

UCLA

Electronic Green Journal

Title

Environmental Information Sources: Websites and Books

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/5sm0v2ns>

Journal

Electronic Green Journal, 1(28)

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Publication Date

2009

DOI

10.5070/G312810784

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Peer reviewed

EGJ
Issue 28
Spring 2009
ISSN 1076-7975
Environmental Resources: Web Sites and Books

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Web Sites are listed in the following categories:
Commercial Entities
Educational Sites
International Sites
Nonprofit & Research Organizations
U.S. Federal Agencies' and State Government Sites

Books

Commercial Entities

ConsumerReports.org: Saving on energy costs
<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/home-garden/resource-center/saving-on-energy-costs-10-07/overview/energy-ov.htm>

Lists 10 actions that individuals can take to save energy costs based on *Consumer Reports'* experts' testing of products and programs designed to save energy and pointing out those "that promise more than they deliver."

Financial Times: Climate Change Series
<http://www.ft.com/climatechangeseries>

From the website for the U.K. newspaper, the *Financial Times*, this news series "looks at the politics of climate change." Includes stories related to the developed world and emerging economies, opinion pieces, and interactive features on climate change agreement and mapping carbon dioxide emissions. Provides links to stories on the science aspects of global warming. ***

GreenHomeGuide
<http://www.greenhomeguide.com/>

This website from the U.S. Green Building Council features a "combination of tips, case studies, expert Q&A articles and regional directories of products and services." Browse by area or feature of the home, such as bathrooms or flooring. A product directory (covering San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles, and New York City) provides a detailed description of the process of selecting and approving the products included in it, noting that "only a minority of products are approved." ***

Educational Sites

American Museum of Natural History: Science Bulletins
<http://www.amnh.org/sciencebulletins/>

This website stands in for visiting the American Museum of Natural History in person in New York City. Online video features present developments in the fields of astrophysics, human biology, biodiversity, and evolution. Science educators can benefit from guides on the website to help them incorporate content from the Science Bulletins in their teaching and classroom learning activities.*

Endangered Species Photo Map from *National Geographic*

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2009/01/endangered-species/photo-map-interactive>

Accompanying the January 2009 *National Geographic* article, "Countdown to Extinction," the magazine's website presents an interactive photo map of animals in the United States that are endangered or threatened (20 species as of April 2009). Visitors to the site can learn more about the Endangered Species Act, which protects the animals depicted on the map, by clicking a link to "Feature Article" that appears above map.*

Forces of Change

<http://forces.si.edu/index.html>

This informative website from the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History suggests that "to understand our world, we must understand change." The site looks explores change in climate, ecology, and culture. Based on a wide variety of research, the site's content examines how different types of changes affect life on earth, featuring phenomena like El Nino, volcanic eruptions, and atmospheric changes. Sections are labeled: arctic, atmosphere, science at work, media library, for educators, and in the news. Content includes interviews with researchers, reports of research findings, and educational activities for pre-K to ninth grade students. *

Forest Encyclopedia Network

<http://www.forestencyclopedia.net/>

This site, maintained as a joint effort of the USDA's Forest Service Southern Research Station and Southern Regional Extension Forestry, is an open-access information source to which scientists and others are invited to submit content. The available online encyclopedias include: the Encyclopedia of Southern Appalachian Forest Ecosystems; the Encyclopedia of Forest Environmental Threats (for all North American forests); the Encyclopedia of the Southern Pine Beetle; the Encyclopedia of Southern Fire Science; and the Encyclopedia of Southern Bioenergy. The site is searchable, or visitors may browse using a thematic or global view. Topics under the global view are landscape, ecology, socio-economics, and forest health protections. *

Interactive Teaching Units: Green Chemistry

<http://www.rsc.org/Education/HElecturers/Resources/ITUs.asp>

The Royal Society of Chemistry in the U.K. sponsors this website that presents a series of green chemistry teaching exercises from the University of Glasgow. Known as Interactive Teaching Units (ITUs), modules on the site are entitled "The Age of Refrigeration," "Titanium and the Titanium Dioxide Industry," and "The Atom Economy." The teaching units are based on the concept of problem-based learning and introduce key concepts of green chemistry and sustainability in an industrial context. The materials on the site can be used in the college classroom in order to develop both teamwork and communication skills.*

