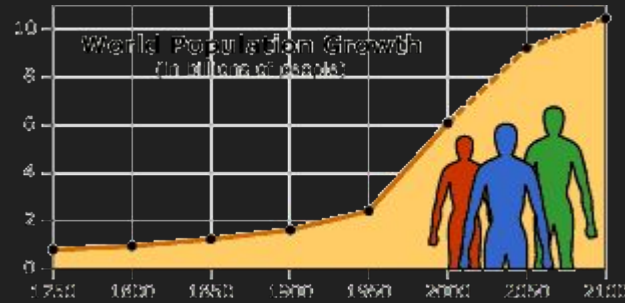


Environmental Policy and Decision Making

Chapter 20



Challenges

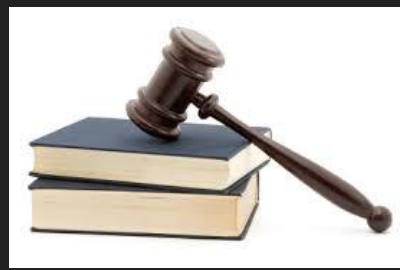


- Population Growth (Doubled in last 50 years) = overfish, overharvest, overgraze
- Globalization = Difficult to regulate and organize relationships between state and local governments
- Communication Revolution = Greater voice for interests and greater demand for role in governmental decisions
- Knowledge driven economy = Now people understand that pollution is waste and waste is inefficient

Environmental Foresight

- Shift from reacting to disasters to anticipating environmental problems and taking steps to prevent them and reduce environmental debt left to future generations.
- Progress has been made but 20% still in poverty, 15% have persistent hunger and 10% of world is homeless.
- Predicted future of profound change in how we farm, build and transport.

Legislative Action



- When Congress passes environmental legislation, it declares and shapes national environmental policy
- Each environmental issue has several committees which provides access but no one committee sees problem as a whole

Role of Executive Branch



- Puts laws into action
- EPA is primary agency for environmental legislation
 - Experts expected to develop most of the details for regulations



Role of Nongovernmental Organizations

- United States recognized as an environmental innovator in the 1970's
- Growth of many environmental groups aided by amendments to tax laws helping financially and gave right to sue on behalf of environmental interests



Lobbying

- Seeking to alter legislation on political issues
- Three categories of environmental lobbyists
 - Industries who operate on a profit motive (ex. Monsanto)
 - Not-for-profit public interest groups dependent on grants and donations
 - Science and research organizations



Administrative Law

- Federal Administrative Procedure Act generating general procedures to be used by federal agencies while making rules
- Some federal agencies influencing environmental issues: EPA, Council on Environmental Quality, the National Forest Service and BLM

National Environmental Policy Act

NEPA (1970): encourages environmental awareness at federal level



- Forces federal agencies to consider the environmental consequences of their action.
- Advises President on state of the Nation's environment
- Creates an advisory council called the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)

Other Important Legislation

Goals: protect human health, welfare and the environment

- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), CERCLA, Clean Air Act (CAA) etc.
- Allows for rule-making, adjudication, administrative law, civil and criminal enforcement, citizen suits and judicial review.

EPA in the Future

- Needs to take a more holistic approach to environmental protection.
- Make environmental foresight or “future analysis” a regular component of the EPA’s practice.
- Work with governmental and private agencies to develop strategies.
- Develop new, innovative ways of doing business.
- Urge the president to work with Congress to draft broad legislation outlining mission of the EPA and give more flexibility.

International Aspects of Environmental Problems

- Economic progress in developing nations could bring environmental peril and international tension.
 - Example: Coal use in China may increase CO₂ emissions by 10% per year
 - Some developing countries may use the environmental for leverage

National Security Issues

- Now need to consider watersheds, croplands, forests, climate, etc.
 - NATO has developed an Office for Scientific and Environmental Affairs
 - U.S. Department of Defense has created an Office of Environmental Security

The Precautionary Principle

- “Better to be safe than sorry” - error on the side of caution even before the science is clear.
- Examples:
 - FDA requires all new drugs to be tested
 - Food Quality and Protection Act mandates pesticides be proven safe or removed
 - NEPA requires impact assessments and mandates consideration of alternative plans

Necessities to solve global issues

- Acknowledge the threat
- Agreement to cooperate
- Commitment to take effective action based on expert advice



International Summits and Agreements

- Stockholm Convention and Earth Summit
- Montreal Protocol (protected ozone layer)
- Science important
- Incentives and voice important
- Government actions need to be consistent
- Ecolabels set standards:



Legislation needed for the AP Test

- Clean Air Act
- Clean Water Act
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)
- Montreal Protocol
- Kyoto Protocol
- Endangered Species Act
- Safe Drinking Water Act
- Delaney Clause of Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)



Progress is being made but...

“Each of us has to adjust our lifestyle to clean up our own small part of the world”

- *Enger and Smith*

