

Environmental Policy

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What is environmental policy?

Environmental policy is “how humanity organizes itself to relate to the nature that sustains it.”



All quotations and most ideas are from *The Environmental Case* by Judith Layzer, unless otherwise cited.

Source of progress and conflict: values

environmentalism and conservationism



Origins of environmentalism

Romantics and Transcendentalists

“I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. I did not wish to live what was not life, living is so dear; nor did I wish to practise resignation, unless it was quite necessary. I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life, to live so sturdily and Spartan-like as to put to rout all that was not life, to cut a broad swath and shave close, to drive life into a corner, and reduce it to its lowest terms...”

Henry David Thoreau

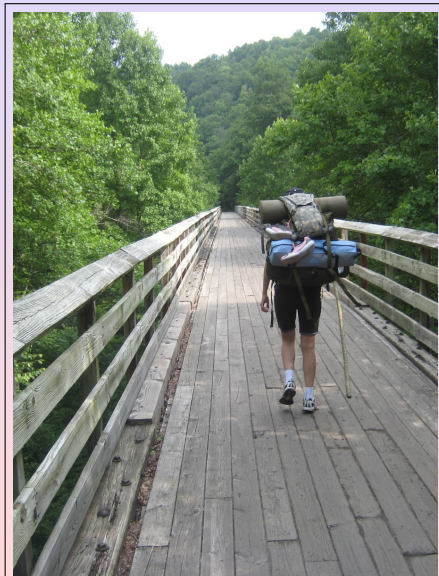
Origins of environmentalism



Painting by George Catlin (1796-1872), painted c.1832-39.

Resulting legislation

- Wilderness Preservation Act (1964)
- Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (1968)
- National Trails Act (1968)



Origins of conservationists



- Progressive Era (early 20th century)
- Led to U.S Forest Service (1905) and Soil Conservation Act (1935)

Pause: What are the differences in values?



Environmentalism and pollution



Environmentalism and biodiversity



“A thing is right when it tends to preserve the stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.”

Aldo Leopold

Environmentalism and climate change



TELEGRAPH HERALD

High 84° Low 65° Sunny, 6B

FRIDAY

July 29, 2011 • Dubuque, Iowa • 75 cents



Cathy Davis walks along U.S. 52 after fleeing her flooded home, north of Dubuque, on Thursday morning. The tri-state area was rocked by a storm

that dumped as much as 15 inches of rain in 12 hours. Dubuque's official total of 10.74 inches shattered the previous 24-hour record of 8.95 inches in 2002.

JEREMY PORTJE • *Telegraph Herald*

Storm totals

Rainfall amounts
(in inches)
received in
tri-state cities:

15.1
Dubuque
(4 miles southwest)
14.5
Dubuque
(4 miles southeast)
13.45
Gallena, Ill.
10.74
Dubuque
Regional
Airport
10.11
Sinsinawa, Wis.
9.52
Elizabeth, Ill.
(1 mile southwest)
7.5
Holy Cross, Iowa
3.44
Guttenberg, Iowa
2.97
Elkader, Iowa
1.75
Platteville, Wis.

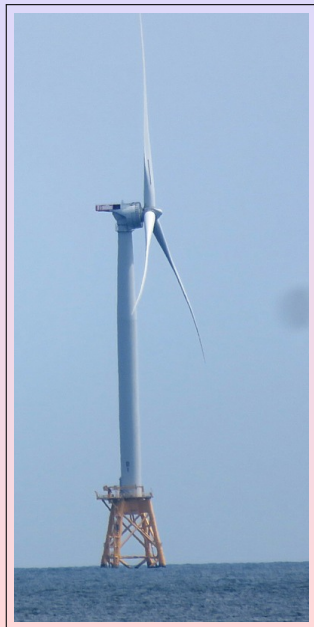
Source: National
Weather Service

UNPRECEDENTED

'I have never witnessed anything like what we have seen in the last 12 hours'

Free-market environmentalism

- Cornucopians (Prometheans)
- Trickle-down economists
- Technologists



Where do you stand?



Write a paragraph now.