National Geographic: Blue Whales

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2009/03/blue-whales/brower-text>

This interactive article from the *National Geographic* from March 2009 features photography by Flip Nicklin and writing by Ken Brower about a study off the shores of Costa Rica, where blue whales were once nearly extinct. A photo gallery and video provide arresting images. A section called "Interactive Blue Whale" describes a project funded by the National Geographic Society in which scientists aim "to find, identify, and tag California blue whales, use the DNA samples to confirm the sex of individual whales, then rejoin the massive creatures' stunning migration when they collect at a chimera known as the Costa Rica Dome." *

Nevada Natural Heritage Program

<http://heritage.nv.gov/>

The website explains that the program's "mission is to help coordinate the resource needs of Nevada's diverse biological heritage with human activities. We do this by maintaining an inventory and current databases on the locations, biology, conservation, and management status of all threatened, endangered, sensitive, and at-risk species and biological communities, and of noxious weed infestations, in the state." Sections of the website provide information about ecology, geographic information systems, a rare plant atlas of Nevada, wildflower reports, bryophytes of Nevada, and "Great Basin Precipitation Watch." An additional feature is a list of laws and regulations governing the Heritage Program's activities. *

Oregon Explorer

<http://oregonexplorer.info/>

Developed by the Oregon State University Library, this site features topics in natural resources and provides access to an integrated collection of data from state and federal agencies, local governments, university scientists, and citizens. An extensive collection of photographs and videos are available along with maps, charts, publications, and a directory of conservation experts. The OE team develops customized reporting, visualization and mapping tools to provide data and information useful to improve decision-making and management of natural resource and the environment. The content presented on OE is stored primarily in the Libraries' ScholarsArchive (Dspace and Content-DM) and uses LibraryFind as a search engine. Visitors to the site can browse in topic areas of animals and plants, geology and geography, habitats and vegetation, land and people, or water and air.

Scitable from Nature Education

<http://www.nature.com/scitable>

Developed by the education division of the Nature Publishing Group, this site is billed as an "open, online teaching/learning portal." It offers freely accessible articles and resource packs for classroom activities. The primary emphasis is genetics, though the publisher plans to expand to other topics. Teachers can create online classrooms in which they can direct students to readings and conduct discussions. Classroom resource packs are available for these categories: human genetics; genomics; genetics & society; genes and the environment; and techniques in genetics and biotechnology. Research articles on the site include primary literature, review articles and pieces published in *Nature Education*. Other content areas are images, "learning paths," which are classroom lesson plans, and tests. Topical sections of the site are: chromosomes and cytogenetics; evolutionary genetics; gene expression and regulation; gene inheritance and transmission; genes and disease; genetics and society; genomics; nucleic acid structure and function; and population and quantitative genetics.

Sierra Warming

<http://www.sacbee.com/sierrawarming/>

This series of news stories and opinion pieces published in the *Sacramento Bee* newspaper in 2008 investigates climate change in California's Sierra Nevada region. Some of the topics include Sierra snowpack, forests, fire, and ice caves. Includes video reports, photos, interactive graphics, blog entries, and links to related websites about climate change. ***

The State of the Birds

<http://www.stateofthebirds.org/>

Website for "the first ever comprehensive report [released March 2009] on bird populations in the United States, showing that nearly a third of the nation's 800 bird species are endangered, threatened or in significant decline due to habitat loss, invasive species, and other threats." Find the report, maps, data, and suggestions for how to get involved in bird population studies. Produced for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. ***

Yale Environment 360
<http://e360.yale.edu/>

This online publication from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies provides reports, opinion, analysis, interviews, and other material on environmental topics. The site features “original articles by scientists, journalists, environmentalists, academics, policy makers, and business people, as well as multimedia content and a daily digest of major environmental news.” Visitors to the site may browse by world regions or by topics such as biodiversity, climate, energy, forests, and water. **

