

History of the Modern Environmental Movement in America

By Erin L. Gordon

The modern day environmental movement in the United States began in the 1960s and 1970s. This movement was originally focused on a few prominent environmental issues and disasters. Environmentalism evolved to become a multifaceted movement in the United States. In the United States today, environmentalism is not a singular movement. Environmentalism intersects local, state and federal politics. It impacts business practices, art and the media, education and health in the United States. There is still a great deal of environmental activism, but in the past five decades environmental concerns have become more ingrained in the consciousness of the American population.

The rise of the modern environmental movement in America can be traced to several widely publicized events in the 1960s and the 1970s. These events included concern over hydrogen bomb testing on Bikini Atoll, oil spills off the coast of California, and the use of insecticides and other chemicals. In the 1960s, the pollution of the Great Lakes became a rallying point for environmentalism in the United States. The pollution of Lake Erie and its nearby waterways was so great that debris on the Cuyahoga River caught fire and created thousands of dollars of property damage. The so-called Lake Erie Fire became a media sensation and helped push environmentalism into the public consciousness. The idea of a waterway so polluted that it caught fire inspired the Randy Newman song "Burn On". Lake Erie was so symbolic of environmental destruction that Dr. Seuss mentioned it by name in his environmental awareness book *The Lorax*.

In the 1960s and 1970s Americans became concerned over the environment in several ways. The first area of environmental concern was more traditional sense of preservation. Oil spills, lake fires, and other environmental disasters lead to a push for continued and increased preservation of America's wilderness and natural landscapes. The book *Silent Spring* focused on the impact of the chemical DDT and other insecticides on animal populations, in particular that of various species of birds.

The bald eagle was one species of bird whose population suffered from the use of DDT. The pesticide thinned the egg shells of the bird, which contributed to a reduction in the population size. The endangerment of the bald eagle garnered particular media and public attention, since the bald eagle is the national bird of the United States. This concern over preservation and America's wild spaces led to laws such as the Endangered Species Act.

Another thread of environmental concern was over the impact of environmental damage on the human population. There was an increased awareness of how environmental degradation could cause public health threats. Two areas of particular concern were air and water pollution. The Clean Water Act of 1972 is the basic framework legislation on water regulations in the US. This act regulates water quality and also how pollutants are discharged in water. The Clean Air Act of 1970 focuses on the control of air pollution. One of the more significant aspects of the law is the ability for the Environmental Protection Agency to establish air quality standards to protect public health and welfare.

The environmental movement has evolved significantly in the last five decades. Today, many of the rallying points of the environmental movement have become ingrained into American society. Air and water quality standards are regulated for the public good, endangered and threatened species are protected, and chemicals and products go through a rigorous testing process to determine potential health and environmental threats. There is still an active environmental movement in the United States; it has built on the activism of previous decades.

Today the environmental movement in America can be divided into three levels- local, national, and international. Local movements often include protection and preservation of communal

...continued on page 4

The American Center

C-49, G Block, B. K. C., Bandra East Mumbai – 400051 Tel: 022-2672-4024
E-mail: mumbaipublicaffairs@state.gov; Website: <http://mumbai.usconsulate.gov>
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday)

H O L I D A Y S

No Holidays in June



The American Center
in collaboration with the
Bombay Natural History Society is exhibiting

Biodiversity and **Business** Together make **Green Economy**



From
June 5 to June 7, 2012
at
Churchgate Station



as part of the
World Environmental Day celebrations

We urge visitors to take a pledge for changing their lifestyles to be more green. The exhibit will be on display from June 5 to June 7 from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm.

ALL ARE WELCOME



The American Center
in collaboration with
the Oberoi Mall
will distribute

free saplings



On
June 8
from 3:00 pm to 7:30 pm
at
Oberoi Mall
Goregaon-East, Mumbai

*Till stocks last

as part of the
World Environmental Day celebrations

environmental spaces like state parks. Local movements can also rally around locally unwanted land uses such as the building of housing developments or the construction of chemical plants because of environmental and health concerns. On the national level, there are many prominent environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that lobby for national environmental legislation. These issues include new legislation and promoting updates of laws like the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act. Internationally, NGOs and the American government also play an important role in international discussions on the environment. These include transnational issues like climate change and ozone degradation. The multifaceted environmental activism of present day is clearly rooted in the activism of the 1960s and 1970s.

