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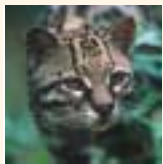
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## Don't roll back environmental progress

Real strides have been made in protecting the environment in recent years, but failure to defend these gains could be costly. Last year, we helped build consensus for a national network of under-sea parks. Now such Marine Protected Areas—and other natural treasures—are in the crosshairs of some in the new administration and Congress.

There's pressure to drill for oil and gas in coastal areas and fragile wilderness. Powerful industries seek a roll-back of EPA's tough new pollution limits for diesel trucks and buses. Improved clean-air standards for America's cities could be weakened.

To defend against the potential loss of these gains, we are closing ranks with other national environmental groups and asking our members to make their voices heard in Washington. Our email Action Network, having already contributed to some big victories, can alert you to damaging plans in Congress and let you contact your representatives in seconds. (*See envelope inside.*)

Our coalition will do more than defend past achievements. There are opportunities for bipartisan progress, such as supporting President Bush's campaign pledge to reduce pollution from electric power plants and implementing his call to increase funding for national parks.

Environmental Defense is well positioned to reach out across party lines. Our challenge now is to help the President and Congress hear the demand for continued environmental progress from the broadest spectrum of the American public. "In these times," says executive director Fred Krupp, "the environmental movement cannot afford to be under-ambitious."

### MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD IN WASHINGTON!

Legislative threats to the environment arise fast, so we use our email Action Network to mobilize members. Sign up at [www.environmentaldefense.org/signup](http://www.environmentaldefense.org/signup) or use the envelope inside.



The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Is this any place for an oil rig?



*Strength  
through  
unity*

As the new Congress and members of the new administration arrived in the nation's capital, so did the leaders of 30 national environmental organizations. Although summit meetings of environmental groups had occurred before, this one carried a special sense of urgency.

The specter of legislation aimed at opening up fragile areas like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil exploration is a wake-up call for the entire environmental community. When such threats loom large, a rapid and unified response can mean the difference between success and failure. So leaders of national groups, including Envi-

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*United, the environmental  
community is powerful.*

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ronmental Defense, resolved to coordinate our actions and research.

When the environmental community unites, it is a powerful force. Just recently, environmental leaders worked together to help persuade former President Clinton to protect roadless areas in our national forests, a victory we now are forced to defend.

Among the ideas advanced by President Bush are worthy proposals like cleaning up air pollution from power plants and increasing investment in our national parks. We are ready to help the new President realize these goals. But in protecting our natural treasures, there can be no compromises.

—Fred Krupp



H.P. Smith, Jr./VIREO

Flocking to preserve the environment: We teamed up with National Wildlife Federation.

## ForMyWorld: Down to earth, close to home

### NURTURING A NEW GENERATION OF ENVIRONMENTALISTS

Nearly eight in ten Americans say improving the quality of the environment should be a high priority, according to a recent Gallup poll. But many lack information on how to make a difference for the environment personally. And younger people, those who use the Internet most, are least likely to say they consider themselves environmentalists.

To address this, Environmental Defense has joined with National Wildlife Federation and other nonprofits to launch ForMyWorld, a first-of-its-kind web site providing customized, local environmental information.

Simply by entering a zip code at [www.formyworld.com](http://www.formyworld.com), visitors can obtain practical advice on a wide array of environmental topics, ranging from neighborhood pollution, recycling and wildlife to gardening tips on what plants thrive in their region. The content, provided by our partners, is customized by location and interests.

“Our mission is to change individual behavior,” says our chief Internet officer Daniel Freedman. “An informed

and engaged public is the most powerful force we can have for the environment.” Visitors to ForMyWorld have the option to contact experts, join discussion groups or receive action alerts on issues of importance.

“People look to our organizations to provide them with the information they need about the world around them,” says Mark Van Putten, president of National Wildlife Federation.

Wildlife enthusiasts can access a live video camera aimed at elephant seals off California or find tips on creating a backyard wildlife habitat. Homeowners can consult the latest information on

energy-efficient appliances and cars. ForMyWorld carries no paid advertising.

