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FOR ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

# List of Environmental Legislation and Agencies

## Author(s)

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## Description

A list of legislation and agencies involved.

## Body

Before the publication of *Silent Spring* in 1962, there was just one major piece of legislation:

- 1958 - [Delaney Clause](#) prohibits any carcinogenic additive from being added to processed foods.

Since the publication of *Silent Spring*, there has been a major shift in public consciousness about the environment. Years later, legislators have responded with the following:

- 1969 - National Environmental Policy Act requires environmental impact statements for actions by federal agencies that effect the environment. Congress then created the [US Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#) to enforce compliance with this law.
- 1970 - Occupational Safety and Health Act established the [National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health \(NIOSH\)](#) within the [Department of Health and Human Services \(DHHS\)](#) to develop mandatory health and safety standards for

business, conduct research on occupational health problems and produce criteria identifying toxic substances and safe exposure levels for them.

- 1970 - [Clean Air Act](#), amended in 1977 and 1990 with National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAPS), regulates off-site contamination, that is, pollution outside one's facility.
- 1972 - [Clean Water Act](#), amended in 1972, 1977, 1986, and 1995, applies to off-site contamination.
- 1976 - [Resource Conservation and Recovery Act \(RCRA\)](#) provides regulation for the on-site handling of toxic chemicals, that is, handling of toxic chemicals at one's facility.
- 1976 - [Toxic Substances Control Act \(TOSCA\)](#) provides regulation to protect the public against toxic substances in consumer and industrial products.
- 1980 - [Comprehensive Emergency Response, Compensation and Liability Act \(CERCLA\)](#) , popularly known as "the Superfund Act," established the [Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry \(ATSDR\)](#) within the Public Health Service (PHS), one of the agencies of the DHHS.
- 1986 - [Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act \(SARA\)](#) added to the duties of the ATSDR the responsibility for developing and updating a list of toxic substances that pose the most significant threat to human health.

You can find a full list at the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agencies list of Laws and Executive Orders](#)

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## **Resource Type**

Case Study / Scenario