

**Public Affairs  
Information Resource Center**

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The U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center is pleased to offer you an "Issue-in-Focus" on Global Issues and Environment.

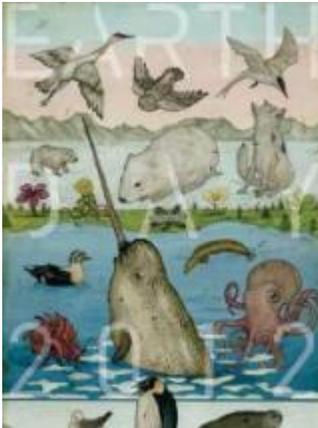
The full text of the document can be retrieved at the link(s) listed below. If you have problems retrieving the article, or would like to comment on our services, please call 02-205-4640 or write to [irc@state.gov](mailto:irc@state.gov). Current and back issues of "Issue-in-Focus" on Global Issues and Environment are also available in our homepage at <http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/services/irc/cis/global-issues-and-environment.html>.

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## Earth Day 2012: Mobilizing the Earth

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**APRIL 22, 2012**



Earth Day is celebrated each year on April 22 and is viewed as the anniversary of the birth of the modern U.S. environmental movement in 1970. Earth Day has been observed annually in the United States ever since that first event in 1970. In 1990, for the first time, U.S. environmentalists organized more than 100 Earth Day events around the world.

The 2012 theme, Mobilize the Earth, inspires people to take local-level action to protect the environment. It affirms that environmental awareness is part of the country's consciousness and that the idea of protecting the environment — once the province of a few conservationists — has moved from the extreme to the mainstream of American thought.

### U.S. COMMITMENTS TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT



[U.S. Water Partnership YouTube Channel](#) (March 21, 2012) - Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, discusses the importance of water issues to the world.

[IIP @ State YouTube: Earth Day 2012 Videos](#) - A collection of videos posted by Department of State's International Information Programs on its YouTube page related to Earth Day 2012.

[Secretary Clinton's Remarks at the Climate and Clean Air Coalition To Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Initiative](#) (February 16, 2012): "It's a very big honor for me to have you here for the purpose of launching the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, our new global effort to fight climate change, protect health, improve agricultural productivity, and strengthen energy security."

[Going Green](#) - Employees at posts around the globe have redoubled their efforts to reduce the U.S. Department of State's environmental footprint. Whether developing innovative ways to deal with practical challenges like water sanitation and landscaping, or exploring new ways to use renewable power sources like solar and wind energy, green initiatives are making our planet a better place to live.



[Fact Sheet: The Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants](#) (February 16, 2012) - Pollutants that are short-lived in the atmosphere such as methane, black carbon and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) together account for approximately one-third of current global warming, have significant impacts on public health, the environment, and world food productivity.

[IIP CONX Video: COP17: Thinking Globally Acting Locally](#) (December 5, 2011) - In this CONX event, mayors, governors and provincial leaders share how they are promoting the use of renewable energy and reducing the CO2 footprints of their city, state, and provincial economies.

## HISTORY CHANNEL: EARTH DAY

[Earth Day Timeline](#) - Established in 1970, Earth Day has become a worldwide holiday celebrated by over 1 billion people in 2010. Galvanized by the mounting evidence of environmental damage due to pollution and inspired by the student organizations protesting the Vietnam War, Earth Day was conceived by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson, who wanted a new way to educate people about protecting the Earth. Discover more about the history of Earth Day, the events that influenced it and the progress made in the years since its inception.



[Water and Air Pollution](#) - Along with amazing technological advances, the Industrial Revolution of the mid-19th century introduced new sources of air and water pollution. By the middle of the 20th century, the effects of these changes were beginning to be felt in countries around the world. In the 1960s, an environmental movement began to emerge that sought to stem the tide of pollutants flowing into the planet's ecosystems. Out of this movement came events like Earth Day, and legislative victories like the Clean Air Act (1970) and the Clean Water Act (1972).

## EARTH DAY PHOTO GALLERY



[A Changing Planet](#) - This photo gallery shows the many and varied effects of climate change around the world.

[Oceans](#) - Oceans are a huge and important ecosystem. While oceans support an abundance of marine life, their biodiversity is threatened by pollution, climate change and overuse by humans.

[Wetlands](#) - Wetlands are among the most important and productive ecosystems on earth and preservation is vital.

[Coral Reefs](#) - Coral reefs support a vibrant array of plant and animal life but need our help to conserve and protect their important ecosystems.

[Biodiversity](#) - As stewards of earth's biodiversity, we humans should protect and conserve the incredible richness and variety of its ecosystems.

[Wildlife at Risk](#) - This photo gallery presents animal species that are endangered to some degree.



## ONLINE READING



[Growing Up Green](#) (April 2012; 24 pages; 2.6MB) - 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.

[Climate Action Goes Local](#) (August 2011; 44 pages; 1.5MB) - This issue of eJournal USA examines what it means to think globally about climate change — and to act locally. "Climate Action Goes Local" shows how communities and nongovernmental groups worldwide are initiating programs that counter climate change, and why leadership from local officials and buy-in from local populations and businesses are necessary for such programs to be effective.

