

Environmental Science

The study of the processes

in water,

- air, and
- soil & organisms which lead to pollution or environmental damage.

the scientific basis for the establishment of a standard which can be considered acceptably clean, safe and healthy for human beings and the natural ecosystem.



Quantitative environmental science
Environmental science is an organized body of knowledge about environmental relationships

While quantitative environmental science is an organized collection of mathematical theories that may be used to describe and explore environmental relationships

In this course, some mathematical theories that may be used to describe and explore environmental relationships will be discussed. What is Environmental Engineering? "The application of science and engineering principles to minimize the adverse effects of human activity on the environment."

Water pollutionSolid wasteAir pollutionHazardous waste

Environmental Science (understanding nature & the environment)

Environmental Engineering (applying the knowledge to improve the environment)



Environmental Engineering

 The Environmental Engineering Division of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) has published the following statement of purpose that may be used to show the relationship between environmental science and environmental engineering:

Environmental engineering is manifest by sound engineering thought and practice in the solution of problems of environmental sanitation, notably in the provision of safe, palatable, and ample public water supplies; the proper disposal of or recycle of wastewater and solid wastes; the adequate drainage of urban and rural areas for proper sanitation; and the control of water, soil, and atmospheric pollution, and the social and environmental impact of these solutions. Furthermore it is concerned with engineering problems in the field of public health, such as control of arthropod-borne diseases, the elimination of industrial health hazards, and the provision of adequate sanitation in urban, rural, and recreational areas, and the effect of technological advances on the environment (ASCE, 1977).

Environmental Engineering

 Concerned with the design, manufacture, installation and operation of the engineering systems that sustain and control the environments required by people and processes.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

- is a professional trained in the art of applying scientific principles and technological means to avoid or reduce forms of pollution by human activities.
- This includes possessing a knowledge of past and current engineering practice and an ability to innovate.

Environmental Engineering

- object-focused (problem focused), rather than tool-based
- In other areas of engineering, a need creates a market and the market drives technology development
- In environmental engineering, it starts with a problem, which drives regulations, regulations create the market, and the market drives the technology.
 - It operates at four different levels:
 - remediation of contaminated sites (=fixing the past),
 - treatment of effluents (=dealing with present),
 - pollution prevention, and

care for future generations.

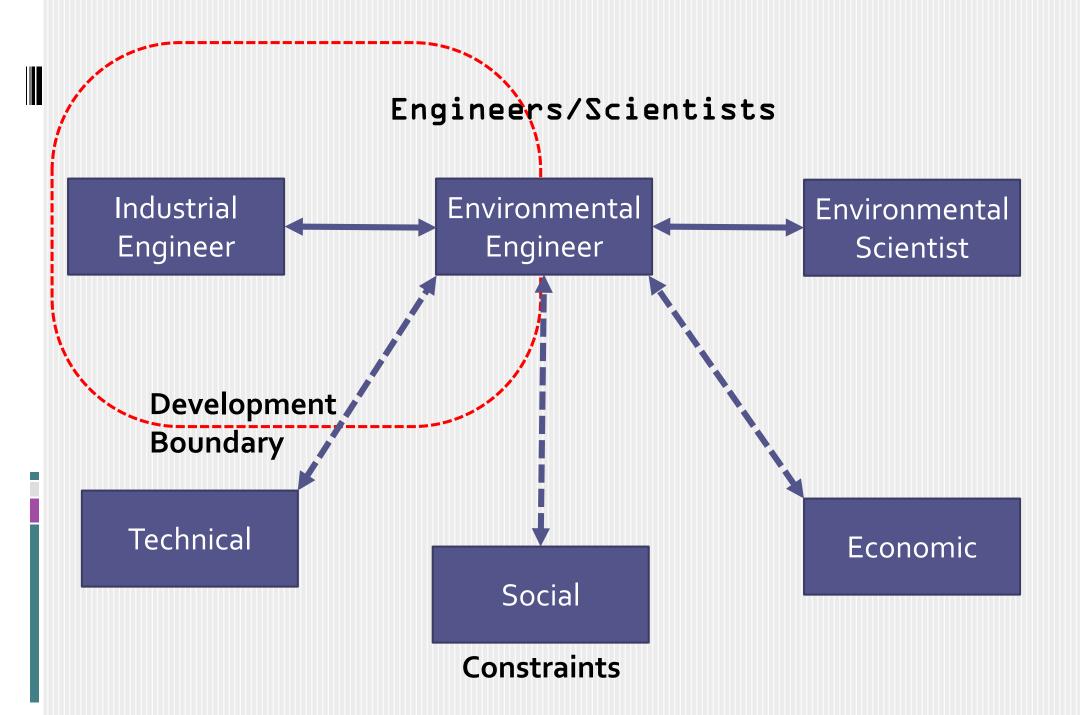
- Environmental remediation (fixing the past)
 - Cleaning up contaminated areas after wastes have been released
 - focuses on toxic and hazardous substances
 - involves far higher costs than other levels
 - involves reaction, separation, or a combination of these
 - may be carried out either by removing contaminated material for treatment/disposal at a centralized location or in some cases may be accomplished in place ("in situ") without such removal

- Treatment of effluents (=dealing with present)
 - Design and analysis of devices for treating polluted effluents.
 - Frequently, a given effluent treatment technology can be applied to wastes arising from a wide diversity of processes.(Eg. activated sludge treatment system are largely the same whether the system is treating sewage or wastewater after manufacture of chemicals, paper or food products.)
 - Distinction needs to be made between point and distributed sources.
 - Treatment of effluent from distributed sources is far more complicated.