With more than 90 million Americans online, ForMyWorld has the potential to expand the environmental movement. “If we inspire people who may not consider themselves environmentalists to fax their Congressmen or buy greener products,” says Freedman, “we will have accomplished something important.”

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*“Our mission is  
to change  
individual  
behavior.”*

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## A jewel of a reserve draws on Hawaiian tradition

Native Hawaiians had been protecting their environment for generations before outsiders first arrived. The traditional Hawaiian *ahupua'a* system of natural resource management regarded the health of each element of an ecosystem as crucial to the whole. For instance, fish could only be taken in sustainable numbers and certain fish could not be taken at all during their spawning season.

When the Clinton administration set out to design what has become the Northwest Hawaiian Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, Environmental Defense helped a diverse coalition of Native Hawaiian fishermen, cultural practitioners and Hawaii-based environmentalists to make their voices heard in Washington.

The vast reserve, the size of Florida and Georgia combined, now stretches

for 1,200 miles north of Kaua'i. It is home to fragile coral reefs, endangered monk seals, sea turtles and dozens of species of nesting birds.

The Presidential order that created the reserve is based on a proposal by Isaac Harp, a Maui fisherman. It bans dumping, oil and gas exploration and the harming of reefs but allows bottom fishing to continue at current levels and provides access for Native Hawaiian cultural practices.

During the debate over the reserve, our Action Network members weighed in with more than 15,000



Mitsuaki Iwago/Minden Pictures

Environmental Defense provided key assistance in creating a 131,000 square-mile Hawaiian reserve.

email messages to the White House and Congress in support of strong protection for the Northwest Islands.

“This is a triumph for all Americans,” said our scientist Stephanie Fried, a member of the coalition.

## Vulnerable today; endangered tomorrow

The lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas is a haven for wildlife. This sliver of arid land, which once included riparian woodlands, sabal palm forests and oxbow lakes, harbors a multitude of plants and animals found nowhere else in the United States. Among the rarest inhabitants of this subtropical landscape is the ocelot.

Under intense development and agricultural pressure, wildlife habitat along the lower Rio Grande is shrinking. A new nationwide study coauthored by Environmental



Tim Fitzharris/Minden Pictures

Defense ecologist Dr. David Wilcove and University of Idaho scientists Drs. Robbyn Abbitt and J. Michael Scott has found that areas considered danger zones for currently endangered species (like the ocelot) frequently host other species that are at risk.

“By protecting habitat for endangered species, we can also keep today’s vulnerable species from becoming tomorrow’s endangered species,” says Wilcove. In South Texas, for example, restoring thorn forests to protect the ocelot could also help the ferruginous pygmy owl, the Audubon’s oriole and other scarce but not yet endangered plants and animals.

The peer-reviewed study, published in *Biological Conservation*, focuses on 23 rare birds and 106 rare butterfly species located in areas under high development pressure, such as Arizona, California, Florida and Texas. The study predicted future “hot spots” by concentrating on species with limited geographical ranges where habitat loss is imminent.

“We live in a world where species are disappearing at 100 to 1,000 times the historical rate,” says Wilcove. “With limited time and resources, we need to set priorities.”

The study provides a blueprint for habitat conservation plans. The methodology can also help other countries with highly localized species, including Mexico and Ecuador.

## Somewhere, a leaking pipeline

Vast enough to circle the globe 75 times, America's pipeline infrastructure carries a witch's brew of hydrocarbons. In the last decade, liquid-bearing pipelines leaked an average of 6.3 million gallons a year—half an Exxon Valdez oil spill.

