

APES

important laws/acts + abbreviations

Name	About
Soil Conservation Act 1935	Led to creation of Soil Conservation Service, created in response to Dust Bowl of the 1930s, created to conserve soil and restore the national ecological balance, led by soil conservation pioneer Hugh Hammond Bennett
Soil and Water Conservation Act 1977	Established soil and water conservation programs to aid landowners and users, set up conditions to continue evaluating the condition of U.S. soil, water, and related resources
Food Security Act 1985	Discouraged conversion of wetlands into non-wetlands (nicknamed the Swampbuster), led to future federal legislation in 1990 that denied federal farm supplements to those who converted wetlands to agriculture, and provided restoration of benefits to those who converted land to wetlands
Marine Mammal Protection Act 1972	This act protected marine mammals from falling below their optimum sustainable population levels
Endangered Species Act 1973	The act prohibited the commerce of those species considered to be endangered or threatened
CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna) 1973	This agreement bans the capture, exportation, or sale of endangered and threatened species
Wilderness Act 1964	Established a review of road free areas of 5,000 acres or more and islands within the National Wildlife Refuges or the

	National Park System for inclusion in the National Preservation System. This act restricted activities in these areas
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act 1968	Established a National and Wild Scenic Rivers System for the protection of rivers with important scenic, recreational, fish, wildlife, and other values
Taylor Grazing Act 1934	The first federal effort to regulate grazing on federal public lands. The act established grazing districts and enacted a permit system in order to improve rangeland conditions through regulated use of rangelands for livestock grazing.
Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act 1936	Follow up to the Soil Conservation Act of 1935, intended to encourage soil usage that preserved and improved soil fertility, promoted economic use, and reduced the exploitation and fiscally irresponsible use of soil resources. In an attempt to conserve soil and prevent erosion, this act permitted the government to pay farmers
Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMRCA) 1977	Created programs to help coal mines manage pollutants and to guide the reclamation of abandoned mines; mandatory standards for these activities on state and federal lands, including a requirement that adverse impacts on fish, wildlife, and related environmental values be minimized
Mining Act 1872	Governed prospecting and mining of minerals on publicly owned land
Mineral Leasing Act 1920	Permitted the Bureau of Land Management to grant leases for development of deposits of coal, phosphate, potash, sodium, sulfur, and other leasable minerals on public domain lands
Resource Conservation and Recovery Acts	Regulated some mineral processing wastes

1976	
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (Superfund) 1980	Regulated damage done by mining
Anadromous Fish Conservation Act 1965	Protected fish that live in the sea but grow up and breed in freshwater
Marine Mammal Protection Act 1972	Established a federal responsibility to conserve marine mammals
Endangered Species Act 1973	Provided broad protection for species of fish, wildlife, and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered in the U.S. or elsewhere
Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act 1976	Governed the conservation and management of ocean fishing
The United Nations Agreement for the Implementation and Provision of the United Conventions on the Law of the Sea 1982	Set out the principles for the conservation and management of certain types of fish
Clean Air Act (CAA) 1970	Shifted federal govt's role in air pollution control, authorized the development of federal and state regulations to limit emissions from both point and nonpoint sources, implemented by the EPA
Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) 1990	Increased authority & responsibility of federal government, new regulations for controlling acid precipitation and toxic air pollutants, NAAQs updated and expanded, new sections on stratospheric ozone protection, increased enforcements, and more research programs
Energy Policy Conservation Act (EPCA) 1975	Established CAFE (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) standards for passenger cars and light trucks

<p>Montreal Protocol 1987</p>	<p>146 nations signed, called for the worldwide end of CFC production</p>
<p>Hazardous Materials Transportation Act 1975</p>	<p>Governed the transportation of hazardous materials and wastes in commerce</p>
<p>The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act 1976</p>	<p>Solid waste program encouraged states to develop comprehensive plans to manage nonhazardous industrial solid and municipal solid waste + set criteria for municipal solid waste disposal facilities, and prohibited the open dumping of solid waste; hazardous waste storage tank (UST) program regulates underground storage tanks containing hazardous substances and petroleum products; hazardous waste program established a system for controlling hazardous waste from the time it is generated until its ultimate disposal (“cradle to grave”)</p>
<p>Toxic Substances and Controls Act (TOSCA) 1976</p>	<p>Act gave the EPA ability to track the 75,000 industrial chemicals currently produced in or imported to the United States; EPA repeatedly screens these chemicals and can require reporting or testing of those that pose an environmental or human health hazard; act also allows the EPA to ban the manufacture and import of those chemicals that pose an unreasonable risk</p>
<p>The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, Superfund) 1980</p>	<p>Created tax on chemical and petroleum industries and provided broad federal authority to respond directly to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances that may endanger public health or the environment; established prohibitions and requirements concerning closed and abandoned hazardous waste sites; provided for liability of persons responsible for releases of hazardous waste at these sites; established a trust fund to provide clean up when no responsible party could be identified</p>

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<p>Nuclear Waste Policy Act 1982</p>	<p>Established both the federal government's responsibility to provide a place for the permanent disposal of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel, and the generators' responsibility to bear the costs of permanent disposal</p>
<p>Clean Water Act 1972</p>	<p>Used regulatory and non-regulatory tools to protect all surface waters in the US, sharply reduced directly pollutant discharge into waterways, financed municipal wastewater treatment facilities to manage polluted runoff, achieved the broader goal of restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's water, supported protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and recreation in and on the water</p>
<p>Ocean Dumping Act 1972</p>	<p>Made it illegal for any person to dump, or transport for the purpose of dumping, sewage, or industrial waste into ocean waters</p>
<p>Safe Drinking Water Act 1974, 1996, 2005, 2011, 2015</p>	<p>Established federal program to monitor and increase the safety of drinking water supply. Does not apply to wells that supply fewer than 25 people, amendments in recent years have led to more stringent regulation of lead and algal toxins in drinking water</p>
<p>Oil Spill Prevention and Liability Act 1990</p>	<p>Strengthened the EPA's ability to prevent and response to catastrophic oil spills. Established a trust fund (financed by tax on oil), which is available to clean up spills</p>
<p>Noise Control Act 1972</p>	<p>Set limits on the major sources of noise (ex - construction equipment and vehicles)</p>

<p>Abbreviation</p>	<p>Meaning</p>
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BOD	Biochemical oxygen demand (a measure of the amount of oxygen that bacteria will consume while decomposing organic matter under aerobic conditions)
BRI	Building-related illness
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency (founded in 1970, established by the National Environmental Policy Act - NEPA, an independent agency of the U.S. Federal government)
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
NIMBY	Not in My Backyard
PAYT	Pay-As-You-Throw
SBS	Sick building syndrome
WHO	World Health Organization (specialized agency of the United Nations, established in 1948, concerned with international public health)
WTE	Waste-to-energy program
VOC	Volatile organic compounds

Notes from ASAP Environmental Science (Princeton Review) and 5 Steps to a 5