

GROUP 7

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

ODULE 8

ENVIRONMENT

- can be defined as a sum total of all the living and non-living elements and their effects that influence human life. While all living or biotic elements are animals, plants, forests, fisheries, and birds, non-living or abiotic elements include water, land, sunlight, rocks, and air.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (Republic Act 9003)

- is the practice of protecting the natural environment by individuals, groups and governments. Its objectives are to conserve natural resources and the existing natural environment and, where it is possible, to repair damage and reverse trends. Due to the pressures of overconsumption, population growth and technology, the biophysical environment is being degraded, sometimes permanently. This has been recognized, and governments have begun placing restraints on activities that cause environmental degradation.

THE SEVEN (7) ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PRINCIPLES

1.NATURE KNOWS BEST

One natural process that needs serious attention is nutrient cycling. In nature, nutrients pass from the environment to the organisms and back to the environment. Any disruption in the cycle can bring about imbalance. Our nature knows everything. Sometimes, it knows what is best for us.

2. ALL FORMS OF LIFE ARE IMPORTANT

Each organism plays a fundamental role in nature. Since such occupational or functional position, otherwise known as niche, cannot be simultaneously occupied by more than one specie, it is apparent that all living things must be considered as invaluable in the maintenance of homeostasis in the ecosystem.

3. Everything is connected to everything else

This principle is best exemplified by the concept of the ecosystem. In an ecosystem, all biotic and abiotic components interact with each other to ensure that the system is perpetuated. Any outside interference may result in an imbalance and the deterioration of the system.

4. Everything changes

It is said that the only permanent thing is change. Our world is constantly changing and nothing is permanent anymore. Even each day humans try to change their living to fit in to the world.

5. Everything must go somewhere

When a piece of paper is thrown away, it disappears from sight but it does not cease to exist. It ends up elsewhere. Everything goes somewhere and nothing goes nowhere it has its own way to go.

6. Ours is a finite earth

Just how long would the earth be able to sustain demands on its resources? This is a question that needs serious reflection. Unless the factors of population growth, lifestyles, and polluting technologies are checked, the collapse of the earth might be inevitable.

7.Nature is beautiful and we are stewards of God's creation

Among all creatures, humans are the only ones made in God's image and have been given the right to have dominion over all His creations. Being the most intelligent and gifted with reason, humans are capable of manipulating creation to their own advantage. We are made not to rule the world but to help the world. Humans are God's creation and we need to take care of everything.

LAWS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

1. Air quality

Air quality laws govern the emission of air pollutants into the atmosphere. A specialized subset of air quality laws regulate the quality of air inside buildings. Air quality laws are often designed specifically to protect human health by limiting or eliminating airborne pollutant concentrations.

2. Water quality

Water quality laws govern the release of pollutants into water resources, including surface water, ground water, and stored drinking water. Some water quality laws, such as drinking water regulations, may be designed solely with reference to human health. Many others, including restrictions on the alteration of the chemical, physical, radiological, and biological characteristics of water resources, may also reflect efforts to protect aquatic ecosystems more broadly.

3. Waste management

Waste management laws govern the transport, treatment, storage, and disposal of all manner of waste, including municipal solid waste, hazardous waste, and nuclear waste, among many other types. Waste laws are generally designed to minimize or eliminate the uncontrolled dispersal of waste materials into the environment in a manner that may cause ecological or biological harm, and include laws designed to reduce the generation of waste and promote or mandate waste recycling.

4. Contaminant cleanup

Environmental cleanup laws govern the removal of pollution or contaminants from environmental media such as soil, sediment, surface water, or ground water. Unlike pollution control laws, cleanup laws are designed to respond after-the-fact to environmental contamination, and consequently must often define not only the necessary response actions, but also the parties who may be responsible for undertaking (or paying for) such actions.

5. Chemical safety

Chemical safety laws govern the use of chemicals in human activities, particularly man-made chemicals in modern industrial applications. As contrasted with media-oriented environmental laws (e.g., air or water quality laws), chemical control laws seek to manage the(potential) pollutants themselves.

6. Fish and game

Fish and game laws regulate the right to pursue and take kill certain kinds of fish and wild animal. Such laws may restrict the days to harvest fish or game, the number of animals caught per person, the species harvested, or the weapons or fishing gear used. Such laws may seek to balance dueling needs for preservation and harvest and to manage both environment and populations of fish and game.

7. Mineral resources

Mineral resource laws cover several basic topics, including the ownership of the mineral resource and who can work them. Mining is also affected by various regulations regarding the health and safety of miners, as well as the environmental impact of mining.

8. Forest resources

Forestry laws govern activities in designated forest lands, most commonly with respect to forest management and timber harvesting. Ancillary laws may regulate forest land acquisition and prescribed burn practices. Forest management laws generally adopt management policies, such as multiple use and sustained yield, by which public forest resources are to be managed.