International Sites

BirdLife International: State of the World's Birds
<http://www.biodiversityinfo.org/sowb/default.php?r=sowbhome>

BirdLife International is a global Partnership of conservation organizations that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people to promote sustainability in the use of natural resources. The website features research reports that document the state of the world's birds. The site is arranged by four major sections: STATE, which represents “what we know about the changing state of the world's birds; PRESSURE, “why birds are declining; and RESPONSE, “what can be done to improve their status.” The site says that the information represents “a synthesis of our knowledge to date and provides a benchmark against which we can assess our efforts to conserve birds and biodiversity into the future.” Reports from 2004 and 2008 on the state of the world's birds are accessible in English and French; the 2008 report is also available in Spanish. *

Energy [R]evolution
<http://www.energyblueprint.info/>

Greenpeace International and the European Renewable Energy Council (EREC) co-sponsor this website. “The ‘energy [r]evolution: a sustainable world outlook’ is an independently produced report that provides a practical blueprint for how to half global CO2 emissions, while allowing for an increase in energy consumption by 2050. By dividing the world into 10 regions, with a global summary, it explains how existing energy technologies can be applied in more efficient ways. It demonstrates how a ‘business as usual’ scenario, based on IEA’s World Energy Outlook projections, is not an option for environmental, economic and security of supply reasons.” Links to examples of projects, policy recommendations, and related material round out the site’s content. **

Green Jobs: Towards Decent Work in a Sustainable, Low-Carbon World
http://www.unep.org/labour_environment/features/greenjobs-report.asp

This report, released in October 2008 by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), examines definitions and policies, employment impacts, and employment outlook for jobs that contribute to preserving or restoring the environment. Employment sectors discussed on the site include energy supply alternatives, green and energy-efficient buildings, transportation, basic industry, food and agriculture, and forestry. Includes links to a report summary (also in French and Spanish) and press release. ***

Green Recovery: A Program to Create Good Jobs and Start Building a Low-Carbon Economy
http://www.peri.umass.edu/green_recovery/

This report was published by the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts in September 2008 and “shows that the U.S. can create two million jobs by investing in a rapid green economic recovery program.” The website provides the full report, a summary of findings, and accompanying publications about the impact of a green recovery program on specific U.S. states. ***

OECD: Climate Change

http://www.oecd.org/department/0,3355,en_2649_34361_1_1_1_1_1,00.html

Readers of the Electronic Green Journal are familiar with the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), which has had a climate change group as part of their Environment Directorate for many years. They work "to assist countries to implement effective and efficient policies to address climate change by conducting policy-relevant research and analysis." Near the top of their homepage, visitors will find two particularly helpful sections: "Publications & Documents" and "Information By Country". The "Publications & Documents" are divided into sections that include news releases, policy briefs, case studies, and best practices. *

State of World Population 2008

<http://www.unfpa.org/swp/2008/en/>

In November 2008, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) put out its State of World Population book, along with a Youth Supplement, and both are available in their entirety on the UNFPA website. The book is entitled "Reaching Common Ground: Culture, Gender and Human Rights," and the Youth Supplement is entitled "Generation of Change: Young People and Culture". The website states that "culture is and always has been central to development. As a natural and fundamental dimension of people's lives, culture must be integrated into development policy and programming," and that the "report shows how the process works in practice." Content in the nine chapters of the report is written in an accessible style, with heart-wrenching facts and surprising statistics. It is encouraging to learn about successes by the UNFPA, which have been achieved by exercising cultural sensitivity to the traditions and beliefs of the groups with whom they work. *

UNEP: Atlas of Our Changing Environment.

http://na.unep.net/digital_atlas2/google.php

This website from the United Nations Environment Programme documents changes to the world's environment that have taken place in the last 40 years as results of human or natural influences. 185 locations are annotated with photographs and aerial map images that depict environmental changes over time or before and after major events. Pictures can be downloaded as TIFF or JPEG images, PowerPoint slides, or posters, and all are freely accessible. Visitors to the site may click on an interactive world map or gain access to the locations by name, country, or theme, as well as searching by subcategories such as biodiversity and protected areas, extreme events, pollution, population and urban growth, or wetlands.