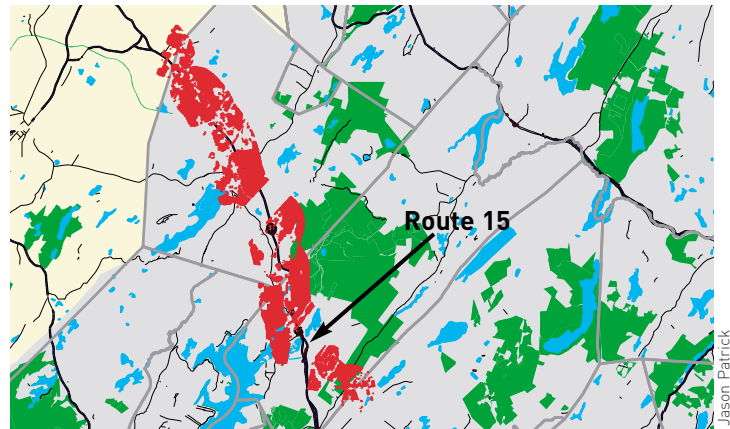
Major pipeline accidents happen four times a week and fatalities, sadly, are not uncommon. When a gasoline pipeline in Bellingham, WA, ruptured in 1999, the resulting firestorm incinerated everything within a 1.5-mile stretch of creek and everything within 200 feet of it, including a teenager and two ten-year-old boys. A natural-gas pipeline explosion in New Mexico last August killed 12 people at a nearby campground.

Environmental Defense is a founding member of the National Pipeline Reform Coalition, which is pushing Congress to strengthen the pipeline safety law. "The industry has been under-regulated for far too long," says our engineer Lois Epstein. The federal Office of Pipeline Safety has failed to implement 22 legislative mandates. Jim Hall, the outgoing chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, said he'd give the office "a big fat F." A strong bill to improve pipeline safety, crafted with Environmental Defense help, has now been introduced in the House.



Angela Lee Holstrom/AP

With President Bush calling for more pipelines, strong laws are needed to prevent disasters like the Bellingham fire.



Jason Patrick

The population in parts of New Jersey may soon double. Our new model helps planners see how a proposed expansion of Route 15 would impact environmentally sensitive areas (in red).

## A new tool to fight sprawl

The Highlands of northern New Jersey contain some of the largest remaining tracts of open space and wildlife habitat in the New York metropolitan area. Like most open spaces near major cities, however, this bucolic region is under intense development pressure. A new computer model designed by Environmental Defense offers towns in the region a glimpse into the future. The Geographic Information System, or GIS, can display the future impact of development decisions made today. "By examining the demographic, land use and environmental impacts of a range of development scenarios, communities will be better able to plan for smart growth," says

our scientist Jason Patrick.

The project began three years ago when Environmental Defense general counsel James T.B. Tripp began comparing land-use plans of local municipalities. We combined those plans with environmental maps, census data and geographical information to create the computer model, which we are making available to local groups free of charge.

Using the model, planners in suburban areas can coordinate zoning codes and steer development away from environmentally sensitive areas. "It's an incredibly powerful tool," says Kit Falcon, vice chairman of Morris 2000, a local civic organization.

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# A prescription for reducing the damage caused by dams

There was a time when no achievement could evoke national pride like a major dam. More than 45,000 large dams (45 feet or higher) were built in the past century, supplying 19% of the world's energy and nurturing almost half the irrigated farmland. But in recent years, the environmental and social harm caused by large dams has become obvious. And as the need for water grows, dams could become a source of international strife.

Now a landmark study has analyzed the performance of large dams. Produced by the World Commission on Dams and unveiled by Nelson Mandela, the study found a landscape of “mostly negative” impacts. Environmental Defense scientist Deborah Moore, as one of the 11 supervising commissioners, played a central role in ensuring that the study stood firm on environmental principles.

“For the first time, dam builders, affected communities and environmentalists have endorsed a common policy for building and managing dams,” said Moore, who spent 14 years at Environmental Defense protecting rivers. “Now, avoiding the negative environmental and social impacts of a dam is the priority.”



Yang Lei/AP-Xinhua

The nightmare of resettlement: As many as 1.3 million people will be uprooted by Three Gorges Dam. Most will lose more than their homes.



