

What two events were most significant in the

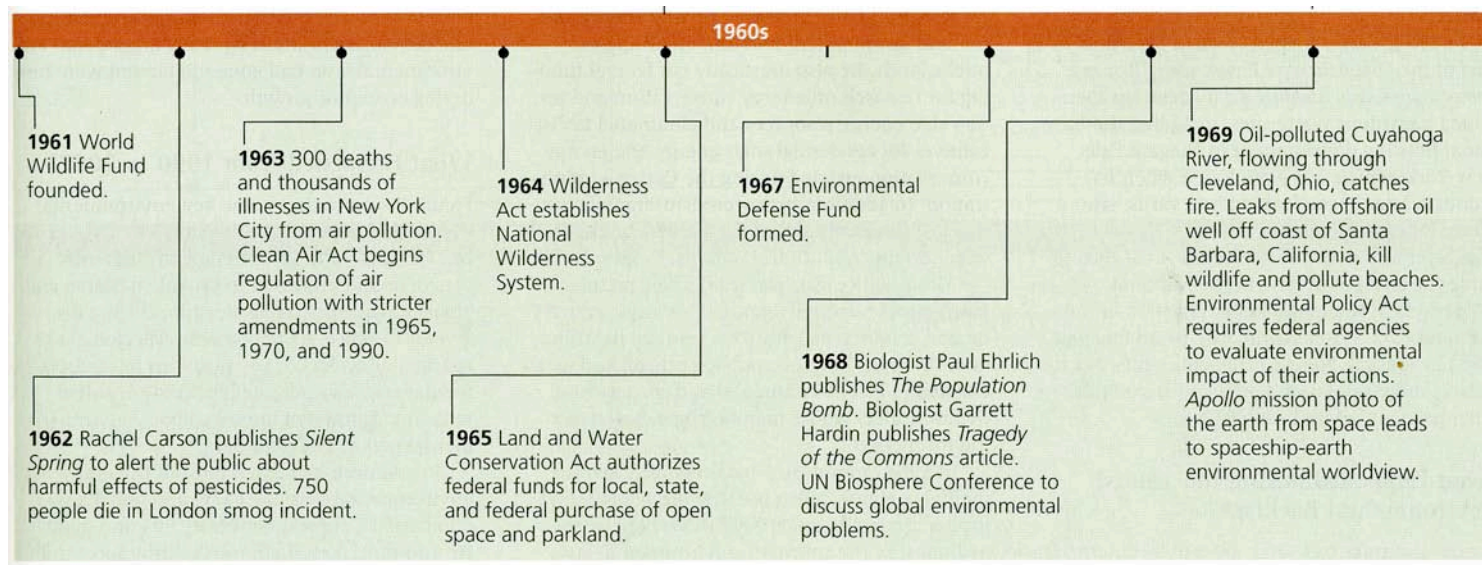
1960s

1970s

1980s

1990s

Where are we now?



1970s

**1971**  
Biologist Barry Commoner publishes *The Closing Circle* explaining ecological problems and calling for pollution prevention.

**1973**  
OPEC cuts off oil to the U.S. and other nations supporting Israel. Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Act regulates use of lead in toys and cooking and eating utensils. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) becomes international law.

**1974**  
Chemists Sherwood Roland and Mario Molina suggest CFCs are depleting the ozone in stratosphere. Lester Brown founds the Worldwatch Institute. Safe Drinking Water Act sets standards for contaminants in public water supply.

**1972**  
Oregon passes first beverage bottle recycling law. Publication of *Limits to Growth*, which challenges idea of unlimited economic growth. David Brower founds Earth Island Institute. Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act regulates registration of pesticides based on tests and degree of risk. Ocean Dumping Act; Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act; and Coastal Zone Management Act help regulate and protect oceans and coastal areas. Marine Mammal Protection Act encourages protection and conservation of marine mammals. Consumer Product Safety Act helps protect consumers from hazardous products. UN conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden.

**1970**  
First Earth Day. EPA established by President Richard Nixon. Occupational Health and Safety Act promotes safe working conditions. Resource Conservation and Recovery Act regulates waste disposal and encourages recycling and waste reduction. National Environmental Policy Act passed. Clean Air Act passed. Natural Resources Defense Council created.

**1975**  
Energy Policy and Conservation Act promotes energy conservation.

**1977**  
Clean Water Act strengthens regulation of drinking water quality, with additional amendments in 1981 and 1987. Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act regulates surface mining and encourages reclamation of mined land. Amory B. Lovins publishes *Soft Energy Paths* calling for switching from fossil fuels and nuclear power to solar energy. U.S. Department of Energy created.

**1976**  
National Forest Management Act establishes guidelines for managing national forests. Toxic Substances Control Act regulates many toxic substances not regulated under other laws. Resource Conservation and Recovery Act requires tracking of hazardous waste and encourages recycling, resource recovery, and waste reduction. Noise Control Act regulates harmful noise levels. UN Conference on Human Settlements.

**1978**  
Love Canal, New York, housing development evacuated because of toxic wastes leaking from old dumpsite. Federal Land Policy and Management Act strengthens regulation of public lands by the Bureau of Land Management.

**1979**  
Accident at Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania. Oil shortage because of revolution in Iran.

1980s

**1980** Superfund law passed to clean up abandoned toxic waste dumps. Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act protects 42 million hectares (104 million acres) of land in Alaska.

**1983** U.S. EPA and National Academy of Sciences publish reports finding that buildup of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases will lead to global warming.

**1984** Toxic fumes leaking from pesticide plant in Bhopal, India, kill at least 6,000 people and injure 50,000–60,000. Lester R. Brown publishes first annual *State of the World* report.

**1985** Scientists discover annual seasonal thinning of the ozone layer above Antarctica.

**1986** Explosion of Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine. Times Beach, Missouri, evacuated and bought by EPA because of dioxin contamination.

**1987** Montreal Protocol to halve emissions of ozone-depleting CFCs signed by 24 countries. International Basel Convention controls movement of hazardous wastes from one country to another.

**1988** Industry-backed wise-use movement established to weaken and destroy U.S. environmental movement. Biologist E. O. Wilson publishes *Biodiversity*, detailing how human activities are affecting the earth's diversity of species.

**1989** Exxon Valdez oil tanker accident in Alaska's Prince William Sound.