World Bank: Biodiversity

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/ENVIRONMENT/EXTBIODIVERSITY/0,,menuPK:400959~pagePK:149018~piPK:149093~theSitePK:400953,00.html>

Many readers may be unaware of the World Bank's work in the area of biodiversity. As the world's largest financier of biodiversity initiatives, the World Bank funds initiatives such as: establishing and strengthening protected areas (including activities in buffer zones); sustainable use of biodiversity outside protected of protected areas; eradication of alien species; and biodiversity conservation through improved management and sustainable use of natural resources in the production landscape. The website presents reports on biodiversity, the role of indigenous peoples in environmental conservation, and a review of the World Bank's projects in this area since 1988. Additional topics featured on the site are biodiversity and poverty, biosafety, mountain ecosystems, and participatory conservation. *

Nonprofit & Research Organizations

American Society of Limnology and Oceanography

<http://aslo.org/index.html>

This professional organization's website describes society activities and research conducted by society members, including publication of scholarly journals, international symposia, and conferences. Links to "about ASLO," "general information," and "what is limnology?" provide an overview of the discipline. "Limnology is the study of inland waters, such as lakes, reservoirs, rivers, streams, wetlands, and groundwater as ecological systems that interact with their drainage basins and the atmosphere." The "Programs" area of the website provides the most accessible information for nonmembers of the society. Resources include an image library (images are free to view and to use in educational activities), articles about ethical concerns in the disciplines, resources for scientists early in their careers, and programs for current students. *

Arctic Research Consortium of the U.S.

<http://www.arcus.org/>

The website explains that "the Arctic Research Consortium of the U.S. (ARCUS) was formed in 1988 as a nonprofit member consortium of educational and scientific institutions that have a substantial commitment to arctic research." ARCUS activities are funded through member dues and contracts and grants with federal and private entities. ARCUS promotes important arctic research initiatives, produces scientific reports that reflect recommendations from researchers for arctic science priorities, and distributes information resources to the arctic research community. The website lists publications and descriptions of workshops and symposia. An Internet Media Archive offers photographs, graphics, videos, and presentations generated by ARCUS in the course of their work in and around the Arctic. A mailing list called "ArcticInfo" provides press releases about research findings, job announcements, and funding opportunities. *

Bottled Water Quality Investigation: 10 Major Brands, 38 Pollutants

<http://www.ewg.org/reports/bottledwater>

The non-profit Environmental Working Group presents this summary and results from a report published in 2008 about "laboratory tests conducted ... at one of the country's leading water quality laboratories [that] found that 10 popular brands of bottled water ... contained 38 chemical pollutants altogether, with an average of 8 contaminants in each brand." Links on the site describe the investigative methodology, policy recommendations, and suggestions for consumers, which include avoiding many types of plastic bottles. **

CleanPower.org

<http://www.ceert.org/>

The Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies (CEERT) is an organization of scientists, environmentalists, public interest advocates, and energy technology companies, which works to provide "global warming solutions for California and the West" by promoting "sustainable resources and nonpolluting technologies to meet the world's integral appetite for energy." The website features news, a blog, reports, project descriptions, and more on topics such as California's climate policies, reducing coal use, and solar and wind energy. **

The Economics of Nuclear Power

<http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/inf02.html>

This January 2009 article from the World Nuclear Association (WNA) considers whether nuclear power production "is cost competitive with other forms of electricity generations." Discusses external costs, the cost of fuel, comparisons of electricity generation and costs of different fuels and technologies, future cost competitiveness, and reprocessing fuel. The website provides links to an extensive report from 2005 on the same subject and links to many other research reports and educational papers. The WNA bills itself as an organization "promoting the peaceful worldwide use of nuclear power as a sustainable energy resource." **