John Leicester/AP

China's Three Gorges Dam: The World Bank refused to support it for environmental reasons.

## HARMING PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE

As many as 80 million people have been displaced by dams worldwide. The projects have often been unprofitable, dogged by corruption or slow to deliver energy or water. In many poor countries, residents who lose their lands and livelihoods receive the fewest benefits from dams.

Dam building has also led to massive loss of wildlife habitat. Rotting vegetation trapped in reservoirs emits methane, contributing to global warming. Large dams have altered river flows downstream, killing plants and fish and causing some species to become extinct.

Moore succeeded in placing recommendations in the final report for alternatives to dams such as water conservation, water trading and other market incentives. Also included is an “intact rivers” policy similar to the U.S. Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as well as provisions for environmental restoration and reparations to affected communities. The report could help resolve Western U.S. water conflicts, Moore predicted, with its focus on constructive alternatives and on improving operations of existing dams.

“Deborah Moore’s participation meant that the Commission had a member with a strong regard for the

environment and a high degree of scientific precision,” said Commission chair Professor Kader Asmal.

Will the report actually improve how dams are managed? Environmental Defense is leading efforts to ensure adoption of the recommendations by the agencies that bankroll dams. The U.S. Export-Import Bank has already incorporated the recommendations in its new draft environmental guidelines, and we are pressing the World Bank and lenders in Brazil, India and South Africa.

“For the first time, people agree that the environmental and human costs of big dams can outweigh their benefits,” says Moore. “This is an opening to reform the entire decision-making process around development projects.”

**More on the web:** [www.environmentaldefense.org/more/10535](http://www.environmentaldefense.org/more/10535).



Greg Baker/AP

A 370-mile reservoir will submerge large parts of the historic Three Gorges.

## How to recycle it

For a full spectrum of computer recycling information from many of the organizations listed below, including web links, visit our web site at [www.environmentaldefense.org/more/10536](http://www.environmentaldefense.org/more/10536). Or contact these groups directly:

National Cristina Foundation makes computers available to the disadvantaged. 500 West Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT; 800-CRISTINA (274-7846).

National Recycling Coalition's electronics recycling initiative offers a thorough overview of public and private programs. 1727 King St., Ste. 105, Alexandria, VA 22314; 802-254-3338

PEP (Resources for Parents, Educators and Publishers) lists groups that donate computers to schools. Anne Bubnic: 415-382-1818.

Share the Technology maintains a searchable donation database. PO Box 548, Rancocas, NJ 08073; 856-234-6156.

## Mentioned in the article

Dell refurbished systems: 877-471-DELL

Gateway: 800-GATEWAY

Goodwill Industries: 800-664-6577.

Green Disk: 425-883-9165.

IBM: 888-SHOP-IBM. For the \$29.99 recycling pickup, ask for part number 06P7513.

Salvation Army: 800-95TRUCK.

Technology Recycling: 800-803-5442.



Patti McCourville/International Stock

Faster, bigger, cooler . . . gone.

## Is there an afterlife for your computer?

GRAPPLING WITH AMERICA'S TECHNO-TRASH DILEMMA

You're thinking of tossing that old computer in the garbage. It's just plastic, metal and glass, right? Wrong! Computers, it turns out, carry more than just bugs. Inside every computer is a cocktail of toxic substances, starting with five to eight pounds of poisonous lead in the monitor's cathode ray tube (CRT) and the printed circuit boards.

In many city landfills, CRT's from computers and TV's are the largest source of lead. Massachusetts has banned CRT's from its landfills and Washington State will do so soon.

Computers also contain arsenic, cadmium and mercury, and EPA classifies them as "having hazardous waste characteristics." Nevertheless, 20 million computers are trashed every year in the United States, while only 3% are recycled.

In Europe and parts of Asia, required recycling of electronic goods is well underway. But U.S. industry

groups such as the American Electronics Association are firmly opposed to mandatory recycling legislation and have lobbied heavily against it. That means we Americans can either give our old computers away or pay a modest fee for their disposal. In either case, it's a do-it-yourself deal.

