



# AmeriCorps Training

**Earth Day, Sustainability, and the Greenest  
Region Corps**

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# A (Very Brief) History of Environmental Laws and Issues



# Congress' First Authorizations



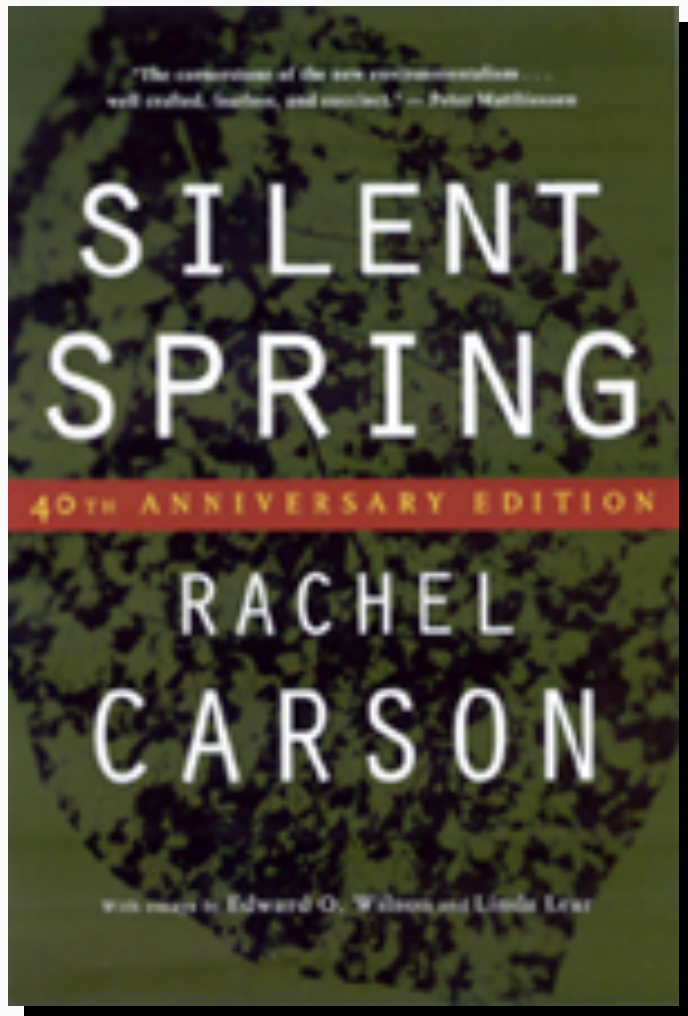
## Air Pollution Control Act of 1955



- *“An Act to provide research and technical assistance relating to air pollution control”*

## Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1948

- *“Protect surface waters”*



1962





US FWS



# Clean Air Act Amendments



## 1965 Amendments



- **Motor Vehicle Air**
- **Pollution Control Act**





# Clean Air Act Amendments



## 1967 Amendments

### The Air Quality Control Act



- Required the Designation of Air quality Regions and Allowed for the Development of Standards
- Beginning of the State Implementation Plan (SIP) Program



