

AP Environmental Science Laws and Legislation Compilation

Part 1: Biggies/Must Know Legislations (most likely to show up on the AP)

1963 (revised several times since) Clean Air Act (CAA): Includes provisions for:

- Providing resources to study air in order to inquire about the issue of atmospheric pollutants.
- Setting enforceable regulations to limit emissions from stationary and mobile sources.
- Developing programs to monitor and reduce acid deposition
- Establishing a program to phase out the use of chemicals that deplete stratospheric O³
- Establishing a *cap and trade* (a system in which maximum allowable emissions are set for each industry; businesses that reduce their emissions to below the standards are awarded credits which they can sell to other businesses within their industry, creating economic incentive for reducing emissions).

1970 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): One of the first pieces of environmental legislation in the United States, NEPA was written to promote the idea of sustainability.

-Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): Any major federal agency must submit an EIS for any activity that may have a harmful impact on the environment.

-1970 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Formed under the Nixon Administration with the primary purpose of protecting human health and the environment and enforce environmental standards under a variety of state and local environmental laws.

1972 (revised several times since) Clean Water Act (CWA): A response to the 1969 Cuyahoga River catching fire in Cleveland, Ohio. Its mission is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of America's waterways and make them "fishable and swimmable." Provisions intended to reduce and prevent point and non-point sources of water pollution, although there are no provisions regarding groundwater protection.

1973 Endangered Species Act (ESA): A far-reaching act that provides protection for any species that is determined to be threatened with extinction. Provisions include strict enforcement of habitat protection, a ban on any activity which disturbs or endangers the life of a listed species, and a ban on the import or export of any individual organisms or product derived from an endangered species.

1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES): A multilateral treaty ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species in the wild and accords varying degrees of protection for more than 33,000 species.

1974 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA): Focuses on maintaining the purity of any water source that may potentially be used as drinking water, including both surface and groundwater.

1976 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA): Also called the "**Cradle-to-Grave Act**," sets specific regulations concerning the manufacture, transport, storage, use, and disposal of a host of hazardous chemicals. Its major provision requires extensive documentation at every step to ensure the hazardous wastes are disposed of properly.

1980 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA): Also called the **Superfund Act**, established to handle industrial contamination in sites where no direct individual or party could be held responsible. Imposed a tax on the chemical and petroleum industries and authorized the federal government to respond to the release of hazardous substances. Also created a trust fund for cleaning hazardous waste sites when no responsible party could be identified.

1987 Montreal Protocol: A global effort and one of the greatest environmental success stories to date. Provisions include requiring participating nations to phase out the use of ozone-depleting chemicals (specifically CFCs) in favor of less harmful alternatives.

1997 Kyoto Protocol: Developed at a world summit to address measures for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. No real progress was made; when the US announced it would not sign the protocol the whole movement lost support.

Part 2: Other Laws/Legislation (helpful to be familiar with, but focus on Part 1)

Soil:

- 1977 Soil and Water Conservation Act
- 1985 Food Security Act

Air:

- 1955 Air Pollution Control Act
- 1963, 1970, 1990 Clean Air Act
- 1969 National Environmental Policy Act
- 1990 Pollution Prevention Act

Protecting Specific Organisms:

- 1900 Lacey Act
- 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- 1956 Fish and Wildlife Act
- 1960 Multiple-Use Act
- 1966 Fur Seal Act
- 1966 National Wildlife Refuge System Act
- 1972 Marine Mammal Protection Act
- 1973 Endangered Species Act Program for the protection of threatened plants and animals and their habitats
- 1976 Fishery Conservation and Management Act-Magnuson-Stevens-Fisher Act
- 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act
- 1980 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
- 1980 Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
- 1990 Non-indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act

Public Lands:

- 1872 Yellowstone National Park Act
- 1916 National Park Services Act
- 1963 Outdoor Recreation Act
- 1964 Wilderness Act
- 1965 Land and Water Conservation Fund Act
- 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
- 1968 National Trails System Act
- 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act

More Land:

- 1891 Forest Reserve Act
- 1934 Taylor Grazing Act
- 1960, 1968 Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act
- 1974 Renewable Resources Planning Act (RPA)
- 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA)
- 1976 Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (FRRRPA)
- 1976 National Forests Management Act
- 1978 Public Rangelands Improvement Act

Oceans:

- 1965 Anadromous Fish Conservation Act
- 1976 Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- 1972 Marine Mammal Protection Act
- 1972 Coastal Zone Management Act
- 1973 Endangered Species Act
- 1982 The United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
- 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES):

Water Quality Acts:

- 1948 Federal Water Pollution Control Act
- 1965 Water Quality Act
- 1965 Water Resources Planning Act
- 1972 Clean Water Act

- 1972 Ocean Dumping Act
- 1974, 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act
- 1986 Water Resources Development Act (dam safety)
- 1990 Oil Spill Prevention and Liability Act

Mining:

- 1872 General Mining Law & Mining Act
- 1920 Mineral Leasing Act
- 1980 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Superfund)
- 1976 Resource Conservation and Recovery Acts (RCRA)
- 1977 Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act

Solid & Hazardous Waste:

- 1952 Price-Anderson Nuclear Indemnity Act
- 1960 Federal Hazardous Substances Act
- 1965 Solid Waste Disposal Act
- 1972 Federal Environmental Pesticides Control Act
- 1975 Hazardous Materials Transportation Act (HAZMAT)
- 1976 Toxic Substances Control Act
- 1976 The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
- 1976 Toxic Substances Control Act (TOSCA)
- 1980 Low-Level Radioactive Policy Act
- 1980 The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA/Superfund)
- 1982 Nuclear Waste Policy Act
- 1987 Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act
- 1988 Medical Waste Tracking Act
- 1990 Waste Reduction Act

Other:

- 1947 Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Control Act (FIFRA)
- 1956 Federal Aid Highway Act
- 1972 Noise Control Act
- 1972 Federal Environmental Pesticides Control Act
- 1996 Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA)
- 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule

Major U.S. Environmental Policy

- 1970 National Environmental Policy Act
- 1983 International Environmental Protection Act
- 1990 Pollution Prevention Act
- 1990 Environmental Education Act

Further Resources

-Chapter 25 of the 'AP Environmental Science Crash Course' (page 373 if you haven't adjusted to font or sizing at all).

-At the end of each chapter of 'Cracking the AP Environmental Science' and in the middle of the chapters in 'Barrons AP Environmental Science' there are lists of important and relevant legislation from each chapter. You can also use 'Kaplan AP Environmental Science' book but it really was not all that helpful regarding laws and legislation.

-Quizlet flash-cards for AP Environmental Laws: <http://quizlet.com/10948697/ap-environmental-laws-flash-cards/>