### A NEW LEASE ON LIFE

Many nonprofit groups are delighted to receive old working computers and will give you a tax deduction. Start by calling local schools, churches and community groups. Most require relatively recent models (for PCs, 386 or newer; for Macs, Classic or newer). Thrift stores like Goodwill Industries and the Salvation Army are another good bet.

For computers too old to be useful, a number of take-back plans and startup recycling businesses are available. These may offer special conveniences and in some cases tax breaks.

*This guest article is one of a series by the editors of E Magazine (for subscription information: 800-967-6572 or [www.emagazine.com](http://www.emagazine.com)). Opinions are the author's and not necessarily those of Environmental Defense staff.*

IBM will accept any PC for recycling or reuse, regardless of maker. Cost to the consumer is \$29.99, which buys a postpaid shipping label. Depending on the computer's age and capability, IBM tells us it will either recycle the components or will refurbish the system and donate it to Gifts in Kind International, which contributes products to a network of more than 50,000 nonprofit organizations worldwide.

Denver-based Technology Recycling is in business to reclaim old computers in the lower 48 states. The company will pick up and dismantle computer systems for \$35 per component. The company mostly handles computers



Tim Connor/Environmental Defense

Discarded computers and TV's are usually downloaded into ordinary landfills.

owned by businesses and has a \$500 minimum for pickup.

GreenDisk, a Redmond, Washington-based nonprofit, recycles up to

60 million computer discs a year. This year the company plans to partner with computer manufacturers and the U.S. Postal Service to pick up any old machine nationwide for \$20 a unit.

Don't forget you can often upgrade a desktop computer with more memory, a larger hard disk or a faster processor rather than buying a whole new machine. When you do need a new computer, some companies, including Gateway, may accept your old Pentium computer for its trade-in value. And some manufacturers, including Dell and Gateway, offer refurbished computers for sale on their web sites at a savings.

**By Jim Motavalli**

## IN BRIEF

### ARMY CORPS REFORM GAINS GROUND

The Army Inspector General has confirmed the Corps of Engineers "cooked the books" to make it appear that a proposed \$1 billion project to expand barge traffic on the Upper Mississippi River was justified. Two top generals and a colonel were held responsible. The Inspector General found that similar biases may pervade the Corps because of its culture and goals for growth.

The investigation was triggered by Donald Sweeney, a Corps economist who blew the whistle on the abuses by coming to our attorney Tim Searchinger. Many newspapers' editorial pages have called for reform of the Corps of Engineers and we are working with legislators who plan to introduce a comprehensive reform bill shortly.

### CRACKING DOWN ON DIRTY DIESELS

Smoke-belching 18-wheelers are the target of tough new EPA regulations that will cut emissions from diesel trucks and buses and require oil companies to remove 97% of the sulfur in diesel fuel. Our staff testified at public hearings across the country and advocated vigorously for the new rules, which represent a major victory for human health.

Low-sulfur fuel is crucial because sulfur clogs the pollution-control equipment needed to meet the new standards. "This historic program will clean up one of the most noxious sources of air pollution," said our senior attorney Vickie Patton, who nonetheless warns that the cleaner standards are being targeted by newly emboldened oil companies.

### BIOTECH IS NOT ORGANIC

Responding to a record-breaking 275,000 public comments, the U.S. Department of Agriculture tightened its proposed standards for organic foods. In our campaign, we had urged the government to prohibit the use of irradiation, sewage sludge, antibiotics and genetic engineering in foods labeled as organic. All these proposals are reflected in the final standards for the USDA Organic label.

Meanwhile, an influential U.S.-European Union commission on biotechnology has urged the United States to require labeling for all genetically engineered foods. "Consumers have a right of informed choice about the food they eat," said our scientist Dr. Rebecca Goldberg, who served on the commission.



