

SEC. 2. The Congress, recognizing the profound impact of man's activity on the interrelations of all components of the natural environment, both living and nonliving, and the critical importance of restoring and maintaining environmental quality to the overall welfare and development of man, declares that it is the continuing policy of the Federal Government, in cooperation with State and local governments, urban and rural planners, industry, labor, agriculture, science, and conservation organizations, to use all practicable means and measures, including financial and technical assistance, in a manner calculated to foster and promote the general welfare, to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony, and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans.

SEC. 3. The President shall transmit to the Congress annually beginning June 30, 1968, an Environmental Quality Report (hereinafter referred to as the "report") which shall set forth (1) the status and condition of the major natural, man-made, or altered environmental classes of the Nation, including, but not limited to, the air, the aquatic, including marine, estuarine, and fresh water, and the terrestrial environment, including, but not limited to, the forest, dryland, wetland, range, urban, suburban, and rural environment; and (2) current and foreseeable trends in management and utilization of such environments and the effects of those trends on the social, economic, and other requirements of the Nation.

SEC. 4. (a) There is created in the Executive Office of the President a Council on Environmental Quality (hereafter referred to as the "Council"). The Council shall be composed of three members who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, each of whom shall be a person who, as a result of his training, experience, and attainments, is exceptionally qualified to analyze and interpret environmental information of all kinds, to appraise programs and activities of the Government in the light of the policy set forth in section 2 of this Act, and to formulate and recommend national policy to promote the improvement of our environmental quality.

(b) The Council may employ such officers and employees as may be necessary to carry out its functions under this Act. In addition, the Council may employ and fix the compensation of such experts and consultants as may be necessary for the carrying out of its functions under this Act, in accordance with section 3109 of title 5, United States Code (but without regard to the last sentence thereof).

(c) It shall be the duty and function of the Council—

(1) to assist and advise the President in the preparation of the Environmental Quality Report;

(2) to gather timely and authoritative information concerning the conditions and trends in environmental qualities both current and prospective, to analyze and interpret such information for the purpose of determining whether such conditions and trends are interfering, or are likely to interfere, with the achievement of the policy set forth in section 2 of this Act, and to compile and submit to the President studies relating to such conditions and trends;

(3) to appraise the various programs and activities of the Federal Government in the light of the policy set forth in section 2 of this Act for the purpose of determining the extent to which such programs and activities are contributing to the achievement of such policy, and to make recommendations to the President with respect thereto;

(4) to develop and recommend to the President national policies to foster and promote the improvement of environmental quality to meet social, economic, and other requirements of the Nation; and

(5) to make and furnish such studies, reports thereon, and recommendations with respect to matters of policy and legislation as the President may request.

(d) The Council shall make an annual report to the President in May each year.

(e) In exercising its powers, functions, and duties under this Act—

(1) the Council shall consult with such representatives of science, industry, agriculture, labor, conservation, organizations, State and local governments, and other groups, as it deems advisable;

(2) the Council shall, to the fullest extent possible, utilize the services, facilities, and information (including statistical information) of public and private agencies and organizations, and individuals, in order that duplication of effort and expense may be avoided.