as the U.S.—to start cutting emissions now." The United States accounts for nearly a quarter of global carbon dioxide output.

A U.S. effort to postpone the next climate meeting until long after the 2000 elections was turned back by a coalition of groups, led by the National Environmental Trust and us. "The early date we achieved ensures that climate change will be an issue that candidates will have to confront," said Environmental Defense Fund executive director Fred Krupp.

### Progress on Reducing Emissions

While negotiators iron out details of how the Kyoto system will work, some

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## Inside

### 3 Thank You!

In this year-end issue, we look back on the environmental results that your generous support this year made possible.

### 6 Saving Energy and Money

Your home is full of simple opportunities to save energy, money, and clean air. *From the editors of E Magazine.*

### 7 Pollution Close to Home

An easy-to-use guide helps you track neighborhood pollution.

### 8 Butterflies and Corn

Industry-funded research is inconclusive on biotech risks.

## Settlement Brings Progress in Curbing Urban Air Pollution Caused by Traffic

In a settlement agreement with Environmental Defense Fund and the Natural Resources Defense Council, EPA is pressing metropolitan regions to meet firm deadlines



Cleaner transit can reduce air pollution. According to a recent settlement, metropolitan regions must meet a firm deadline for submitting air-pollution control plans that include enforceable limits on car and truck pollution.

in the coming months for submitting new air-pollution control plans, including enforceable limits on air pollution from cars and trucks. The agreement will affect the region from Washington to Boston, along with Atlanta, Chicago, and Houston.

“This will help us hold road builders accountable for ill-advised sprawl roads and will spur adoption of cleaner fuels and vehicles,” said Michael Replogle, Environmental Defense Fund Federal transportation director. “This is critical to offset increased driving and the growing use of

sport utility vehicles (SUV’s).”

An August 1999 study by the Maryland Department of Environment showed increased SUV use boosted pollution from roads nearly 15% in metropolitan Baltimore, whose ozone levels are among the highest in America. We worked with a local coalition to convince state, local, and regional agencies to suspend a new Baltimore transportation program pending addition of traffic and air-pollution mitigation steps and re-analysis with the latest assumptions about traffic and air pollution. The settlement agreement will require new air-pollution control measures in many states.

## New York State Steps Up Its Clean-Air Efforts

Environmental Defense Fund and other environmental groups are hailing New York Governor George E. Pataki’s order to reduce electric utilities’ acid-rain-causing emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides more than required by Federal law. The order would require the state’s electric producers to cut sulfur dioxide emissions by 50% below the Federal maximum by the year 2000. It also requires that nitrogen oxide emissions be reduced 40% below Federal levels and applies these reductions year-round, not just in the summer months. Pataki invited Environmental Defense Fund general counsel James T.B. Tripp and representatives of other groups to join him at the announcement, in October.

“For the nation to solve its acid rain and other air pollution problems, major sources of sulfur and nitrogen dioxide, such as the state’s electric utilities, will have to cut their emissions significantly below levels currently allowed under the Federal Clean Air Act,” said Tripp. “Governor Pataki’s directive does that. The state’s and governor’s leadership should spur technological innovation and we hope inspire other states and Congress to adopt stricter regulations,” Tripp added.

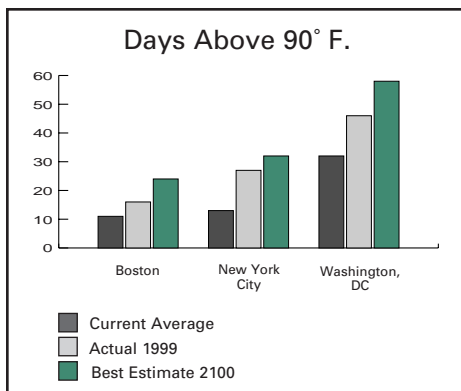
## Was Last Summer Hot Enough For You?

If you thought last summer was hot, brace yourself. Fossil-fuel burning by vehicles, power plants, and factories, coupled with deforestation and other human activities, may make 1999’s record heat par for the course.

An international group of more than 2,000 scientists projects average global warming of between 1.8 and 6.3 degrees Fahrenheit by the year 2100; the “best

estimate” is a rise of 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit. To put this in perspective, a warming of this magnitude has not occurred in the last 10,000 years. Perhaps nowhere will the effect of higher temperatures be greater than in our cities, where large populations are vulnerable to heat stress and ozone smog. Increased drought in watershed areas will also affect urban water supplies.

“Last summer’s devastating heat waves and heat-related deaths may resemble a typical summer of the future unless emissions of greenhouse gases are significantly reduced,” said Environmental Defense Fund scientist Dr. Janine Bloomfield. “Our analysis shows that, without greenhouse gas reductions, many cities across the U.S. can be expected to experience a substantial increase in very warm days by the year 2100 (see chart). Children, the elderly, and those already weakened by illness are especially vulnerable to heat-related illness and even death during prolonged periods of hot weather.”



These Eastern cities can expect hot days ahead.

# Highlights of EDF Successes in 1999

## A NEW CENTURY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE

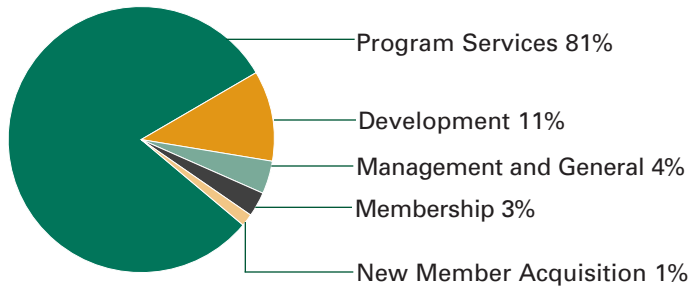
In the course of the 20th century, we humans gained the power to alter the very conditions of life on Earth. We have driven species to extinction, tampered with the climate, created chemicals and organisms that could threaten our own health, and upset the balance of life in the seas. These troubling consequences were wholly unin-

tended; we did not know our own strength. In the 21st century, we must couple strength with wisdom and foresight to protect the environment from further harm.