John Rae

Tracking food from its source: Dr. Rebecca Goldberg steered an international panel to support labeling of biotech food.

## There's power in better appliances

In California, as energy shortages threatened to spin out of control, aides to Governor Gray Davis asked our economic analyst Dan Kirshner for recommendations. Kirshner suggested buying back old, power-hungry air conditioners and providing cash incentives for new, more efficient models. This would save consumers money and reduce crucial peak demand on hot summer days.

Kirshner calculated that replacing 15% of the state's air conditioners would save 600 megawatts, more than a typical power plant produces, and would resolve energy problems faster and less expensively than building new plants. The idea was expanded to include aging refrigerators and other appliances and was announced by the governor in his State of the State address.

Taking a cue from California, the New York State Public Service Commission recently voted to double the funding that helps consumers buy more efficient appliances and lighting. Says Kirshner, "One big reason for our energy woes is we still pretend electricity is cheap."



Tom O'Brien/International Stock

Clean energy can power efficient appliances.



Jeff Rotman/International Stock

Some 60,000 sharks were finned each year off Hawaii to make shark fin soup.

## Online activism lives up to its promise

When scientists found that Pacific shark populations were being decimated by a senseless practice known as shark finning—where a shark's dorsal fin is cut off for human consumption while the animal is left to die—we needed fast action.

With our partners, we launched a campaign to save the sharks. Members of our email Action Network deluged the Hawaiian government with faxes and persuaded the legislature to ban shark finning in state waters. Further action helped bring about a national ban last December. With our email-to-fax technology, a local campaign grew into a national victory. In the past two years, Action Network has expanded to include more than 400,000 activists in 75 allied organizations, greatly amplifying our impact. Members have weighed in on hundreds of critical decisions, sending free fax or email messages to Congress and others on

fast-breaking issues.

Our online activists pressed EPA for strict controls on diesel trucks and buses and helped persuade former President Clinton to place one-third of our national forests off limits to road building, saving them from oil exploration and logging. Action Network also put grassroots pressure on automakers, pharmaceutical companies and food manufacturers and proved equally effective on local issues. In Texas, our activists helped win a 90% cut in Houston's emissions of nitrogen oxides.

With many of these victories now under threat, we are preparing new alerts. "Action Network is a unifying tool," says its manager Benjamin Smith. "That's so important in today's political climate."

**ACTION NETWORK NEEDS YOU**  
Please go to [www.environmentaldefense.org/signup](http://www.environmentaldefense.org/signup) or see the envelope inside.



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finding the ways that work

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## Austin's clean air partnership

Austin is a modern-day Texas boomtown. But the city's computer-fueled growth has come at a price. Ozone pollution in this once-bucolic city now routinely exceeds federal health standards.

Working with Environmental Defense and the Clean Air Force of Central Texas, six prominent high-tech employers are doing their share to clear the air. Advanced Micro Devices, Intel, Motorola, Samsung Austin Semiconductor, Solectron and Vignette recently signed on as charter members of Clean Air Partners, a voluntary program we conceived to combat the region's worsening smog. The companies agreed to reduce their contribution to the region's ground-level ozone by 15% over the next four years.

"They are committing to real emissions reductions that will improve public health," says our scientist Dr. Ramon Alvarez. The companies will meet the target by providing incentives for employees to form vanpools, starting telecommuting programs and switching to renewable energy. Austin Energy's GreenChoice program allows businesses to purchase electricity from renewable sources. Due to rising fossil fuel prices, GreenChoice customers will actually enjoy lower electricity bills.

"What has attracted the companies is the flexibility they have in meeting their targets," says Alvarez. Our goal is to enroll more companies in the partnership and ensure that Austin's boom doesn't become a bust for the environment.



Companies are investing in bike racks rather than parking lots.



Enough water to go around: Colorado's Delores River.

## Roll on, big river

In the Rocky Mountains, mention the subject of water and tempers automatically flare. There never seems to be enough to satisfy municipal, agricultural and recreational needs. Historically, the solution to the region's water woes has been to build more dams, with the environment losing out.