**Location of Tuesday's spill**  
(up to 105,000 gallons)



Santa Barbara



**Estimated extent of the 1969 spill**  
(3 million gallons)

Ventura

*Santa Rosa Island*

*Santa Cruz Island*

Source: NOAA  
@latimesgraphics

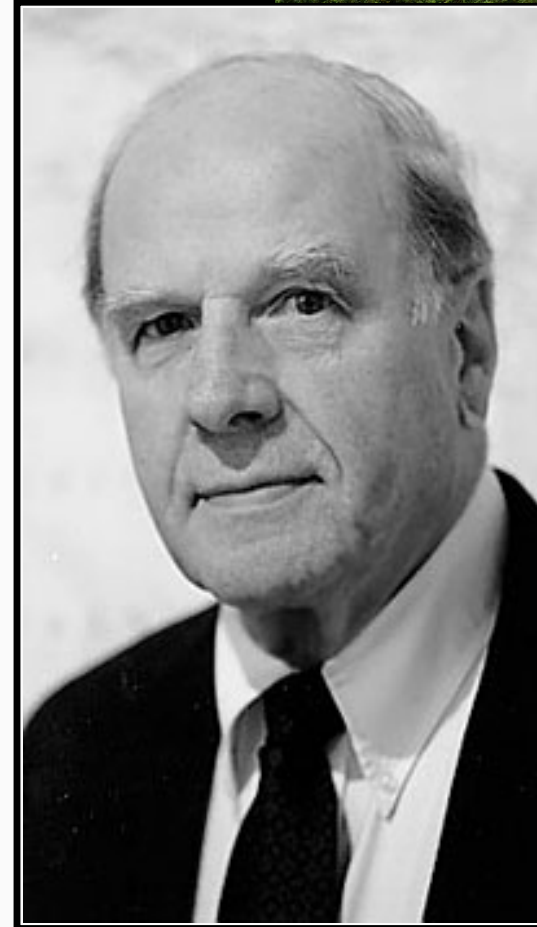




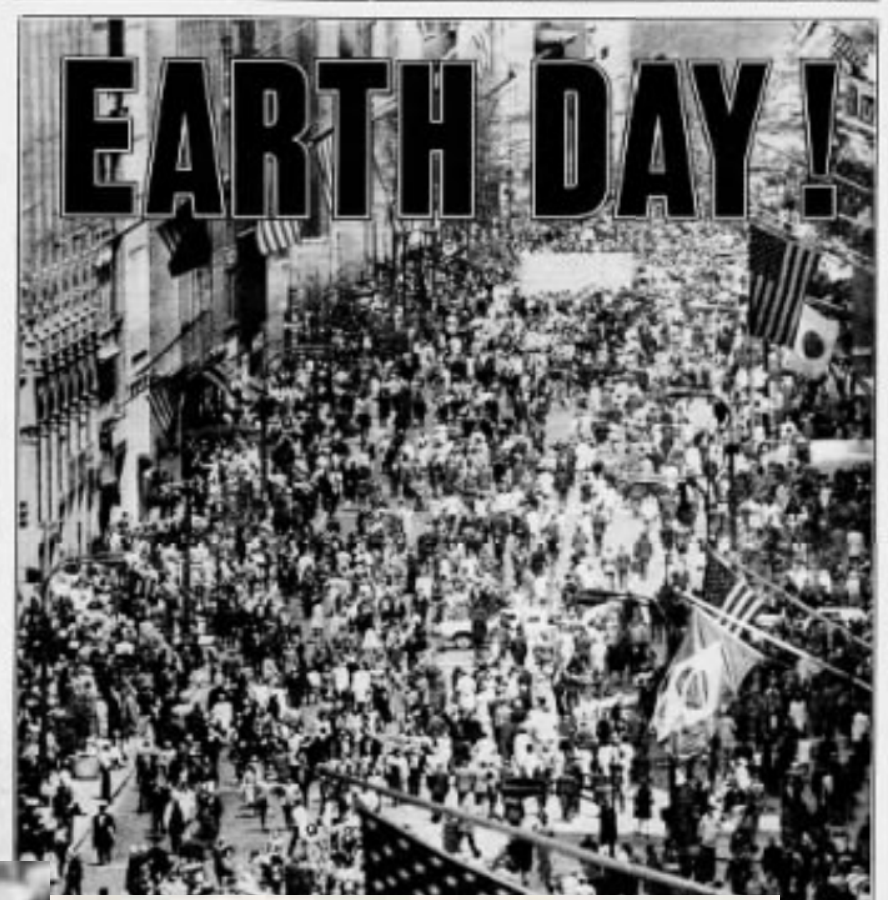


**Nationwide  
Environmental  
Teach-in  
“..to shake up  
the political establishment,  
and force this  
issue onto  
the political  
agenda.”**