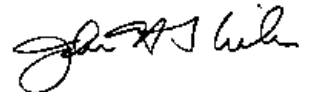
Looking to the future, Environmental Defense Fund will continue to focus its work on four key areas that are essential to protecting the environment: biodiversity, climate, health, and oceans. On these pages, we highlight some of this year's progress.

These results have been made possible by a talented and dedicated staff and by more than 300,000 members and friends who supported our work this year, contributing to total income of \$31.4 million, our highest ever. We thank you.

### Expenses in Fiscal Year 1999



  
Fred Krupp  
Executive Director

  
John H.T. Wilson  
Chairman of the Board

## FINDING THE WAYS THAT WORK

For more than 30 years, Environmental Defense Fund has been making progress even where conventional approaches have failed. We began when four scientists and an attorney were determined to halt the use of DDT, a pesticide Rachel Carson warned about in *Silent Spring*. DDT caused eggshells to grow thin, threatening the survival of magnificent birds such as the osprey and bald eagle.

Our founders tried a novel approach, commonplace today but unheard of in 1967: going to court on behalf of the environment. Almost unbelievably, it worked. They not only stopped DDT spraying near their homes on Long Island, but also pursued and ultimately won a nationwide ban in 1972.

Today, Environmental Defense Fund is a national organization with nearly 200 full-time staff. We continue to pursue new solutions and increasingly work directly with business, government, and grassroots groups on approaches that make sense for all.

For example, ten years ago we approached McDonald's with a proposal to work together to find new ways to reduce waste. Within a year, McDonald's started replacing foam-plastic hamburger boxes with less-bulky wraps and increasing the use of recycled material. Many of its competitors have followed suit. This success led us to establish the Alliance for Environmental Innovation, a

partnership with The Pew Charitable Trusts, to work with companies on improving environmental performance.

To break a Congressional impasse on acid rain, we found a way

The osprey—like the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, and other birds of prey—has enjoyed a dramatic recovery over the past 25 years, due in large part to the nation-wide ban on DDT won by Environmental Defense Fund in 1972. This year, both the bald eagle and the peregrine falcon were removed from the endangered species list.



The information on these pages is summarized from our 1999 Annual Report. Members may request a copy of the printed Annual Report by checking the box on the reply form opposite page 5.



to harness the power of the marketplace to reduce sulfur dioxide pollution. Our approach, written into the 1990 Clean Air Act, requires that sulfur emissions be cut in half overall, but lets each company decide how. Companies could also be rewarded for cutting emissions more than the law requires. Under this market-based plan, sulfur emissions have gone down faster—and at far lower cost—than predicted.

Now we are using the extraordinary new tools offered by the information revolution. Our e-mail Action Network has enrolled hundreds of thousands of activists who contact Congress and others on fast-breaking issues. Our Scorecard web site has enabled people to find out about pollution in their own neighborhoods. "Environmental Defense Fund has taken the lead again," says Yahoo! board member Arthur Kern, "this time in personalizing information on the web that really matters to each of us."

## “SAFE HARBOR” PROTECTS SPECIES AND THE LANDOWNERS WHO HELP THEM

## BIODIVERSITY

After decades of decline, the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker is coming home to the Sandhills of North Carolina. The woodpeckers are returning to nest in the region’s native longleaf pines, thanks in part to a conservation program we created with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Called Safe Harbor, the program encourages landowners to restore or enhance habitat for endangered



Environmental Defense Fund economist Robert Bonnie worked on the Safe Harbor plan in North Carolina with Dr. Jay Carter, an authority on red-cockaded woodpeckers who has studied birds in the region for 30 years.

Andrew Berner

species—many of which depend on private lands for survival—assuring them that helping wildlife will not lead to new restrictions on their property.

“Before Safe Harbor, landowners in the Southeast would occasionally cut down their pine trees rather than take a chance that

these birds would nest in them,” says biologist Dr. Jay Carter, a consultant who has studied red-cockaded woodpeckers for 30 years. Owners feared restrictions under the Endangered Species Act.

A few years ago, Carter began advising the Pinehurst Resort and Country Club on managing several groups of woodpeckers already residing on its golf courses. Pinehurst worked with Carter, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and Environmental Defense Fund staff and soon became the first private landowner in the Sandhills to sign a Safe Harbor agreement.

“It was common sense for us to do it,” says Pinehurst vice president Brad Kocher. “Everybody wins.” The resort removes brushy vegetation, he explains, which gives golfers an easier time finding balls hit into the woods and coincidentally helps the woodpeckers avoid predators.

But the birds are limited by a shortage of nesting cavities. To compensate, Carter and his colleagues create cavities by drilling into trees or by inserting nest boxes. This year, the promise of Safe Harbor was confirmed when a new breeding pair of woodpeckers took up residence at Pinehurst.

The success of Safe Harbor, of course, extends well beyond Pinehurst’s manicured links. Since the program’s inception in 1995, landowners have laid out the welcome mat for endangered species on more than one million acres of private land, benefiting Aplomado falcons, Attwater’s prairie chickens, and other species.