Along the Delores River in southwestern Colorado, low water levels downstream of the McPhee reservoir could threaten trout populations. The local water district recognizes the problem, but wants to build another dam to store water for fish flows. Before rushing to construct another dam, Environmental Defense urged further analysis. We joined with Trout Unlimited to commission a study to

learn more about the region's hydrology.

The study, conducted by one of Colorado's top engineering firms, concluded there is enough water in the McPhee reservoir to meet the needs of fish without damaging water users. "This is a potential win-win situation," says our senior attorney Jim Martin. "Through cooperation, we can protect fish habitat and expand agriculture without building more dams."

It turns out municipal demand for water has been less than projected. "The report confirms that federal investments to make irrigation systems more efficient are beginning to pay off," adds Martin. Thanks to our study, the Delores water district now has more options.

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## Memo to Big 3: Keep your word

“Our plan is to be out of applications using mercury by the 1997 model year,” General Motors promised back in 1995. Along with Ford and Daimler Chrysler, GM was responding to demands by Environmental Defense and others that manufacturers phase out mercury, a serious human health threat, in the vehicles they produce. By 1995, Toyota and Honda had already eliminated mercury convenience lighting switches.

More than five years later, a new Environmental Defense report shows that GM and Ford continue to use mercury in convenience switches, and Daimler Chrysler uses it in its antilock brakes.

Since mercury stays in the 10 million cars junked each year in the U.S., nearly 10 tons of the chemical may eventually be released into the environment. Most human exposure comes from eating contaminated fish, and automotive mercury contributes to the 1,931 fish consumption advisories for mercury in effect in 40 states.

“More than 90,000 consumers have signed our Clean Car Pledge demanding sound environmental standards, including clean manufacturing,” says Dean Menke, an engineer with our Pollution Prevention Alliance. “It’s time automakers made good on their promises.”

**More on the web** For the full report, *Toxic by Design* and ways you can take action, go to [www.environmentaldefense.org/more/10537](http://www.environmentaldefense.org/more/10537).



Jim West

Each year U.S. automakers put more deadly mercury into cars.



Tim Connor/Environmental Defense

It can't check your stock portfolio, but it will measure ozone levels.

## Citizen monitors track city air

Every day at 2 p.m. in the park near his Cleveland office, Tim Nieberding attaches a small card to a pole stuck in the ground. Then he feeds the card into a machine about the size of a cell phone, writes down readings and goes back to work.

Nieberding is not a secret agent. He's one of 13 volunteers who recently measured ozone levels at six neighborhood locations in an effort to improve air quality in Cleveland. Environmental Defense provided the hand-held monitors for the month-long pilot project in partnership with Cleveland's Clean Air Conservancy.

Preliminary data showed large ozone-level variations within neighborhoods and illustrated the inadequacy of

EPA's air-quality monitoring in the city. The report found that Cuyahoga County's three ozone monitors don't give accurate information about pollution hotspots. Furthermore, none of the monitors are in Cleveland's industrial zone.

“These data raise important questions,” says the Conservancy's Jessica Dunn. “What if Johnny has asthma and his family checks regional ozone levels that are not accurate for his neighborhood?”

City officials are impressed with the results and have promised to help identify and recruit volunteers for a bigger project later this year. For its part, our Pollution Prevention Alliance plans to expand the citizens' network to other cities.

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## Smokies test clean-air resolve

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the most visited—and biologically diverse—park in the nation. It's also the most polluted.

Environmental Defense has played a lead role in pressing North Carolina to clean up the park. We drafted a plan that served as the basis for new rules that will cut pollution from coal-fired power plants by two-thirds over the next decade.

"We're making progress, but the greatest challenges lie ahead," says our Southeast air quality manager Michael Shore. At present, no power plants in the state have pollution control equipment for sulfur dioxide or mercury. Sulfur dioxide is a major cause of acid rain. And high mercury levels in fish have prompted officials to issue advisories against eating certain species, including king mackerel and largemouth bass.