## WEBCHATS

Please monitor <http://conx.state.gov> for more information regarding potential Earth Day programming. Archived programs related to Energy, Environment, Science & Technology are available [here](#).

## WEB RESOURCES

[Earth Day Network](#)

[Environmental Protection Agency: Earth Day](#)

[Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Department of State](#)

[Energy, Climate Change, and Our Environment, The White House](#)

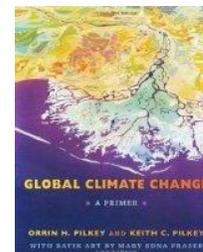
## NOW AVAILABLE AT THE IRC!

These resources on global environment issues are readily available at the IRC for your research and pleasure – **free of charge!** All you need to do is become our member, and that's free, too! Simply call 02-205-4174 or write [irc@state.gov](mailto:irc@state.gov) for more details on our membership policy.

### Global Climate Change: A Primer

Pilkey, Orrin H./Pilkey, Keith C.

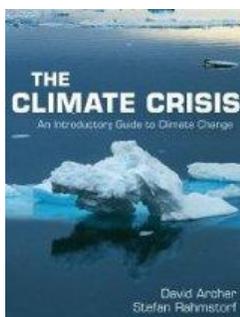
The Pilkeys directly confront and rebut arguments typically advanced by global change deniers. Particularly valuable are their discussions of "Climategate," a manufactured scandal that undermined respect for the scientific community, and the denial campaigns by the fossil fuel industry, which they compare to the tactics used by the tobacco companies a generation ago to obfuscate findings on the harm caused by cigarettes.



### The Climate Crisis: An Introductory Guide to Climate Change

Archer, David

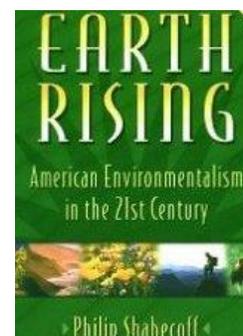
This book provides a concise and accessible overview of what we know about ongoing climate change and its impacts, and what we can do to confront the climate crisis. It gives a readable account of the treasure trove of information contained in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports, and also brings the subject completely up-to-date with current science and policy.



### Earth Rising: American Environmentalism In The 21st Century

Shabecoff, Philip

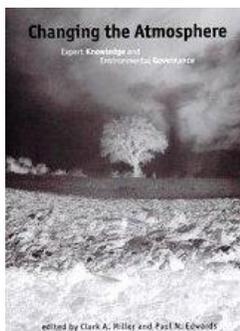
The mission of environmentalism is to mobilize society at all levels to confront the danger and disorder into which human activity has propelled us and guide us to a safer, saner way of living on the planet.... Environmentalism has never been about catastrophe. It is about alternatives, about changing course, about transforming the future.



### Changing the Atmosphere: Expert Knowledge and Environmental Governance

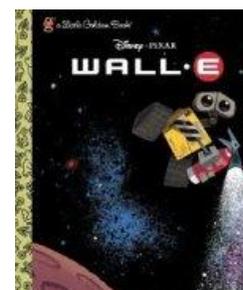
Miller, Clark A./Edwards, Paul N

In recent years, Earth systems science has advanced rapidly, helping to transform climate change and other planetary risks into major political issues. Changing the Atmosphere strengthens our understanding of this important link between expert knowledge and environmental governance. In so doing, it illustrates how the emerging field of science and technology studies can inform our understanding of the human dimensions of global environmental change.

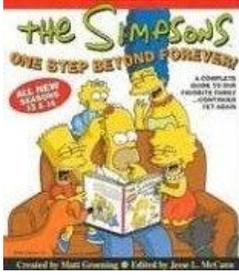


### WALL-E (DVD)

After hundreds of lonely years, a waste management robot finds a new purpose in life. With only a cockroach for a friend, he finds true love in another robot sent on a mission to Earth to see if it is safe for human life.



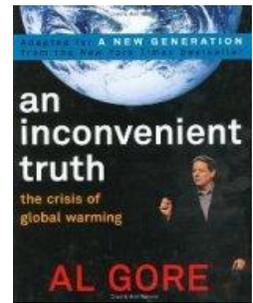
## The Simpsons Movie (DVD)



Lisa convinces the locals to clean up the polluted Lake Springfield after a crowd of fans sink the Green Day concert stage. Meanwhile, Homer saves a pig from being killed in Krusty Burger and adopts it, calling the animal Spider Pig. After two days, Spider Pig fills up a silo with its excrement and not knowing what else to do, Homer dumps the silo in the lake, polluting it. The angry population forces the Simpsons to move to Alaska. Meanwhile, the president is induced by his adviser from the EPA to put a dome over Springfield to hold in the population and destroy the city.

## An Inconvenient Truth: A Global Warning (DVD)

Former Vice President Al Gore explains the facts of global warming, presents arguments that the dangers of global warming have reached the level of crisis, and addresses the efforts of certain interests to discredit the anti-global warming cause. Between lecture segments, Gore discusses his personal commitment to the environment, sharing anecdotes from his experiences.



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