**1970**



**Senator Gaylord Nelson (WI)**





**1970**



# National Environmental Policy Act



## NEPA

- Passed in 1969 and signed in 1970
- NEPA requires federal government to assess environmental impacts of projects
- First major environmental law



# Clean Air Act Amendments



## 1970 Amendments



- *“An Act to amend the Clean Air Act to provide for a more effective program to improve the quality of the Nation’s air”*

# Clean Air Water Act



- Passed in 1972
- Original purpose was to make waterways clean for fishing and swimming



| Year | Law  | Year | Law   |
|------|--|------|---|
| 1899 | <a href="#"><u>Refuse Act</u></a>  | 1975 | <a href="#"><u>Hazardous Materials Transportation Act</u></a>       |
| 1918 | <a href="#"><u>Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918</u></a>                   | 1976 | <a href="#"><u>Resource Conservation and Recovery Act</u></a>       |
| 1948 | <a href="#"><u>Federal Water Pollution Control Act</u></a>                 | 1976 | <a href="#"><u>Solid Waste Disposal Act</u></a>                     |
| 1955 | <a href="#"><u>Air Pollution Control Act</u></a>                           | 1976 | <a href="#"><u>Toxic Substances Control Act</u></a>                 |
| 1963 | <a href="#"><u>Clean Air Act (1963)</u></a>                                | 1977 | Clean Air Act Amendments  |
| 1965 | <a href="#"><u>Solid Waste Disposal Act</u></a>                            | 1977 | <a href="#"><u>Clean Water Act Amendments</u></a>                   |
| 1965 | <a href="#"><u>Water Quality Act</u></a>                                   | 1980 | <a href="#"><u>CERCLA (Superfund)</u></a>                           |
| 1967 | <a href="#"><u>Air Quality Act</u></a>                                     | 1984 | <a href="#"><u>Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments</u></a>         |
| 1969 | <a href="#"><u>National Environmental Policy Act</u></a>                   | 1986 | <a href="#"><u>Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments</u></a>           |
| 1970 | <a href="#"><u>Clean Air Act (1970)</u></a>                                | 1986 | <a href="#"><u>Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act</u></a> |
| 1970 | <a href="#"><u>Occupational Safety and Health Act</u></a>                  | 1986 | <a href="#"><u>Emergency Wetlands Resources Act</u></a>             |
| 1972 | <a href="#"><u>Consumer Product Safety Act</u></a>                         | 1987 | <a href="#"><u>Water Quality Act</u></a>                            |
| 1972 | <a href="#"><u>Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act</u></a> | 1990 | <a href="#"><u>Oil Pollution Act</u></a>                            |
| 1972 | <a href="#"><u>Clean Water Act</u></a>                                     | 1990 | <a href="#"><u>Clean Air Act (1990)</u></a>                         |
| 1972 | <a href="#"><u>Noise Control Act</u></a>                                   | 1993 | <a href="#"><u>North American Free Trade Agreement</u></a>          |
| 1973 | <a href="#"><u>Endangered Species Act</u></a>                              | 1996 | <a href="#"><u>Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments</u></a>           |
| 1974 | <a href="#"><u>Safe Drinking Water Act</u></a>                             | 2003 | <a href="#"><u>Healthy Forests Initiative</u></a>                   |

# Earth Day 2020 – Climate Change



# Federal Government Can't Solve it Alone



- Every day, local governments make decisions that impact
  - Energy use
    - Transportation
    - Buildings
  - Air quality
  - Economic development
  - Public health
  - Quality of life
- Actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions can also have positive impacts on all of the above factors.
  - **Sustainable communities are attractive places to live.**



# So, Where are we now?



- We have many environmental laws and regulations
- Many environmental issues still fall through the cracks
- The role of states, local governments, private companies and even individuals is more and more important
- The Greenest Region Corps helps to bring those people together