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# Environmental Protection Agency

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**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**, independent agency of the United States government, responsible for protecting the [environment](#) and maintaining it for future generations. It was established in 1970. The EPA superseded and assumed most of the activities of the former Environmental Health Service. Specifically, its aim is to control and diminish [air pollution](#) and [water pollution](#), noise pollution, and [pollution](#) by [radiation](#), pesticides ([Pest Control](#)), [hazardous wastes](#), and other toxic substances.

The agency has established federal standards for [air quality](#) that limit the quantities of hazardous pollutants from industrial emission (*see* [Acid Rain](#)). It works with state and local governments to determine and enforce safer pollution levels. It conducts research to identify and regulate noise sources and also to refine techniques of [solid](#)

[waste disposal](#) and reuse. The agency's efforts in the area of water pollution include establishment of water quality standards, regulation of regional water pollution controls and water supply methods, and scientific research into the effects of chemical and other contaminants. In recent years the EPA has also focused on environmental issues such as [endangered species](#), [global warming](#), and [fossil fuel](#) usage.

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