- pollution prevention
 - The concept of designing products and processes to minimize environmental impacts
- Example
 - analyzing the life cycle of a particular product
 - from resource extraction,
 - to manufacture (which may involve multiple steps)
 - use (often by individual consumers), and
 - disposal (including recycling)

care for future generations

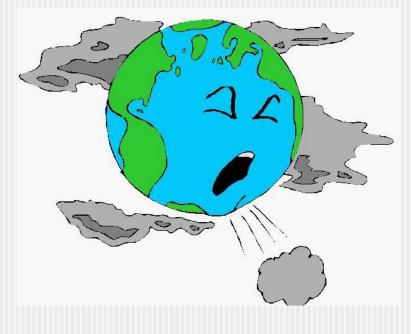
- The goal is to support human society without depleting resource stocks and without accumulating wastes.
- society supported by sustainable resources will be the result of the development and deployment of new processes and technologies within the context of an understanding of the interaction between
 - resource utilization,
 - consumption patterns, and
 - environmental carrying capacity.

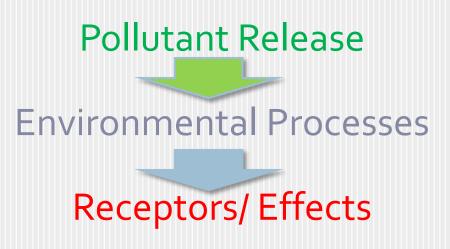


Pollution

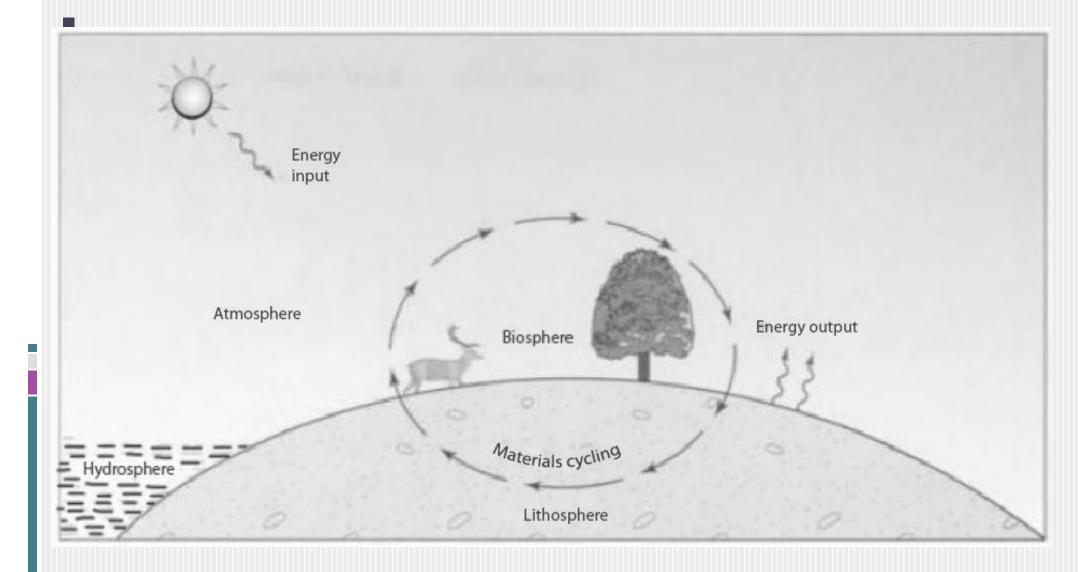
Environmental pollution is

the contamination of the environment with substances that are potentially injurious to human, plant, and animal life or the quality of that life.