“This program enlists landowners as allies rather than adversaries, and buys desperately needed time,” says Environmental Defense Fund attorney Michael Bean.

## TO CLEAR THE AIR, TEXAS WILL CLEAN UP OLD SMOKIES AND TURN TO WIND POWER

## CLIMATE

It was a fine Texas spring day, but Mark MacLeod was sweating. The Environmental Defense Fund manager of state energy programs was watching the state Senate debate the Texas electric utility deregulation bill. MacLeod had worked hard to get strong environmental language into the bill. But this was Texas, after all, home of big oil and not exactly friendly territory for wind power and other renewable energy.

As states deregulate their electric utilities, consumers given a choice of electric companies might shift to cleaner power or, without good information, they might flock to buy power from the most-polluting plants that are cheapest to run. MacLeod saw this choice hanging in the balance.

In a year when all 25 of the worst smog readings in America would be recorded in Texas, clean air was about to become a hot topic. But the deregulation bill introduced in the state Senate in January 1999 contained only token benefits for the environment. State representative Steve Wolens, the bill’s House sponsor, wanted to improve the bill to make sure that if the utilities got the deregulated marketplace they wanted, then the public ought to get cleaner, healthier air.

In the months of negotiations that followed, Environmental Defense Fund played a pivotal role. The Senate unanimously passed the bill with a renewable energy amendment attached, but the House and Senate still had to reconcile their versions. MacLeod and his colleagues worked several more months to help strengthen the bill that ultimately was signed into law in June—

with all our key provisions.

The new law permanently caps emissions from the more than 130 grandfathered plants and will reduce nitrogen oxide emissions by 50 percent and sulfur dioxide by 25 percent. In addition, it mandates 2,000 megawatts of new renewable energy sources to be built over 10 years’ time, the largest such program in the country.

Environmental Defense Fund energy specialist Mark MacLeod and Texas state representative Steve Wolens worked to reduce air pollution from grandfathered power plants such as this one near downtown Austin.



Bill Albrecht

That’s big news in the oil and gas state. “Without Environmental Defense Fund,” says Wolens, “the clean air provisions of this bill wouldn’t have gotten done.” Having broken new ground, the Texas law now serves as a model for energy reform in other states.

## POWERFUL WEB SITE GIVES NEIGHBORS THE FACTS THEY NEED TO FIGHT POLLUTION

Pauline Leboda lives on a modest residential street in Elyria, a small city west of Cleveland, Ohio. Several years ago, she began suffering from chest pains and other ailments. Doctors found nothing they could treat. But Leboda, who felt better when she ventured away from the neighborhood, suspected an environmental cause for her symptoms.

She often smelled pungent odors from the factories at the edge of her neighborhood. Her concerns were heightened when she learned about a number of children in the area being treated for asthma. Leboda sought the help of Teresa Mills, the director of the Buckeye Environmental Network, who helped her determine that a likely source of the odors was a sponge manufacturer less than a mile from her home.

A few months later, they were on the phone again when Mills went to her computer. Within seconds she was able to give Leboda a complete rundown on the company and its emissions, as well as a profile of other plants in the community.

"She thought I was brilliant," Mills says. "But all I did was use Scorecard." The Environmental Defense Fund geographic web site, [www.scorecard.org](http://www.scorecard.org), is transforming local environmental activism. Now citizens quickly can gain access to a wealth of data on neighborhood pollution. It is as simple as typing in your zip code, clicking "go," and being led to interactive maps and emissions data—as well as relevant background on health issues.

With the help of information from Scorecard, Mills and Leboda determined that the sponge manufacturer, Nylonge, did not have the proper permit for its toxic emissions. They contacted the

regional office of U.S. EPA, which investigated the matter and brought an enforcement action. The result: Nylonge reached a settlement with EPA in which the company paid a fine and agreed to start using a chemical scrubber. Denny Dart, an EPA engineer,

Environmental Defense Fund engineer Lois Epstein met with Pauline Leboda and Teresa Mills at the Elyria, Ohio, factory whose toxic emissions have been curtailed thanks to an EPA enforcement action triggered by our Scorecard web site.



Barney Taxel & Co.

lauded Scorecard's role in this case. "My experience is that companies are quicker to settle and more willing to include citizen-friendly provisions in their settlements if they know that citizens are watching," she says.

As the grassroots efforts of Mills and Leboda demonstrate, Scorecard can be an effective tool that not only informs citizens but also empowers them to act.

## MARINE RESERVES GAIN GROUND AS A WAY TO PROTECT DWINDLING FISHERIES

At spawning time in late winter, gag groupers congregate on limestone reefs off Florida's west coast. The tasty fish forms an important part of the area's \$40 million annual reef fish harvest. Using



Environmental Defense Fund marine ecologist Dr. Rod Fujita and fisherman Pietro Parravano of Half Moon Bay, California, have found common ground in the effort to promote sustainable fisheries.

lines with up to a thousand baited hooks, commercial fishermen catch vast numbers of the fish, especially the aggressive-feeding males that can weigh 50 pounds or more.

Capturing fish at their spawning grounds is one of the unsustainable fishing methods that have led to precipitous declines in many fisheries. Together with ocean pollution, overfishing is a major threat to the health of our oceans and coastal areas.

Florida State University scientist Dr. Felicia Coleman, who has

long studied gag grouper in Florida waters, found that the percentage of males has fallen sharply, putting the future of the fishery at risk. To halt the decline, she recommended that the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council should close the spawning grounds to fishing. Our staff provided supporting testimony and our e-mail Action Network prompted a torrent of letters in support of Coleman's proposal.

