

Know Your Rights, Protect Our Rights

Glossary of Important Environmental Rights Terms

2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference: The conference negotiated the Paris Agreement, a global agreement on the reduction of climate change... The goal is to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees centigrade. The US played a key role in the success of this conference. ([COP21 Website](#))

Dakota Access Pipeline: A \$3.7 billion pipeline is planned at nearly 1,200 miles long to transport some 470,000 barrels of crude oil a day across four states, from North Dakota to a terminal in Illinois, where it can be shipped to refineries. The pipeline would provide a more cost-effective, efficient means of transporting crude, rather than shipping barrels by train. The project would contaminate drinking water and damage sacred burial sites of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. Mr. Trump made two different announcements: his backing of both projects in presidential memoranda, and a plan to use American steel in any and all future pipeline projects. ([BBC](#))

Environmental Impact Assessment: A process of evaluating the likely environmental impacts of a proposed project or development, taking into account inter-related socio-economic, cultural and human-health impacts, both beneficial and adverse. ([Convention on Biological Diversity](#))

Environmental Protection Agency: A US Federal agency created for the purpose of protecting human health and the environment by writing and enforcing regulations based on laws passed by Congress. ([EPA Website](#))

Environmental Refugee: A person displaced owing to environmental causes, notably land loss and degradation, and natural disaster. ([OECD Glossary](#))

Environmental Rights: An extension of the basic human rights that mankind requires and deserves. In addition to having the right to food, clean water, suitable shelter, and education, having a safe and sustainable environment is paramount as all other rights are dependent upon it. ([Pachamama](#))

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): A US Department of Homeland Security agency whose primary purpose is to coordinate the response to a disaster that has occurred in the US and that overwhelms the resources of local and state authorities. The governor of the state in which the disaster occurs must declare a state of emergency and formally request from the president that FEMA and the federal government respond to the disaster. ([FEMA Website](#))

Fossil Fuel: Non-renewable sources of energy that take millions of years to develop and provide us with power to light and heat our homes, drive our vehicles and develop our modern lifestyles. Fossil fuels come in the form of coal, oil or natural gas. They are the cheapest and easiest of all fuels to acquire and use... ([Conserve Energy Future](#))

Green Energy: Energy that comes from natural sources such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, plants, algae and geothermal heat. These energy resources are renewable, meaning they're naturally replenished. ([Mother Nature Network](#))

Human Rights Partisans: As human rights advocates, we are not aligned with any political party; we actively support and protect universal human rights. (HRWSTF)

Stockholm Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment: Showed how the link between human rights and dignity and the environment was very prominent in the early stages of United Nations efforts to address environmental problems. ([OHCR, Human Rights and the Environment](#))

US Clean Water Act (CWA): In 1972, the CWA established the basic structure for regulating pollutant discharges into the waters of the US. Gave EPA the authority to implement pollution control programs such as setting wastewater standards for industry. ([EPA Website](#))