Environmental Systems Overview



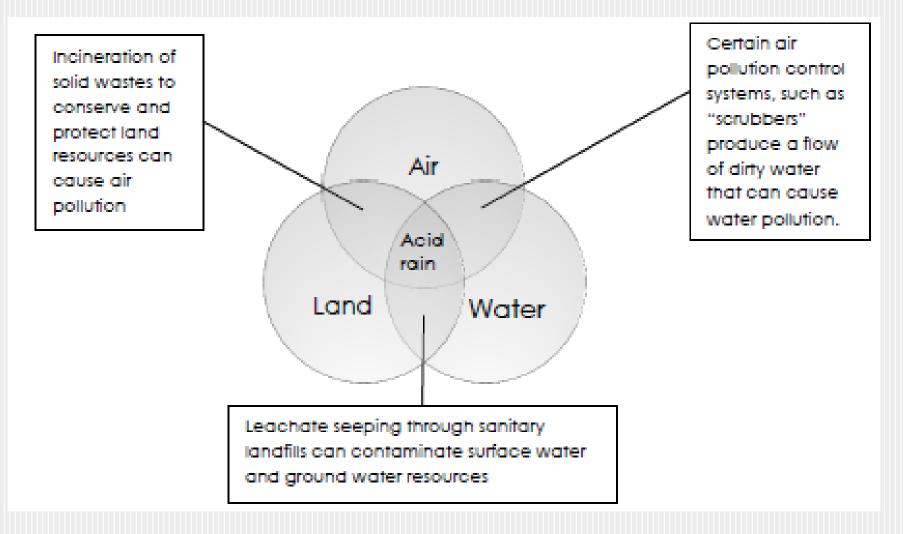
The water resource management system

The air resource management system

The solid waste management system

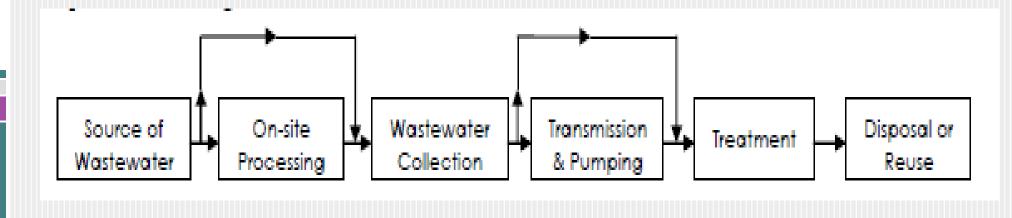
Single-medium and multimedia pollution problems.

Some problems can be *multimedia* pollution problems.



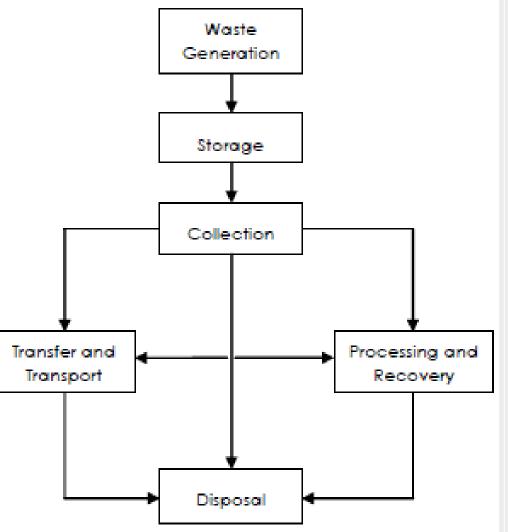
- The water resource management system
 - Water Supply Subsystem

- Design and operation of the collection, purification, transmission & distribution work
- Wastewater Disposal Subsystem



- Air Resource Management System
 - It involves the balance of cost and benefit to obtain a desired quality of air.
 - Air resource management programs are instituted for a variety of reasons. The most defensive reasons are that
 - 1. air quality has deteriorated, and
 - 2. the potential for a future problem is strong.

Solid Waste Management



Example Activities of Environmental Engineers

- Remediation of soil contaminated by a gasoline leak
- Permit application based on atmospheric dispersion estimates
- Improving environmental performance after an audit
- Preparation of an environmental impact assessment

Environmental policies and legislations

- *Problem* ⇒ regulations and policies
- Environmental law consists of all legal guidelines that are intended to protect our environment.
- Environmental law helps
 - To protect the environment and prevent/minimize pollution
 - To keep environmental quality
 - Promote sustainable development

Key Environmental Laws

Year	Title	Purpose
1963	Clean Air Act (CAA)	Legislation to restrict emission levels of air
		pollutants from automobiles.
1974	Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)	Drinking water regulation to protect public health
		which specified the MCLs .
1976	Resource Conservation and	To protect the public from harm caused by waste
	Recovery Act (RCRA)	disposal, to encourage reuse, reduction, and
		recycling, and to clean up spilled or improperly
		stored wastes.
1977	Clean Water Act (CWA)	Legislation for BAT (Best Available Treatment)
		requirement for toxic substances and BCT
		requirement for conventional pollutants.
1980	Comprehensive Environmental	Created to protect public health from heavily
	Response, Compensation, and	contaminated toxic waste sites that have been
	Liability Act (CERCLA)	abandoned.

Environmental Ethics

- Ethics is the systematic analysis of morality.
- Morality is the perceptions we have of what is right and wrong, good or bad, or just or unjust.

An Environmental Code of Ethics

- 1. Use knowledge and skill for the enhancement and protection of the environment.
- 2. Hold paramount the health, safety and welfare of the environment.
- 3. Perform services only in areas of personal expertise.
- 4. Be honest and impartial in serving the public, your employers, your clients and the environment.
- 5. Issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.

Reading assignment

Read about historical perspective of environmental engineering and environmental awareness.

Be nice to Earth as you are to yourself!

