

U.S. OVERPOPULATION: EARTH'S BIGGEST PROBLEM

150,000,000: U.S. population in 1950
323,000,000: U.S. population today
400,000,000: projected U.S. population in 2050



The first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 1970, when millions of Americans united to raise wide-scale awareness of the environmental damage humans are causing – and to commit to more sustainable environmental practices. What started with 20 million Americans rallying for better environmental protection has become a global movement, with over 1 billion people participating each year. NPG is pleased to have stood beside these concerned environmental activists for over 40 years.

NPG is a national nonprofit membership organization founded in 1972. Our broad goal is to slow, halt, and eventually reverse U.S. population growth in order to protect our environment and quality of life for future generations. Earth Day presents an incredible opportunity to make population size and growth a key element of the environmental debate.

The U.S. is the world's fastest-growing industrialized country, and the third most populous nation on earth. We've grown by nearly 120 million people since the first Earth Day in 1970. The last official U.S. Census saw an increase of more than 27.3 million people between 2000 and 2010. More people means more pollution, more sprawl, less green space, and even more demands on the earth's already overburdened natural resources.

You can see evidence of the problem all around you – traffic congestion, overcrowded schools, urban sprawl, vanishing open spaces, threatened and extinct species, water and energy shortages, and pollution.

- Overpopulation is particularly a problem in the U.S., where consumption levels are far higher than in the rest of the world. In 2014, our nation had less than 5% of the world's population but was responsible for over 20% of global oil consumption.
- Currently the U.S. has no policy on population – even though both the Rockefeller Commission in 1972 and the President's Commission on Sustainable Development in 1995 recommended that the U.S. adopt policies to stabilize the population. Since 1970, the U.S. has worked to establish environmental protection policies – **but because of population growth, our consumption and emissions rates remain problematic.**
- U.S. population growth impacts almost every aspect of our daily lives, and every area of our country. Every hour, the U.S. loses fifty acres of farm and ranch land to sprawl and development. Water use in the U.S. has nearly doubled since 1950, growing right alongside our population. In 2013, Americans generated 254 million tons of trash – representing 4.4 pounds per person per day – and our total garbage creation has nearly tripled since 1960.



If we want to protect our environment,
we must talk about population growth.
NPG is leading the conversation – and YOU CAN HELP.
Visit www.NPG.org to get involved today!