With the backing of some fishermen, the Gulf Council approved closing two 110-square-mile areas in July. If the National Marine Fisheries Service approves the plan, it will be the first time that federal waters in the Gulf region have been closed to help a depleted fishery recover.

Marine reserves are also urgently needed on the country's West Coast. A sport-fishing group enlisted Environmental Defense Fund marine ecologist Dr. Rod Fujita to provide advice for creating a marine reserve around the Channel Islands, off Southern California. Fujita brought scientific analysis to the debate—and helped overcome strong opposition from commercial fishermen—by showing that females inside existing reserves produce more eggs than fish outside, and that adults and young leave the reserves and enhance fisheries outside their boundaries.

Meanwhile, we helped shepherd a bill through the California legislature to establish a process for approving marine reserves. Closed areas around the Channel Islands could help protect the many species of abalone, urchins, and rockfish. With the use of marine reserves, America's beleaguered coastal waters could enjoy a much-needed recovery.

# How to Save Energy, Money, and Clean Air

From the editors of *E: The Environmental Magazine*

**A**lthough Americans make up only 4% of the world's population, we use nearly 25% of the world's energy and fossil fuels. As many of our houses and cars get bigger and require more energy, it's no wonder our fuel use continues to rise—along with the resulting air pollution.

The 1973 energy crisis was a wakeup call for many Americans, who started buying more fuel-efficient cars, and it helped create a market for solar and wind power. Unfortunately, the wakeup didn't last long. The average fuel appetite of our cars has steadily increased since the crisis eased. The solar market also stalled, although wind power is gaining new market share. More than 80% of America's energy still comes from fossil fuels, much of it imported. Just 9% comes from renewable energy other than hydropower.

In an expanding economy with the lowest energy prices in the world, why should we worry about saving a little electricity or a few gallons of gas? One reason is that energy efficiency is a good investment, producing returns that compare favorably with what you might get on other investments. And in addition to saving fuel and putting money back in your pocket, using energy efficiently reduces air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

It's hard to change old habits and use energy in smarter and cleaner ways, but we can start out easily with some little things around the house.

## Made in the Shade

Believe it or not, strategically placed trees and shrubs can create a tiny "microclimate" around your home that's at least nine degrees Fahrenheit cooler than nearby open areas. Deciduous trees conserve the most energy, since they shed their leaves to let in winter sunlight. The Department of Energy predicts savings of up to \$250 a year in heating and cooling costs with the proper placement of just three trees, planted on the north, west, and east sides of the house. With even more shade, total savings can reach a quarter of your annual bill.

## The Heat is Off

Household appliances are big heat generators, with washers and dryers being major culprits. Try to run your appliances, such as dishwashers and ovens, in the morning or late evening to avoid heat buildup. If possi-

ble, seal off your laundry room from the rest of the house, and consider switching to energy-efficient appliances. Check the Energy Guide ratings (the prominently displayed yellow stickers on new appliances), which list



*Compact fluorescents (left) end up costing less than incandescents because they use less energy and last much longer.*

annual operating costs and energy consumption. On older refrigerators, vacuum the coils on the back regularly, and consider installing a \$40 voltage-reducing GreenPlug, available at home centers and hardware stores.

## Up, Up and Away

Much of the heat that your furnace generates is lost through your attic. Assuming your attic is insulated at all, check the thickness of its insulation. If it is less than six inches for cellulose insulation or seven for fiberglass (protection officially rated as R-22), you'll save money by adding more. In hot climates, a radiant barrier may be more effective than adding layers of insulation. You can also put attic heat to good use with a commercially made heat exchanger connected to your hot-water heater or swimming-pool heater.

## Our Leaks Are Sealed

Heating bills can be reduced 10% or more by caulking, sealing, and weather-stripping drafty openings. The most common areas of heat loss are floors, walls, and ceilings (31%), followed by fireplaces (14%) and the spots where plumbing penetrates walls and floors (13%).

## Shedding Some Light

Compact fluorescent bulbs cost more than ordinary incandescent bulbs, but they're four times more efficient and last six to ten times longer. Today's compact fluorescents screw into almost any ordinary lamp or light fixture. For cost-effectiveness, use them to

replace lights that get a lot of use, such as in kitchens, bathrooms, and hallways.

## Auto Pilot

If you have trouble remembering to turn the heat down at night, a programmable thermostat (with models ranging from \$25 to \$150) can quickly pay for itself, cutting heating bills by as much as 16%. You can increase the savings to 20%, reports *Home Energy* magazine, if you also turn the heat down while everyone is away at work or school.

## Driving Smart

The simple step of keeping tires properly inflated can reduce gasoline consumption by 5%. And when you're next in the market for a new vehicle, consider buying a "hybrid" car, which uses both a gasoline engine and an electric motor. Although American carmakers have been reticent, both Honda and Toyota are introducing extremely fuel-efficient hybrids in the 2000 model year, making it possible for you to get 60 miles per gallon or more. Honda's two-passenger Insight, available now, uses its electric motor as a power booster when accelerating. Toyota's four-passenger Prius, to be available in the spring, switches electronically between its gas and electric motors. Both cars are in the \$20,000 to \$25,000 range.

These are just a few of the steps we all can take to reduce unnecessary air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions—and save money at the same time. Find many more ideas in the indispensable guide *Homemade Money: How to Save Energy and Dollars in Your Home*, by Richard Heede and the staff of the Rocky Mountain Institute (\$14.95 from Brick House Publishing, P.O. Box 266, Amherst, NH 03031 or 800-446-8642).