Gardener's Guide to Global Warming

<http://www.nwf.org/gardenersguide/>

Collection of materials relating to garden plants and the potential impact of global warming. An interactive map of the U.S. invites visitors to the website to click on their state to find out "if your official State Trees or State Flowers may be affected." The map is color coded to show at a glance states whose flower or tree will be affected or where no effects have occurred yet. Additional features are an interactive USDA hardiness zone map for 1990-2006, a list of undesirable invasive plants, and a gardener's pledge to help fight global warming. Includes links to related material, such as a 2007 report of the same name. From the National Wildlife Federation. **

Green Your Spring Cleaning

<http://www.coopamerica.org/pubs/greenpages/greentips/march.cfm?notext=t>

This tip sheet offers ideas for environmentally responsible house cleaning, such as using old clothing and sheets for dust rags, avoiding cleaners that contain phosphates, and replacing mothballs with a more benign alternative. Includes links to a related article on making your own nontoxic cleaning products and to cleaning product listings in a screened green business directory. From Green America (formerly Co-op America), a nonprofit membership organization). ***

Landmark Study on Green Collar Jobs

http://blogs.calstate.edu/cpdc_sustainability/?p=245

This study, which was released in February 2008, is written by a professor of urban studies at San Francisco State University, who "found that green collar jobs are highly suitable for people who would typically struggle to find work." The website provides the full report, findings from which were based on interviews with more than 20 green businesses in Berkeley, California, and an executive summary and news story. **

Livable Streets

<http://www.livablestreets.com/>

This initiative is supported by [The Open Planning Project](#), a non-profit technology incubator, and aims to encourage citizens to implement design practices that promote healthy, livable urban environments. The site explains that it is "an online community for people working to create sustainable cities through sensible urban planning, design, and transportation policy." It provides "free, open source, web-based, resources to citizens working to create a greener economy, address climate change, reduce oil dependence, alleviate traffic congestion, and provide better access to good jobs in healthy communities." Sections of the site include: Streetsblog, Streetfilms, Streetswiki, Community, and Education. The Streetswiki is a community-created encyclopedia on topics related to transportation and urban and public space. The Community area on the website aims to help readers find local community groups who are working on these issues. *

TreeBrowser: Utah State University Extension Service

<http://www.treebrowser.org>

This website is designed to help homeowners and landscape planners, especially in Utah and the Intermountain West, to identify trees that meet desired criteria for planting. The site presents 1076 photos of 241 trees in this region. Descriptions of trees include flowers, fruits, bark, growth rate, mature height, family, type, and other details. Information is provided about trees' growth patterns, ornamental uses, and tolerance of drought and various types of pests. The site was developed and is maintained by Michael Kuhns, USU Forestry Extension Specialist with assistance from staff at Box Elder County, Utah, Extension Service.

U.S. Federal Agencies' and State Government Sites

About Tar Sands

<http://ostseis.anl.gov/guide/tarsands/index.cfm>

Online fact sheet from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management about tar sands, or oil sands, which are "a combination of clay, sand, water, and bitumen, a heavy black viscous oil. Tar sands can be mined and processed to extract the oil-rich bitumen, which is then refined into oil." Discusses tar sands locations, the industry ("only Canada has a large-scale commercial tar sands industry"), extraction and processing, and related topics. "Processing tar sands involves a variety of environmental impacts, such as global warming and greenhouse gas emissions, disturbance of mined land; impacts on wildlife and air and water quality." Another environmental concern is that processing tar sands requires several barrels of water for each barrel of oil produced. **

Agriculture, Climate Change, and Carbon Sequestration

<http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/carbonsequestration.pdf>

From the National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service, this 16-page paper uses findings from research on climate change to explore "the relationship between agriculture, climate change and carbon sequestration." Illustrative graphics and charts present data about green house gas emissions and carbon pools in agriculture and forestry. Discussion of subsidizing positive behaviors explains cost shares, carbon taxes, conservation tillage, and rotating crops to maintain diversity. *

California Trout

<http://www.caltrout.org/>

Website for California Trout (CalTrout), "the nation's first statewide conservation group supported by trout fishermen with an altruistic goal: to protect and restore trout and the beautiful places where they live." The website links to reports about the threatened and endangered state of the "32 native California salmonid species -- from coastal cutthroat to golden trout," from November 2008 and the economic value of recreational fishing in California. News and background information about conservation efforts are accessible from the website. **