To address these problems, we recently submitted a Clean Smokestacks Plan to Governor Mike Easley calling for year-round reductions in nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide and mercury. "North Carolina will not be able to clean its air unless smokestack emissions are reduced dramatically," says Shore. "Policymakers need to take a multi-pollutant approach."



Bill Terry/West Collection

Once it was mist. Now it's pollution. In 1999, the Great Smokies recorded more dangerous smog days than many cities.



Anthony Snider

Timber is now big business in the Southeast.

## Woodsman, spare that tree

Protecting one part of the nation may increase threats elsewhere. With federally owned old-growth forests in the Northwest largely off-limits, the timber industry has turned to the Southeast. The South now supplies two-thirds of the nation's timber.

"In North Carolina, the rate of harvest has begun to exceed the rate of new growth," says our attorney Dan Whittle. "This is unsustainable."

To reverse that trend, Environmental Defense is crafting policies to promote forest survival in North Carolina. The challenge is daunting: Eighty percent of the forest is privately owned by 700,000 different landowners. How do you persuade so many individual

landowners to spare their trees? Whittle says the solution is a combination of carrots and sticks. "We need to give landowners incentives to manage their forests for a wide range of uses," he says, "including wildlife habitat, biodiversity, water quality, wetlands, recreation and aesthetics, as well as timber products."

Our campaign to protect North Carolina's forests has an ally in the state senate. "I've been very impressed with the thoroughness of Environmental Defense activities to investigate and make people aware of the need for sound policy," says Senator Ellie Kinnaird. With our help she is introducing a bill aimed at reducing runoff from logging sites.

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## Faith in a renewable resource

Long before California's energy woes deepened, citizens' groups began switching to greener electricity. Inspired by the moral imperative to preserve creation from global warming, our trustee Rev. Sally Bingham helped found the Episcopal Power and Light program, a coalition of 60 California churches that use green electricity.

The churches have signed up for Green Mountain Energy products that offer a mix of wind and other renewable electricity and give rebates for energy audits. The program costs slightly more than electricity from ordinary sources, but this could change because renewables have more stable costs than fossil fuels.

The Partnership for Environmental Quality, an interfaith group in New Jersey, has used the California model to sign up 10 churches and synagogues and more than 100 households in a similar program. Meanwhile Bingham and Power and Light co-director Steve MacAusland are taking their ministry to the 8,000-church California Council of Churches to create a new organization, California Interfaith Power and Light. "Praying in pews about saving the planet is all very well," Bingham says. "Here's a way the religious community can lead by example."



Ken Frick/International Stock

Global warming is a moral issue too.



Tim Fitzharris/Minden Pictures

Before DDT was banned, brown pelicans were going extinct.

## Company to pay for DDT dump

Many of today's environmentalists weren't even born when Environmental Defense (then called EDF) sued in 1970 to stop Montrose Chemical Corp. from dumping DDT into Santa Monica Bay. Yet it took until this December to finally settle the issue. Montrose (now owned by other companies) was ordered to pay \$73 million to clean up 17 square miles of ocean floor.

Located in Torrance, CA, Montrose was the world's largest DDT manufacturer, but no one knew it was the source of extremely high concentrations of DDT off the California coast.

The "smoking gun" turned out to be the L.A. sewer system. By measuring DDT levels between Mont-

rose and an outfall pipe, our scientists tracked the DDT to its source. After we found that 1,000 miles of Pacific coastline had been contaminated, our lawsuit forced the company to stop dumping. Shortly thereafter, in 1972, six years of Environmental Defense litigation brought about the nationwide ban on DDT.

In 1990, the Justice Department sued Montrose to clean up the DDT it had discharged between 1947 and 1971. Our trustee Dr. Charles F. Wurster and University of California scientist Dr. Robert W. Risebrough helped the government make its case. "Persistence pays," said Wurster. "Some environmental issues take decades to resolve."

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