

American Environmental Concerns

Conservation means the greatest good to the greatest number for the longest time.—Pinchot



Growing Up

- Turn the lights off when you are not using them
- Don't leave the water running
- Don't use A/C unless you absolutely need to
- Walk if its not far
- Don't litter and recycle properly
- Going to the Dump for recycling
- Take quick showers

The state of Vermont

- Vermont has a population of 600,000 making it the 2nd smallest state in the United States of America. With its largest city at 40,000.
- For a short time a movement in Vermont pushed for independence as its own country.
- Vermont is famous for Maple Syrup.



The Three Mile Incident

- The **Three Mile Island** accident was a partial nuclear meltdown which occurred at the Three Mile Island power plant in Pennsylvania, United States on March 28, 1979. It was the worst accident in U.S. commercial nuclear power plant history, and resulted in the release of small amounts of radioactive gases and radioactive iodine into the environment.



Contamination of soil from toxic waste

- The average computer monitor contains more than five pounds of lead. Computers can also contain mercury and cadmium. When you multiply that by the millions of outdated computers and monitors, you've got lots of toxins that you don't want to put back into the earth.
- It's environmentally unsafe for individuals to just throw out computers and monitors, but federal law prohibits businesses from doing it. These items are called E-Waste



Soil contamination is caused by the presence of human made chemicals. This often occurs from the failure of storage facilities when containers are corroded to the point of leakage. It can also be caused from the application of pesticides.

The concern is about direct contact the soil or inhalation of vapors from them. These can cause a variety of chronic and serious illnesses in humans. However these contaminants can also affect the food chain in larger ways.



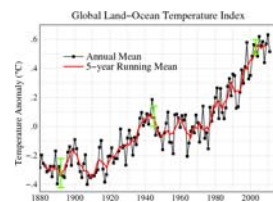
Air Pollution



- Air pollution is the introduction of harmful chemicals into the atmosphere. A large cause of this is motor vehicle use, smoke stacks and power plants. In 2008, Americans owned 137,079,843 passenger cars, or a little less than one car for every two people.

Global Warming

- Global warming is the rising average temperature of Earth's atmosphere and oceans. Over the past century the average surface temperature of Earth has increased by about 0.8 degrees Celsius. This is caused by increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases produced mainly by the burning of fossil fuels.



Nuclear Power

- The Three Mile Island accident inspired Charles Perrow's Normal Accident Theory, says that accidents happen and they are "unexpected, incomprehensible, uncontrollable and unavoidable."
- With the recent events at Fukushima, do you think Nuclear power is an issue for the world? Or only the areas directly affected?
- How do you feel about Nuclear Power? Is there anything we can do to make it safer, or should we pursue more advanced technology?
- Useful Vocabulary
Nuclear waste- 核廢棄物
Nuclear power plan - 原發
Fission - 核分裂

Clear cutting

- Clear cutting is the process of massively cutting down of trees. forests in America as well as Rainforests throughout the world have been massively thinned out.

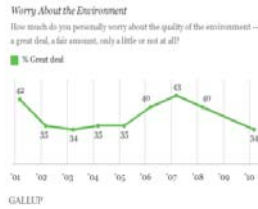


- What are your opinions on the cutting down of trees? What are the benefits and demerits to logging? What is logging like in your country?

- Vocabulary
- Logging - 伐木
- Protected mountains - 留山
- Clear cutting - 皆伐

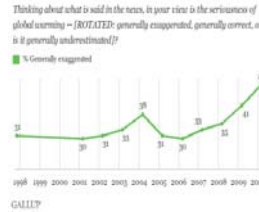
Attitudes towards the Environment

- How much do you worry about the environment?
- Do you think this trend is reflective of your country?
- Why do you think concern has been dropping?



Is the news accurate?

- How do you feel about the way the news portrays environmental issues?
- Do you think the news should have more information concerning environmental issues, or does broadcasting these things cause more damage than good?
- How does the media approach environmental issues in your country?



Perceived environmental issues

- Apathy. Dean Croshaw, a graduate student from the University of New Orleans, offered what I rank as the number one environmental problem. A clear indicator of our foremost problem is that world leaders seldom acknowledge, let alone propose solutions to, environmental problems. For those leaders around the world chosen by a democratic election process, that apathy is condoned and mimicked by the people who elect them. From the list please rank the problems in order of concern based on what you think Americans believe, then based on your own beliefs.
- Pollution of drinking water
- Fresh water supplies
- Air pollution
- Soil and water contamination
- Global warming
- Loss of tropical rain forests
- Pollution of rivers and lakes
- Extinction of plan and animals

What Americans are worried about

If you're going to read you a list of environmental problems, as I read each one, please tell me if you personally worry about this problem a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or not at all. First, how much do you personally worry about ...?

	Great deal		Fair amount		Only a little/not at all	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Pollution of drinking water	39	35	21	45		
Pollution of rivers, lakes, and streams	32	34	27	47		
Contamination of soil and water by toxic waste	28	29	33	30		
Maintenance of the nation's supply of fresh water for household needs	29	29	39	33		
Air pollution	25	28	33	34		
The loss of tropical rain forests	23	28	33	36		
Extinction of plant and animal species	17	28	34	41		
The "greenhouse effect" or global warming	24	28	38	30		

Source: J.K. Gallop
GALLUP (1992)

Worry About Environmental Problems

% Who worry "a great deal"

	1990	1995	1998	Change (pts. pts.)
Pollution of drinking water	32	39	35	+13
Pollution of rivers, lakes, and streams	22	32	34	+12
Maintenance of the nation's supply of fresh water for household needs	29	29	29	+4
Contamination of soil and water by toxic waste	22	28	29	+8
Air pollution	20	28	28	+7
The loss of tropical rain forests	18	23	28	+8
Extinction of plant and animal species	12	18	17	+6
Global warming	15	28	28	+5

GALLUP

Trash

- In America most trash is either burned or put into landfills.
- Recycling is split into glass, plastics, and papers.
- Recycling cost money in America. But landfills lead to significant ecological problems.
- How do you feel about trash and recycling? What are the rules in your country? What could we do to improve our current methods? If we were to continue on like now for 25 years, what would the result be?



Pollution, deal with it now or later?

- Can we afford to leave these issues to the next generation?
- Is pollution an issue for now or 25 years from now?
- What do you think the world will look like in 25 years?

Most Important Problem Facing us 25 Years from Now

% Environment/Politics