By Jim Motavalli

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 Fund staff.

Interested readers can use the reply form facing page 5 to subscribe to *E*, published six times a year. Regular *E* features include Your Health, Eco-Home, Money Matters, Consumer News, and Tools for Green Living.

# Easy-to-Use Guide to Health Hazards in Your Town

Americans want to know about health hazards in their communities, whether they're concerned about a high incidence of cancer cases among neighborhood children,



Kirk Comdyles

*Even though local sources of pollution may be obvious, getting information about them and using it effectively can be difficult.*

noxious odors wafting into living rooms, or the likelihood that fish caught in a nearby lake are contaminated. But finding information about local pollution isn't easy. And once you find the information, how do you interpret it and use it effectively?

For nearly two years, our Scorecard web site ([www.scorecard.org](http://www.scorecard.org)) has made information on local pollution and related health risks freely available to anyone with an Internet connection, whether at home, work, school, or a local public library. All you need to know is your zip code. The web site has helped its users win tangible victories against pollution (see related story, p.5) and has become a standard resource for environmentalists and health professionals.

To help more people use Scorecard, whether or not they are familiar with the Inter-

net, we have developed an easy-to-use guide for navigating the web site to find the information you want about the environmental health of your community. The new Scorecard Guide is available in both English and Spanish at [www.scorecard.org/about/guide.html](http://www.scorecard.org/about/guide.html). Besides helping people find data about local air and water pollution, the guide shows how to use this information in a town meeting or neighborhood campaign.

"Initially I was skeptical that the data could be presented in a format that community groups could use," said Michael Green of the Center for Environmental Health in Oakland, CA, one of several grassroots organizations that advised us. "The guide will help people without computer experience use Scorecard and learn about local health risks."

Often the most toxic pollutants don't come from huge factories but rather from small-business sources such as furniture refinishers and dry cleaners. Many toxic chemicals have names the average person

has never heard of, like ethylene dibromide or acetaldehyde. The Scorecard Guide helps non-scientists find their way through the relevant data and use it to protect their local communities.

Among other things, the guide shows how to explore Scorecard's community maps, obtain detailed reports on health risks, and compare one community's pollution with another's. Most important, it explains how to get involved, whether by sending a fax to a polluter, sending e-mail to a government official, or participating in an online community forum.

"We're constantly working to make the information on Scorecard more accessible," said Environmental Defense Fund toxicologist Dr. William Pease. Armed with the new Scorecard Guide, concerned citizens are better equipped to take on the polluters. Indeed, with 67 million Americans now online and many more having access to the Internet at local libraries and schools, Scorecard could give new meaning to environmental activism.

## Making Catalog Companies Greener

*Continued from page 1.*

looking a number of opportunities to improve paper practices. The ten companies studied are, for example:

- not using recycled paper, despite its wide availability, competitive pricing, and comparable performance. Only L. L. Bean reported using any recycled paper at all and only in its order forms.
- not consistently leveraging their power as large paper purchasers to promote cleaner manufacturing and better forest management.
- mostly not offering customers the

option of reducing unwanted mailings. Not one of the companies allowed customers the choice of substituting an electronic catalog.

"Study after study has shown that consumers care deeply about the environment and that they expect companies to be part of the solution to environmental problems," said Alliance project leader Victoria Mills. "By improving their paper practices, catalog companies can honor their customers' expectations and reap the benefits of environmental leadership."

### How to Cut Down on Unwanted Mail

Try these steps to reduce the amount of unwanted mail you receive:

- **To remove your name from many mailing lists at once**, write the Direct Marketing Association, Mail Preference Service, P.O. Box 9008, Farmingdale, NY 11735 (phone 212-768-7227). State your name and address and any variations.
- **To stop receiving a particular catalog**, or if you receive multiple copies, call the toll-free number in the catalog and ask that your listing(s) be removed. Many companies will also honor requests to receive catalogs less frequently, and a few may let you switch from paper catalogs to e-mail offers.
- **Next time you place an order**, ask if the catalog is printed on recycled paper, and make clear it's important to you as a customer. Let the company know you're also concerned that their paper suppliers use clean papermaking processes and good forest management.
- **Ask your city or town how to recycle your catalogs**. If a catalog has stick-on labels or non-paper inserts that can interfere with recycling, let the company know (when you place an order) that you'd like them to avoid using such items.

## Dr. David Rall, Long-time EDF Trustee, Dies

Environmental Defense Fund mourns the recent death of Dr. David Rall, a long-time member of our board and a recognized pioneer of modern environmental medicine. Dr. Rall headed the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and served as U.S. Assistant Surgeon General for 19 years. He was a dedicated scientist and tireless advocate for public health and a clean, safe environment. His life and work will always be an inspiration for medical and environmental professionals.

# Industry-Funded Research on Bt Corn is Inconclusive

Last month researchers met to discuss the risks that genetically engineered corn might pose to monarch butterfly larvae. Largely financed by the biotech industry, the conference was intended to quell mounting concerns that gene-altered crops are harmful to the environment. But contrary to an industry press release and initial press reports published prior to the conference, many scientists at the conference felt the research was inconclusive.

"Most of the reports were preliminary, sample sizes were sometimes small, and some research methodologies were questionable," cautioned Environmental Defense Fund scientist Dr. Rebecca Goldberg, who attended.