Alumni Highlights

Rounaque Grover, from Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, recently returned from the United States where he was studying in the Near East and South Asia Undergraduate Exchange Program (NESA UGRAD). He had written an article (<http://thelumberjack.org/news/virtual-classroom-creates-cultural-awareness>) in **The Lumberjack**, the Humboldt State University campus paper where he studied. He appreciates mutual understanding and the spirit of cultural exchanges as he creates linkages between Humboldt students and students at his home university, St. Aloysius College.

We are happy to welcome back our alumnus Rounaque Grover!



If you are an alumnus of a United States exchange program and have received special recognition, please send a write-up with 2-3 photos to mum-baipublicaffairs@state.gov. You could be featured in future e-bulletins!

A WORD FROM THE CENTER

June marks the end of the summer holiday season and the resumption of activities throughout Mumbai and the rest of India. This is also true for us here at the American Center. June is a busy month in which we are focusing on three important subjects: World Environment Day; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month; and Global Economic Statecraft Day.

We invite you to stop by Churchgate station between June 5 and 7 to see an exhibit on "Going Green" put together by the Bombay Natural History Society and sponsored by the American Center. While there, you can see the pledge to go green. Also, American Center staff will be distributing free tree saplings at Oberoi Mall in Goregaon-East on Friday, June 8 between 3 and 7:30 pm. Stop by the American Center booth to pick up your sapling to plant at home.

On May 31, 2011, President Obama declared June to be Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month. Each June, the United States commemorates the courageous individuals who have fought to achieve this promise for LGBT Americans, and we rededicate ourselves to the pursuit of equal rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. On June 21, we'll be hosting a premier of the documentary "Stonewall Uprising." The movie explores the 1969 Stonewall riots, which marked a major turning point in the modern gay civil rights movement in the United States and around the world. This 90-minute film draws upon eyewitness accounts and rare archival material to bring this pivotal event to life. This documentary film is based on David Carter's critically acclaimed book, "Stonewall: The Riots that Sparked the Gay Revolution."

We invite you to these events, as well as the many others we have planned. New programs are always being added, so be sure to check-in with us on our Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/Mumbai.usconsulate/events> for the latest schedule. We hope to see you at the Library or at a program soon!

Angela Gemza
Cultural Affairs Officer

NASA's Earth Science Enterprise "What on Earth?" Interactive Quiz — [Click Here](#)



AMERICAN CENTER
Mumbai

MUMBAI MONDAYS

The Environmental Movement in the United States

led by Consular Officer **Stephanie Woodard**

Come join us at the American Consulate General, Mumbai, to learn about the environmental movement in the United States. Hear about developments and key players such as Presidents Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt. Learn about the challenges the movement's participants faced and how they persevered to create key legislation like the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), in 1970, which established a United States Environmental Protection Agency and a Council on Environmental Quality. Discover how the environmental movement has evolved to include other related issues such as environmental justice and climate change. We look forward to seeing you at the presentation!

Stephanie Woodard is a United States Foreign Service Officer currently serving in Mumbai, India. Stephanie is originally from Houston, Texas. After completing her undergraduate degree in Political Science and French from Dillard University in New Orleans, Stephanie then earned her Master's Degree in International Affairs from Columbia University in New York City. Stephanie has worked for several NGOs most of which involved work with women and youth. She has also worked on several political campaigns. Currently, Stephanie is serving as a Vice Consul at American Consulate General, Mumbai and has lived in Mumbai for almost two years.

June 18 at 6:00 p.m.

Venue

U.S. Consulate General,
C-49, G Block, Near Trident Hotel,
Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051

Free
and open to the public
on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please bring a photo ID for entry. No mobiles, computers, cameras or other electronic equipment allowed.



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mumbai.usconsulate.gov



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NOTES FROM THE AMERICAN LIBRARY

Resources on Environment

Databases on Environment – eLibraryUSA

Access the databases at <http://elibraryusa.state.gov>

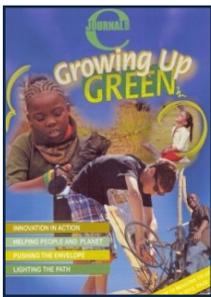
GreenFILE

GreenFILE offers well-researched information covering all aspects of human impact to the environment. Its collection of scholarly, government and general-interest titles includes content on global warming, green building, pollution, sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, recycling, and more.

