

1956

Eunice Foote was a climate scientist and women's rights activist from New York. She discovered that carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) would raise the temperature of the atmosphere. She said an atmosphere of gas would give our earth a high temperature. She published a paper and it was presented to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, however not by her, by Joseph Henry (the secretary of the Smithsonian institution) because, at the time women were not allowed to be scientists and write papers. However, Three years later John Tyndall of Ireland, did another scientific investigation on this topic, and published a more detailed paper of his findings. And up until recently, his paper was believed to be the foundation of climate science and global warming. However Foote was not recognized until 2011. This was a monumental discovery for our planet and climate science and the basis of the climate crisis.

1872

Yellowstone national park was established The Yellowstone National Park Protection Act was signed into law by President Ulysses S. Grant. This was the first national park ever created. Since then many more have been created throughout the U.S and worldwide. National parks are a place for people to experience the natural world and for nature to be protected, so this was a huge step in the right direction, of realizing that these areas must be protected.

1892

The Sierra Club was formed by John Muir. The goal was to help people get outside and experience nature, protect our ecosystems and resources, and educate people about the planet. This organization helped in the creation of many national parks. Now it helps 15k kids get outside each year, and has retired 372 coal plants in the U.S.

1962

Rachel Carson, American author and scientist, published *Silent Spring*, which educated people on pesticides. She talked about the harmful effects of pesticides on humans, plants, animals, and the environment. This book sold more than 2 million copies. This was a widely read book that drew a lot of attention to the harmful effects we have on our planet. It has impacted a lot of the education around climate change.



1969  
On January 28, 1969 there was a giant oil spill off the coast of Santa Barbara, California. It is the 3rd largest oil spill in U.S waters. 35 miles of coastline was affected and 3 million gallons of crude oil spilled into the water, harming thousands of birds, fish, and sea creatures. The clean up was done by hand, and by a clean up board that skimmed the oil off the water's surface. Many people, including the president, went to visit the site and it set in motion this first push in the environmental movement.

1970  
The first Earth Day took place on April 22, 1970. It was organized by Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, to educate people about our consumption of resources and water and air pollution. He went to colleges and did teach-ins to educate youth about these issues, but it grew to a larger protest across that country. About 20 million people participated in cities and towns across the country. Earth Day was the first publicly lead event in the modern environmental movement. It eventually led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and a lot of environmental legislation.

1970  
The Environmental Protection Agency was created in December of 1970. It was created by President Nixon at a time when there was a lot of public concern for the environment, specifically water and air pollution. The EPA is a huge part of protecting our earth today, and many different things have come from it. Between Helping creat environmental laws, or putting those laws into practice. They have done so much to help us towards a cleaner future. Source: EPA history

1970  
The Clean Air Act was created to regulate air emissions and pollutants. This is a federal law that applies to both stationary and mobile sources of air pollution. The goal was to protect public health and limit air pollution. The EPA created standards to which each state/organization has to meet. In 1977 and 1990 there were amendments made to the act after many states could not meet these standards, to make them more achievable. We would not be where we are today without the Clean Air Act. The air that we breathe wouldn't be nearly as clean as it is now. This law has done so much for our air quality and It was a huge step for the environmental movement.



1972

The Clean Water Act (CWA) was established to regulate the pollutants being discharged into U.S. waters. The law also regulates surface water pollution. The EPA created standards for these pollutants and they started pollution control programs. The goal was to protect water quality and provide Americans with safe drinking water. This was a huge part in preserving our water, and they now protect millions of miles of coastline, lakes, rivers, and bays. An example of this can be found in Mono Lake, which provides habitat for many plants and animals, and without the CWA, the water levels would be down significantly.

1973

The Endangered Species Act was signed into law by president Nixon on December 28, 1973. The goal was to protect threatened species and their habitats. It has protected hundreds of plants and animals from extinction both nationally and internationally. These species include 22 fish, 3 amphibians, 3 reptiles, 14 mammals, and 36 birds.

1990

Organized by Denis Hayes and a group of environmental leaders The second Earth Day Takes place. This time Earth Day goes global to about 141 countries, with about 200 million people participating. It put environmental issues on pedestal for world leaders, letting them know that the people wanted action. It was a huge step in the environmental movement and has led to worldwide Initiatives for the climate.

1992

The United Nations Earth Summit took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June of 1992. It was focused on sustainable development, economic development, reducing poverty, and protecting Earth's ecosystems. This was the first time the UN included non-governmental groups, like farmers, Indigenous people, business industry, youth, and more. This led to the creation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and more.



2016

The Paris Agreement was signed on April 22 2016. The Paris Agreement commits to countries taking action to reduce carbon emissions, help prevent global warming, and help developing countries fight climate change and strengthen resilience to the effects of climate change. They agreed to review their goals and progress every 5 years, and evaluate how well they are doing as a country ("The Paris Agreement | United Nations"). 196 countries signed it. This was a huge step in the right direction for countries all over the world. It committed governments to doing something to reduce climate change and has made a huge difference, even if not every country has completely met their goals.

2018

In 2018, Greta Thunberg, from Sweden started protesting at the Swedish parliament building every friday. At first it was just her, but then as more people joined, more attention was drawn to them. It eventually went global on social media and youth around the world striked school to protest for the climate. In September of 2019 there was a protest in 151 countries with about 3,973,659 people participating that day. (source: Fridays for the future.org) This was an important moment because it mobilized thousands of youth from around the world to protest for our planet. This movement has continued to this day and is still having an impact globally.