Makers of genetically altered corn were put on the defensive in May when a Cornell University study showed that pollen from corn genetically modified to produce the natural insecticide Bt could

kill monarch larvae. The potential threat to the monarch has since become a focus for growing public concern about genetically engineered crops. The issue is extremely important to seed industry giants such as DuPont, Monsanto, and Novartis, which have been stung by a backlash in Europe against so-called "Frankenfood." The multibillion-dollar industry fears that opposition will spread to the United States, where Bt varieties represent 30% of the corn grown.

The industry-funded field studies suggested that not all strains of Bt corn may be equally toxic and that corn pollen was likely to be dangerous only to those monarch larvae feeding on milkweed close to the cornfields. But experts agree that many issues remain unresolved.

"More research is necessary," said Goldberg, "and independent funding



Ronn Maratea/International Stock

*Industry press reports seemed to exonerate Bt corn as a cause of monarch butterfly deaths, but scientists say the research on which they were based is inconclusive.*

would help to insulate scientists from the pressures of commercial interests. Meanwhile, we are urging growers to plant a 40- to 80-foot buffer of conventional corn around their Bt corn crop."

## Some Companies Act Voluntarily to Reduce Greenhouse-Gas Emissions

*Continued from page 1.*

companies have been taking action voluntarily, most notably British Petroleum-Amoco. Working with us, BP-Amoco has launched an internal emissions-trading system among its many far-flung divisions to help them meet ambitious emissions-reduction targets.

During the Bonn talks, we released a study showing that emissions-reduction transactions already negotiated would result in reductions of more than 81 million tons of greenhouse gases. "This study shows that emissions trading has the power to generate market action that will cut emissions," said Environmental Defense Fund energy program manager Dirk Forrister. "That action will increase sharply if governments adopt good rules when they meet in November 2000."

Argentina and Kazakhstan also reaffirmed their intent to help limit global warming. Oil-producing Kazakhstan reiter-

ated its commitment to accept a binding limit on emissions, the first nation to do so since the Kyoto accord was adopted. Approval by the other treaty parties will enable Kazakhstan to participate in the global emissions-trading market.

### Developing Countries are Pivotal

In a different approach, Argentina announced it would limit its greenhouse gas emissions under a formula linked to its economy. Although the Kyoto accord does not require participation by developing countries, most experts doubt it can succeed without their involvement. "Climate change is a global problem," said Environmental Defense Fund international counsel Annie Petsonk, "and it will require global resolve."

Despite the progress in Bonn, many contentious issues remain undecided, including

rules for emissions trading, consequences for non-compliance with the treaty, and accounting for greenhouse gases absorbed by forests and agricultural activities. We are gearing up for the November 2000 round in The Hague and have prepared detailed policy papers on these issues.

Environmentalists lost a heroic leader with the death of Senator John Chafee (R-RI), in October. Chafee, chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, had championed the Credit for Early Action legislation to provide incentives for companies and communities to begin reducing greenhouse gas emissions early, before treaty mandates take effect. Environmental Defense Fund has called on the new Committee chair, Senator Bob Smith (R-NH), to continue Senator Chafee's tradition by enacting this legislation.



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## “Texas Air Crisis Campaign” is Launched to Clean Up State’s Air Pollution

This year Houston overtook Los Angeles as the nation’s smog capital. “Houston’s dubious distinction is symptomatic of a crisis afflicting the entire state,” said attorney



Houston Chronicle

*Pollution shrouds the skyline of Houston, which has overtaken Los Angeles as the nation’s smog capital.*

Jim Marston, director of the Environmental Defense Fund Texas office. In response, the Texas Air Crisis Campaign, a coalition which we helped forge, is launching a “twelve-step program” aimed at cleaner air in Texas.

“The first step is to admit we have an air-quality problem,” said Marston. “For five years, the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission has been in denial, and it has failed to develop an effective State Implementation Plan to solve the problem. They are now due for their once-every-twelve-year reauthorization, which offers a rare opportunity to revitalize and redirect a failing Commission.”

To ensure that the Commission helps Texas meet national air-quality standards in the future, the coalition’s twelve-step

program is calling for an end to practices such as volume discounts for big polluters and “grandfathering” exemptions for entrenched polluters. It would also reinstate community participation in the permitting process and allow citizens to enforce pollution laws when the state fails to do so.

## Helping Neighborhoods in Denver Take Action on Toxic Emissions

Environmental Defense Fund has linked forces with an environmental justice group in north Denver to bolster community awareness of toxic exposure in their neighborhoods. The group, Colorado People’s Environmental and Economic Network (COPEEN), represents the Denver neighborhoods rated by our Scorecard web site ([www.scorecard.org](http://www.scorecard.org)) as among the worst 20% of all counties in Colorado for toxic chemical releases by manufacturing facilities, and among the worst 20% of all counties in the United States for non-cancer hazards from air pollutants.

Through grants and technical assistance, Environmental Defense Fund outreach coordinator Scott Ingvaldstad has helped strengthen COPEEN’s Internet capabilities to provide access to Scorecard’s detailed data about chemical releases and health effects and helped develop a web site for the organization. COPEEN’s computer classes include a training session in using Scorecard.

“One year ago, COPEEN’s access to the Internet was close to zero,” said Melissa Muñoz, project coordinator for COPEEN. “Today, because of this project, we are training hundreds of area residents to become Internet activists and to get involved in community issues. There are still disparate impacts of toxic chemicals here, but web sites such as Scorecard make it easier for residents to be educated and informed about the chemical exposures in their communities.”

## Report Details Benefits and Needs of the Colorado River Delta

A new Environmental Defense Fund report, *A Delta Once More: Restoring Riparian and Wetland Habitat in the Colorado River Delta*, tells the story of water in the lower Colorado River.