Concerns Rise Over Known and Potential Impacts of Lead on Wildlife

http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/disease_information/lead_poisoning/index.jsp

The National Wildlife Health Center of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) presents this article about the potential health impacts on "upland game birds, scavengers (such as vultures, hawks and eagles) and other waterbirds that are exposed to lead through the ingestion of spent lead shot, bullet fragments and fishing sinkers." The site presents several links to related information about lead poisoning and wildlife and a link to a "National Atlas," which is a map that shows the geographic extent of lead poisoning in wild birds. **

Genetically Engineered Animals

<http://www.fda.gov/cvm/GEAnimals.htm>

This website from the Food and Drug Administration presents documents related to final guidance for industry about regulation of genetically engineered (GE) animals that the agency released in January 2009. The site defines genetic engineering as "a targeted and powerful method of introducing desirable traits into animals using recombinant DNA (rDNA) technology" and reminds readers that "DNA is the chemical inside the nucleus of a cell that carries the genetic instructions for making living organisms." FDA's guidance explains the process used to regulate GE animals and offers recommendations to producers of GE animals that will help them meet their obligations and responsibilities under the law. Making the guidance readily accessible on the web could help the average citizen to gain a better understanding of this emerging and important area of research and production. **

Geothermal Technologies Program of the U.S. Department of Energy
<http://www1.eere.energy.gov/geothermal/>

This website describes the use and potential of geothermal energy along with some history of geothermal energy use in the U.S., photos of applications of geothermal energy technology, and information on geothermal power plants and their operation. Policy makers, scientists, and others will benefit from the site's content. *

Green Cleaners
<http://www.metro-region.org/index.cfm/go/by.web/id=1400>

This article presents alternatives to home cleaning products that are toxic and harmful to the environment. Recipes are provided for general cleaners, laundry soap, bathroom and kitchen cleaners, carpet deodorizers, stain removers, furniture polish, and other household cleaning products. The site also provides a listing of ingredients for alternative cleaners, shopping tips and other suggestions to reduce toxins in the household, and information in Spanish. The website is maintained by the Metro Regional Government in Portland, Oregon. ***

National Park Service Centennial Initiative, 1916-2016
<http://www.nps.gov/2016/>

This website compiles background and announcements about National Park Service (NPS) programs in preparation for its centennial in 2016. Readers will find links to news releases, centennial strategies for specific parks, an interactive report "The Future of America's Parks," videos, and other centennial material. The website reports on approved projects by state and presents links to statistics about the National Park System. **

Natural Resources Conservation Service: Backyard Conservation
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/backyard/>

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and its website offers this feature on backyard conservation that describes how conservation practices from agricultural land have been adapted for the smaller scale of backyards. A 28-page booklet entitled "Bringing conservation from the countryside to your backyard" is available in English or Spanish along with tip sheets for backyard conservation on topics like backyard wetland, composting, mulching, nutrient management, pest management, terracing, tree planting, and wildlife habitat. An archive of older tip sheets includes some with intriguing titles like, "Invite a Toad to Dinner," "Dream Yard," and "Beneficial Bats." Teachers may benefit from a collection of "Backyard Conservation Lesson Plans." *

USDA: Sustainable Agriculture
<http://www.usda.gov/oce/sustainable/agriculture.htm>

This site is a sub-division of a site on sustainable development and presents links to reports and news briefs about the USDA's efforts to support sustainable agriculture. The documents address ways in which "farmers and ranchers are experimenting with more sustainable approaches to producing and distributing food and fiber" and explore the common goals to make farms more profitable, to achieve better environmental stewardship, and to benefit families and communities. *

United States Environmental Protection Agency: Personal Emissions Calculator
http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind_calculator.html

This online calculator enables its users to get a rough estimate of personal or family greenhouse gas emissions and to explore the impact of taking various actions to reduce emissions. The calculator has three sections: estimate current total household emissions; explore actions that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions, energy use, and waste disposal costs; and discover how much savings in dollars and emissions could result from actions chosen in the preceding section.

Acknowledgements

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