9. Wildlife and plants

Wildlife laws govern the potential impact of human activity on wild animals, whether directly on individuals or populations, or indirectly via habitat degradation. Similar laws may operate to protect plant species. Such laws maybe enacted entirely to protect biodiversity, or as a means for protecting species deemed important for other reasons.

10. Water resources

Water resources laws govern the ownership and use of water resources, including surface water and groundwater. Regulatory areas may include water conservation, use restrictions, and ownership regimes.

**Protection and
Conservation of
the Forest for it's
Development**

1. Conserve trees and forests in your area.

Forests and trees—especially big trees and mature forests—have many benefits. They provide habitat for a multitude of species, store carbon, maintain water quality, stabilize the climate, and provide places for people to recreate and connect with nature.

2. Plant trees—the more the better!

Reforestation is a critical part of the solution to climate change, and restoring previously degraded ecosystems provides essential habitat for threatened species.

3. Learn about forests, both local and global.

Educate yourself about forests, their importance, and the threats they face. The more you learn about these wonderful ecosystems, the more you can appreciate their beauty, complexity, and critical role in our planet's health. With your newfound knowledge, you can also inspire others to take action! There are many excellent books, websites, and documentaries out there to explore.

4. Visit forests often.

Spend time in forests and green spaces; they are awe-inspiring. You will have a greater appreciation for and connection with the natural world, as well as positive effects on your health and well-being.

5. Teach kids about forests through books and outdoor exploration.

Kids are the future—inspire in them a love of our planet. Read books about trees, teach them about forest ecosystems or, better yet, explore a park with them! Not only is nature good for kids, exposure to nature as children is correlated with positive environmental attitudes as adults.

6. Share your love of forests with others.

One of the most powerful causes of forest destruction is ignorance. As ancient trees fall around the world and our society becomes increasingly separated from nature by cities and screens, we must all do our part to spread the word about the importance of forest ecosystems.

**What can we do
to Prevent
Environmental
Damage?**

1. Replace disposable items with reusable

Anything you use and throw away can potentially spend centuries in a landfill. See below for simple adjustments you can make to decrease the amount of disposable items in your daily life.

- Carry your own reusable cup or water bottle
- Use airtight, reusable food containers instead of sandwich bags and plastic wrap
- Pack a waste-free lunch: carry your utensils, cloth napkin, and containers in a reusable lunch bag
- Bring your own bags to the grocery store
- Consider buying bulk containers of your preferred beverages and refilling a reusable bottle, instead of buying individually packaged drinks
- Use rechargeable batteries



2. Pass on paper

We are living in the Digital Era, but think about all the paper products you use in your daily life. These actions still align with reusing and repurposing, though may take a little more time for transition.

- Join a library instead of buying books
- Print as little as possible
- Wrap gifts in fabric and tie with ribbon; both are reusable and prettier than paper and sticky-tape
- Stop using paper towels and incorporate washable clothes

3. Conserve water & electricity

The tips you see below will seem like no-brainers ; however, it may take to become more aware of your unconscious habits.

- Turn the sink water off when brushing your teeth
- Switch off anything that uses electricity when not in use (lights, televisions, computers, printers, etc.)
- Unplug devices when possible; even when an appliance is turned off, it may still use power

4. Recycle

Implementing recycling habits into your daily life is one of the most effective ways to help lessen landfill waste, conserve natural resources, save habitats, reduce pollution and cut down on energy consumption.

- Confirm you are using the proper separation containers for your household per the local recycling services
- Remember to make sure your trash bags are recycled or biodegradable, and always cut up the plastic rings from packs of beer or soda to prevent wildlife
- Educate yourself about what can and cannot be recycled, as not all plastic and cardboard is acceptable
- Learn how to identify and dispose of hazardous waste properly

**Attributes of water to the
community, and how
important of sources to
conserve and to protect.**

WHY CLEAN WATER IS IMPORTANT ?

Clean water is vital to our health, communities, and economy. We need clean water upstream to have healthy communities downstream. The health of rivers, lakes, bays, and coastal waters depend on the streams and wetlands where they begin. Streams and wetlands provide many benefits to communities by trapping floodwaters, recharging groundwater supplies, filtering pollution, and providing habitat for fish and wildlife. People depend on clean water for their health.

Benefits to Conserve water :

- If you save water it can save your money bills.
- Reduction in interior water use cuts waste water flows, especially overflowing of gutters which contaminates the environment.
- Environment benefits include eco system and habitat protection.
- Water conservation helps in improving the quality of your drinking water
- Minimizes water pollution and health risks
- Reduces the need for costly water supply and new wastewater treatment facilities
- Maintains the health of aquatic environments
- Saves energy used to pump, heat, and treat water