In the United States, the Colorado is best known for its course through the Grand Canyon. Historically a lifeline for fish and wildlife in an arid land, the Colorado today is a working river, delivering water to some 25 million people, irrigating three million acres of farmland, and generating 11.5 billion kilowatt-hours of power. Yet south of the Mexican border, the Colorado is all but forgotten. Spreading out into an extensive delta, the last 30 miles of the river include some of the most biologically important land and water habitat left on the Colorado.

“This hidden oasis survives despite the lack of any commitment to its survival by the authorities that control the Colorado River upstream in the United States,” said

Jennifer Pitt, resource analyst for our Rocky Mountain office and co-author of the report. The report suggests potential solutions to ensure that the delta’s modest water requirements are met.

*A Delta Once More* is available free online at [www.edf.org/delta](http://www.edf.org/delta) or in print for \$30 from EDF Publications, c/o the Washington office below.



*South of the Mexican border, the Colorado River spreads out into an extensive, biologically rich delta habitat.*

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## Plan Could Help Wisconsin's Troubled Waters and Wildlife

Wisconsin is rapidly approaching a make-or-break point in a program to bene-



Bob Firth/International Stock

*A program to pay farmers to restore habitat and plant river-side buffers could help Wisconsin wildlife and waters.*

fit the state's water quality and wildlife habitat. The proposed Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program—the eighth of its kind that we have helped design in the United States—would restore and preserve up to 100,000 acres of land along the state's rivers and streams. Combining state and Federal funds, the program would pay farmers to retire croplands in sensitive areas and restore them to natural wetland or grassland conditions, creating wildlife habitat and a natural buffer to protect rivers and streams from runoff of farm chemicals.

The state legislature approved funding, adding conditions to maximize the proposal's effectiveness. Governor Tommy Thompson ap-

proved the funding but vetoed the added conditions. "What remains to be seen," said Environmental Defense Fund attorney Melinda Taylor, "is whether this veto signals a departure from the legislature's vision. What is clear is that Governor Thompson has urged Wisconsin's agriculture department to work with others, and we will strive to make this proposal work for water quality, wildlife, and the taxpayers."

The agriculture department is now drafting the proposal, which will then go to the governor for approval. The plan must then be reviewed and approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

## Carol Andress Works to Prevent Pollution

Economic specialist Carol Andress grew up in Cincinnati but spent her summers on the Great Lakes, where much of her current work is focused and where she and her family still vacation each summer. Andress joined the Environmental Defense Fund staff in 1994, spending her first three years managing the Great Printers Project, a joint program aimed at making pollution prevention standard practice in the Midwest printing industry. She had previously worked on recycling and pollution prevention issues at the Northeast-Midwest Congressional Institute.

"My interests evolved incrementally from waste cleanup to recycling and ultimately to preventing the creation of wastes in the first place," says Andress of her environmental work, which began while she was an economics major at Duke University. She took a year off from college to handle energy and environmental issues as legislative

aide to Congressman Bill Gradison (R-OH). Later she was a consultant to EPA's Superfund program, supporting cleanup activities for hundreds of hazardous waste sites. Currently, Andress is working on a demonstration project with local groups in three cities to develop common measures to track environmental progress.



*Carol Andress with her husband, Bob Roach, and children James and Ginna, at Pyramid Point on Lake Michigan, near where the family vacations each summer.*

## Reaping the Benefits of No-Till Agriculture

In October, Canada's ten largest energy companies announced plans to cut greenhouse-gas emissions by paying U.S. farmers not to till their soils. Recent studies reveal that tilling, a common cultivation technique that disturbs the soil, can release between one-quarter ton and four tons of greenhouse gas per acre per year.

The companies, operating as the Greenhouse Emissions Management Consortium, will pay Midwest farmers who agree not to till their land. The companies expect to buy up to 2.8 million tons of greenhouse-gas reductions. This is one of the largest agreements forged so far in the new market for reducing greenhouse-gas emissions.

"When people think of the causes of global warming, they think about burning coal to generate electricity, not about growing corn," said Environmental Defense Fund economist Dr. Daniel J. Dudek. "But some of the biggest opportunities are in projects like this one, so getting the agriculture sector involved is enormously important." Dudek helped found the Environmental Resources Trust, a nonprofit organization that will serve as a third party to review the emission reductions brought

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## North Carolina Governor Urged to Rethink Land-Use Plans In Wake of Hurricanes and Floods

After the devastation of September hurricanes Dennis and Floyd, North Carolinians have been scrambling to re-collect their



Scott Lewis/The (Raleigh) News and Observer

*North Carolinians carry belongings from their flooded mobile home after the September hurricanes.*

lives and start anew. The two hurricanes' winds and rains left 48 people dead and about 30,000 houses flooded, and caused billions of dollars in damage. State residents now face the continued prospect of contaminated drinking water and widespread

pollution in the coastal ecosystems that support tourism and fisheries. Environmental Defense Fund and other groups are seeking to ensure that floodplain-area residents and waters are protected from further contamination in the storm's aftermath—as well as from future storms.

"The storm must force us to re-think our use of the land in the floodplain—particularly in the coastal plain," said Dan Whittle, attorney in our North Carolina office. "We support state and Federal relief efforts in the flood-affected eastern third of the state, but we want to make sure it's done intelligently. Disaster-relief funds must at least be flexible enough to be spent on removing inappropriate uses of the land."

