**Environmental issues** are [harmful aspects of human activity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_impact_on_the_environment) on the [biophysical environment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environment_(biophysical)). [Environmentalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmentalism), a [social](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_movement) and [environmental movement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_movement)that started in the 1960s, addresses environmental issues through advocacy, education and activism.

Types

*Main articles:*[*List of environmental issues*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_environmental_issues)*and*[*List of environmental disasters*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_environmental_disasters)

Major current environmental issues may include [climate change](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change), [pollution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pollution), [environmental degradation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_degradation), and [resource depletion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resource_depletion) etc. The [conservation movement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conservation_movement) lobbies for protection of [endangered species](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endangered_species) and protection of any ecologically valuable [natural areas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_environment).

[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Environmental_issue&action=edit&section=2)]Scientific grounding

The level of understanding of [Earth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth) has inbvased markedly in recent times through [science](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science) especially with the application of the [scientific method](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_method). [Environmental science](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_science) is now a multi-disciplinary academic study taught and researched at many universities. This is used as a basis for addressing environmental issues.

Large amounts of data has been gathered and these are collated into reports, of which a common type is the [State of the Environment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_of_the_Environment) publications. A recent major report was the [Millennium Ecosystem Assessment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millennium_Ecosystem_Assessment), with input from 1200 scientists and released in 2005, which showed the high level of impact that humans are having on [ecosystem services](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecosystem_services).

[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Environmental_issue&action=edit&section=3)]Organizations

*Main article:*[*Environmental organization*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_organization)

Environmental issues are addressed at a regional, nation or international level by government organisations.

The largest international agency, set up in 1972, is the [United Nations Environment Programme](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Environment_Programme). The [International Union for Conservation of Nature](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Union_for_Conservation_of_Nature) brings together 83 states, 108 government agencies, 766 Non-governmental organizations and 81 international organizations and about 10,000 experts and scientists from countries around the world.[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_issue#cite_note-IUCN-0) International [non-governmental organizations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-governmental_organizations) include [Greenpeace](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greenpeace), [Friends of the Earth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friends_of_the_Earth) and [World Wide Fund for Nature](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Wide_Fund_for_Nature). Governments enact [environmental policy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_policy) and enforce [environmental law](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_law) and this is done to differing degrees around the world.

[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Environmental_issue&action=edit&section=4)]Solutions

[Sustainability](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainability) is the key to preventing or reducing the effect of environmental issues. There is now clear scientific evidence that humanity is living unsustainably, and that an unprecedented collective effort is needed to return human use of natural resources to within sustainable limits.[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_issue#cite_note-1)[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_issue#cite_note-MEA-2) For humans to live sustainably, the Earth's resources must be used at a rate at which they can be replenished.

Concerns for the environment has prompted the formation of [Green parties](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_party), political parties that seek to address environmental issues. Initially these formed in Australia, New Zealand and Germany but are now present in many other countries.

[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Environmental_issue&action=edit&section=5)]Film and television

*Main article:*[*Environmental issues in film and television*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_issues_in_film_and_television)

There are an increasing number of films being produced on environmental issues, especially on [climate change](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change) and [global warming](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming). Al Gore's 2006 film [*An Inconvenient Truth*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/An_Inconvenient_Truth) gained commercial success and a high media profile. *[FernGully: The Last Rainforest](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FernGully:_The_Last_Rainforest" \o "FernGully: The Last Rainforest)* (1992) is an animated film about rainforest destruction.