GREENR

The Global Reference on the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources focuses on the physical, social, and economic aspects of environmental issues. Topics covered include global climate change, green building, pollution, sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, recycling, and more. Portals include authoritative analysis, academic journals, news, case studies, legislation, conference proceedings, primary source documents, statistics, and rich multimedia.

eJournal USA



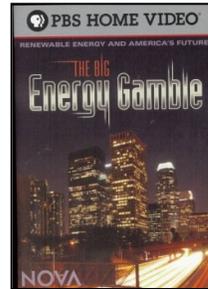
Growing Up Green, March 2012

Youth are leading the way to a sustainable future by creating innovative solutions to global problems. This issue of eJournal USA explores how young people are leading the way to a cleaner, greener, more sustainable future. From launching their own environmental organizations to developing alternative energy resources, today's youth have what it takes to

make the world a better place. Read about some of their amazing accomplishments and ambitious plans for the future in this issue of *eJournal USA*.

[Click Here](#) to access the eJournal.

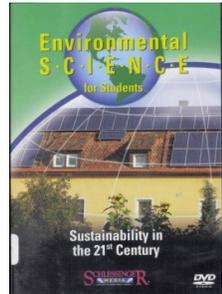
DVDs with the library



The Big Energy Gamble: Renewable energy and America's future – PBS Home Video, c2009. (56 mins.)

In this documentary eco – celebrities like Ed Begley, Jr and Bill Nye examine California's aggressive pursuit of a sustainable energy future. This program visits the places where green energy is already becoming a reality - From San Francisco's Luscious Garage, where mechanics create custom plug –in hybrids Tehachapi Valley, where thousands of wind turbines are spinning out electricity.

Environmental Science for Students: Sustainability in the 21st Century – Schlessinger Media, 2008. (23 mins.)



This documentary provides a fascinating look at some of the most important environmental issues of our time. From the quality of the air that we breathe and water that we drink to the lasting effects of our reliance upon fossil fuels to power our lives everyone is affected by environmental change. Accurate explanations, global examples and balanced viewpoints guide students in an exploration of essential issues.

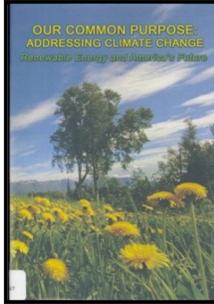
Call 022-26724231/4024 or email libref@state.gov for more information on membership at the American Library.

Admission to American Center programs, restricted to persons over 14, unless otherwise specified, is on a first-come, first-served basis. The auditorium doors will open 30 minutes before the start of the program. Please bring your photo ID for entry. No mobiles, computers, cameras or other electronic equipment al-

NOTES FROM THE AMERICAN LIBRARY

Resources on Environment

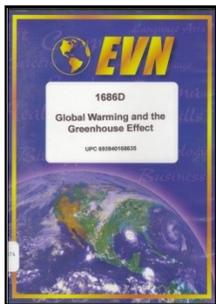
Our Common Purpose: Addressing Climate Change – U. S. Dept. of State, c2009. (35 mins)



A Combination of nineteen short environment related video clips, this collection demonstrates the breadth and depth of America's commitment to climate change. Video stories from the private sector, government agencies, associations, news stories, PSAs and promotional content, the documentary conveys the diversity of America's response to global warming and the commitment to leading the global effort in responding to the critical environmental and energy issues the world is facing.

importance of water issues to the world. March 21, 2012

[U.S. Scientists Lend Skills to Water Resource Protection](#) , 9 April 2012



Global Warming and the Greenhouse Effect – Educational Video Network, TX, c2009 (20 mins.)

Learn what creates the Greenhouse Effect and discover how it affects weather patterns all over the world. Understand that we must take the threat of global warming seriously to ensure the continued survival of our species.

UN Conference on Sustainable Development: Rio+20

The UN Conference on Sustainable Development, or Rio+20, will be a landmark event in international discussions on sustainable development. Rio+20 will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 20-22, 2012.

Rio+20 Themes and Objectives: The UN General Assembly identified two principal themes for Rio+20: The Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication; and the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development. It also identified three objectives for the Conference: Securing a Renewed Political Commitment for Sustainable Development; Assessing Progress and Remaining Gaps in Implementation of Sustainable Development Efforts; and Addressing New and Emerging Challenges.

Understanding Biodiversity – Educational Video Network, TX, c2009. (25 mins.)

Earth teems with a variety of life-forms. Each species occupies a hard-won niche and serves as an integral part of the whole. Explore how each species is important to the entire environment.