We are urging state and Federal officials to dedicate relief funds to relocating hog farms, municipal waste facilities, and other potentially polluting activities away from floodplain areas and to buying out willing hog farmers in order to reduce the state's

more than 10 million hogs. For remaining hog farms, we want to secure funds to provide waste-disposal technologies that are safer than open waste lagoons.

With seven other environmental groups, our North Carolina staff has targeted the state's recently announced emergency animal waste policy, which we consider too lax. We want the state to require major pork companies to remove hogs from farms that are unable to comply with permits, ensure that emergency measures do not contribute additional discharges into water supplies, and compensate farmers for economic losses that may result from reducing animal populations to meet requirements.

"More than 1,000 hog-waste lagoons will likely be unable to store waste through the coming months," said Whittle, "yet the short-sighted emergency plan allows hog waste to be spread on land that is already saturated or that otherwise cannot absorb significant amounts of animal waste. We simply cannot afford to make matters even worse by perpetuating the pollution and prolonging the cleanup."

## Officials Put Spotlight on Transportation and Environmental Justice

The U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT), Georgia Department of Transportation, Atlanta Regional Commission, and a coalition of environmental justice groups have initiated an assessment of environmental justice and transportation. They are examining how minority residents' concerns are addressed in transportation planning and how transportation benefits and burdens are distributed across various populations, considering the health, social, economic, and environmental effects.

In October, U.S. DOT also issued important new national guidance on environmental justice in transportation planning, urging attention to these issues across America. Environmental Defense



Alan S. Weiner

*Are the benefits and burdens of highways shared fairly by all?*

Fund and environmental justice groups spurred this progress, working together to enforce the Clean Air Act and Civil Rights Act.

"U.S. DOT leadership is pressing state and local agencies to develop better information so communities can make informed transportation decisions," said our Federal transportation director, Michael Replogle. "Low-income and minority communities too often have poor access to opportunities and higher exposure to pollution and pay an unfair portion of stormwater pollution cleanup and transit operating costs. This effort will foster increased awareness of environmental justice issues and encourage actions to increase equity in transportation."

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## Preserving Oregon Forests to Reduce Greenhouse Gases Released from the Soil

Environmental Defense Fund is working with private and tribal landowners in Oregon to protect and restore forests, which absorb greenhouse gases. Logging and overgrazing of cattle disturb the land and release greenhouse gases derived from the carbon in the soil. In an effort to alleviate the economic pressures to cut timber and graze cattle, we are developing transactions in which groups are paying landowners to reduce logging and grazing.

The transactions are called “carbon sequestration” contracts because they lock up carbon in trees or soil to prevent it from being released to the atmosphere and contributing to global warming. One such contract involves the Oregon Climate Trust and a rancher in southwestern Oregon with 3,700



*Our economist Dr. Zach Willey discusses a forest restoration project with Jody Calico, CEO of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Spring Reservation.*

acres of western hemlock and Douglas fir forests. The Trust will pay the rancher for not cutting trees (which would release carbon). This fall, the landowner also decided to discontinue cattle grazing.

We are evaluating other potential project participants, including the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, which hold some 400,000 acres of Douglas fir, Grand fir, and Ponderosa pine forests in central Oregon, and an eastern Oregon lumber company with approximately 30,000 acres of Blue Mountains fir and pine forests.

## New Project Seeks to End The “Heat Pollution” of Cold-water Streams

Rising water temperatures, caused by human activities, are threatening the streams of the Intermountain West and their many dwindling species of prized cold-water trout. Long recognized as a pollutant under the Federal Clean Water Act, increased stream temperature stems from many non-point sources, including grazing, farm irrigation runoff, and logging near rivers.

In the basin of eastern Oregon’s Burnt River, a tributary to the Snake River, Environmental Defense Fund is steering a pilot project to set stream-temperature standards and design a flexible permit trading system for this “heat pollution.” Believing that inflexible land-use regulations could ultimately harm this region and its wildlife, local landowners and Federal and state agencies asked our guidance, recognizing our success in creating flexible permit trading systems for other pollutants. The collaborative Burnt River project aims to protect both cold-water species—such as the bull, rainbow, brook, and redband trout—and the livelihoods of local landowners and water users.

“This is not just an opportunity to save unique strains of trout from extinction,” said Environmental Defense Fund economist Dr. Zach Willey, who is overseeing the project, “but also to create an economically sound solution for cold-water ecosystems throughout the West.”

## Alternatives are Better Than Expanding a Bay Area Tunnel

The most recent battle in the struggle against gridlock in the San Francisco Bay Area involves Route 24’s Caldecott Tunnel, the principal gateway between Oakland/San Francisco and the sprawling Walnut Creek/Concord inland area. Local politicians want to drive another tunnel

and would not reduce traffic delays. It would also take ten years and perhaps hundreds of millions of dollars to complete.

Our California transportation staff is instead advocating Express Lanes, an alternative that would be far less expensive, more effective, and available immediately. Express Lanes, which have proven effective in traffic-snarled southern California, are three-person carpool lanes that a limited number of solo drivers can use for a fee. The lanes would reduce congestion and move more vehicles and people, while the fees could fund added commuter choices, such as express buses.

“Route 24 is the symbol of congestion for inland commuters to San Francisco,” said Environmental Defense Fund economist Daniel Kirshner. “We can take a decade to bore a multimillion-dollar hole that won’t fix the problem, or we can make the improved Route 24 a symbol of smart transportation planning and make it happen right away.”



*We are urging faster and cheaper ways to reduce Bay Area congestion than building another tunnel.*

through the Oakland hills, a plan that would encourage sprawl and solo driving

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