

Timeline: *The History of Green*

Living green is not a new idea. As far back as the late 1970s the word *green* was being used to describe individuals interested in finding ways to protect the environment.

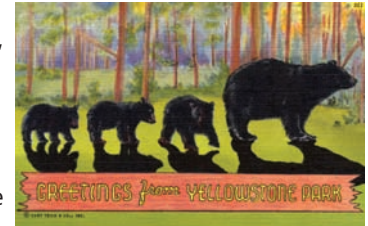
This Land Is Your Land In 1849, the U.S. Senate passes a bill to create the Department of the Interior. This department oversees the management of public parks and maintains the basic responsibilities for public lands.¹



In the Grove of Giant Sequoias On June 30, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signs a bill granting Yosemite Valley to the State of California as an inalienable public trust. This is the first time in history that a federal government sets aside scenic lands simply to protect them and to allow all people to enjoy them.³

Who Invented City Parks? In 1856, Frederick Law Olmsted (1822–1903) becomes the superintendent of construction for Central Park in New York City. He and Calvert Vaux (1824–1895) work together to revolutionize urban park design.²

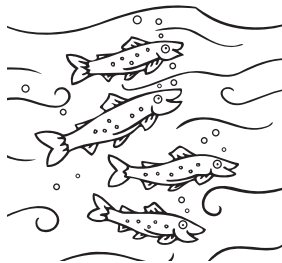
Hel-lo Yellow-stone! With the Act of March 1, 1872, Congress establishes Yellowstone National Park in the territories of Montana and Wyoming. The founding of Yellowstone begins a worldwide national park movement.⁴



There's Acid in My Rain The term *acid rain* is coined in 1872 by Robert Angus Smith (1817–1884), an English scientist. Smith observes that acidic rain, snow, fog, and hail can damage plants and materials.⁵

Excuse Me, There's a Microbe in Your Water In 1908, chlorine is used for the first time as a primary disinfectant of drinking water in Jersey City, NJ.⁷

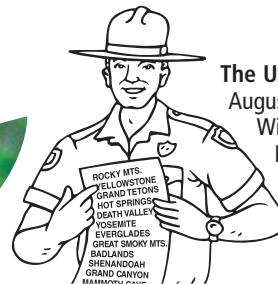
Joy to the Fishes... The Water Pollution Control Act of 1948 enables the government to find ways to eliminate or reduce water pollution.⁹



A Few Words from Ms. Carson 1962 sees the publication of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, "a highly detailed and intellectually challenging book about commercial pesticides." The founding of the EPA "...may be said without exaggeration to be the extended shadow of Rachel Carson."¹¹

Here Comes the EPA! In 1970, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is formed.¹³

Go, John, Go! In 1892, the Sierra Club is founded with 182 charter members. John Muir is elected as the Club's first president.⁶



The U.S. Has Almost 400 Parks On August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signs the act creating the National Park Service, and nearly 400 sites are directed by the NPS today.⁸

Extra, Extra! The Air Is Dirty... The Air Pollution Control Act of 1955 is the first federal legislative attempt to control air pollution at its source.¹⁰

No One Had Passed a Law to Protect the Wilderness Before? In 1964, the world's first wilderness protection law is passed by Congress.¹²

Turn, Turn, Turn! In 1970 Siemens begins building wind turbines.¹⁴

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Timeline: *The History of Green* (continued)

Take a Really Deep Breath In 1970, the Clean Air Act is passed to help make sure our air is safe to breathe.¹⁵

Ptooeey! Some dangerous pesticides such as DDT are banned in 1972 by the EPA.¹⁷



Expanding Hydroelectric Power In 1978, Siemens supplies nine generators for the world's largest hydroelectric power station in Itaipú on Rio Paraná in Brazil and Paraguay.¹⁹

Let's Clean Up Our Act The Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 is signed, emphasizing the importance of preventing—not just correcting—environmental damage.²¹

All the Governments Together Now In 1994, the UN convenes government representatives from around the world to tackle the issue of climate change. The convention serves as the predecessor for the Kyoto Protocol.²³

Let's Cool This Climate In 1997, the Kyoto Protocol calls for industrialized nations to greatly reduce the release of greenhouse gases by 2012.²⁵

Everyone Has an Impact As of 2005, the United States is the single largest emitter of carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels. China is projected to overtake the U.S. within the following two years.²⁷



What Color Was the Green Boat? In 2007, Siemens designs the green boat, a first-of-its-kind model for river-related environmental education and green marine technologies.²⁹

Whoa! Twenty Million? You're Kidding! Twenty million people attend the very first Earth Day in 1970.¹⁶



I'll Have Another Glass of Water In 1972, the Clean Water Act is passed to better ensure our nation's water supply is safe.¹⁸

There's a Hole in the Ozone, Dear Liza Though the government had already banned the use of chlorofluorocarbons due to concern that they could damage the ozone layer, researchers report a large loss of ozone over Antarctica in 1985.²⁰

All the Earth Together Now The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (also known as "The Earth Summit") is held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992.²²

Everyone's Got to Eat, You Know? The Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 tightens standards for pesticides used to grow food, with special protections to ensure that foods are safe for children to eat.²⁴

Things Are Getting Brighter In October 2001, the Jefferson Memorial is relit using the latest lamp technologies: 17,000 SYLVANIA light-emitting diodes that run on 78 percent less energy than before.²⁶



Is It Windy in Here, or Is It Me? Between October 2005 and October 2006, wind generation increases by over 60 percent.²⁸

Can You Imagine 700 Million Tons of Carbon Dioxide? By 2020, wind power could be helping to reduce global annual carbon dioxide emissions by as much as 700 million tons, or about 5 percent of the annual output of CO₂ by all power generators today.³⁰

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