U.S. Water Partnership - IIP YouTube Channel

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, discusses the

Beyond Economic Growth An Introduction to Sustainable Development

World Bank

This student book, which draws on data published by the World Bank, is addressed to young people, students, teachers, and all those interested in exploring issues of global development. It encourages learners to seek their own solutions to sustainable development challenges by exploring and discussing a broad range of critical global issues.

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E-Bulletin Editor:
Swati Patel

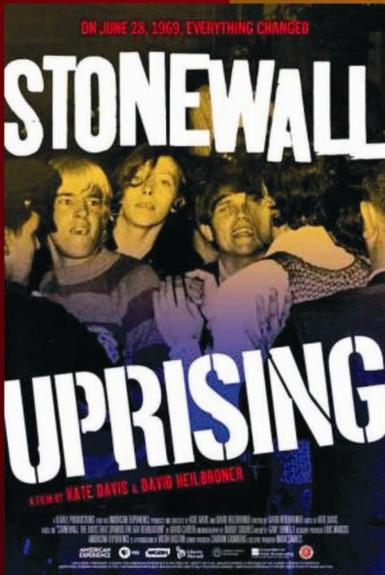
Designed by:
Milburn Fernandes



In celebration of

LGBT Pride Month

Invites you for the screening of



STONEWALL UPRISING (2010, 82 minutes)

Stonewall Uprising is a 2010 American documentary film examining the events surrounding the Stonewall riots that began during the early hours of June 28, 1969. Stonewall Uprising made its theatrical debut on June 16, 2010 at the Film Forum in New York City. The movie features interviews with eyewitnesses to the incident, including NYPD deputy inspector Seymour Pine.

Followed by an interactive discussion

Thursday June 21 at 6:00 p.m.

Venue:

U.S. Consulate General

C-49, G Block, Near Trident Hotel, Bandra-Kurla Complex,
Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051

Free
and open to public
on a first-come, first-served basis

Please bring a photo ID for entry. No mobiles, computers, cameras or other electronic equipment allowed.



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Saturday Film Screenings

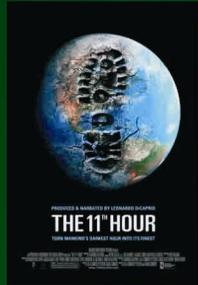
Theme of the month

Environment

2 June 2012

The 11th Hour

(2007, 92 minutes)



With contributions from over 50 politicians, scientists, and environmental activists, including former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, physicist Stephen Hawking, Nobel Prize winner Wangari Maathai, and journalist Paul Hawken, the film documents the grave problems facing the planet's life systems. Global warming, deforestation, mass species extinction, and depletion of the oceans' habitats are all addressed. The

film's premise is that the future of humanity is in jeopardy.

9 June 2012

Armageddon

(1998, 151 minutes)



A "global killer" asteroid the size of Texas is heading towards Earth, and the future of the planet rests with a misfit group of oil-drilling experts. Their job: land a space shuttle on the rock and plant a nuclear device inside to blow it up. Striking special effects highlight this smash hit that stars Bruce Willis, Ben Affleck, Liv Tyler, Will Patton, Steve Buscemi and Billy Bob Thornton.

16 June 2012

Erin Brockovich

(2000, 130 minutes)



The film is a dramatization of the story of Erin Brockovich, played by Julia Roberts, who fought against the US West Coast energy corporation Pacific Gas and Electric Company. It is based on a true story, and the real Erin Brockovich has a cameo appearance around 9'10" as a waitress named Julia.

23 June 2012

March of the Penguins

(2005, 80 minutes)

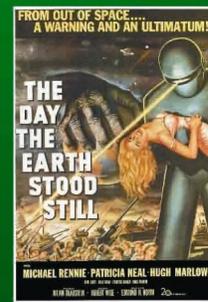


The film depicts the yearly journey of the emperor penguins of Antarctica. In autumn, all the penguins of breeding age (five years old and over) leave the ocean, their normal habitat, to walk inland to their ancestral breeding grounds. There, the penguins participate in a courtship that, if successful, results in the hatching of a chick.

30 June 2012

The Day the Earth Stood Still

(1951, 92 minutes)



The Day the Earth Stood Still is a 1951 American science fiction film directed by Robert Wise. It was written by Edmund H. North, based on the short story "Farewell to the Master" (1940) by Harry Bates.

FREE and open to public
on a first-come, first-served basis

Screening will start at 2:30 p.m.

★ ★ ★ Please bring a photo ID for entry. No mobiles, computers, cameras or other electronic equipment allowed. ★ ★ ★

Venue: U.S. Consulate General

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