

EARTH UNDER SIEGE

Trump's policies reverse progress on environment



Earth Day will be observed later this month, and environmental groups are manning their battle stations.

I looked at several websites dedicated to protecting the environment and noticed a common theme. Granted, most of these groups lean left, but they all feel



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InSites

the earth is under siege by President Donald Trump's administration. Decades of progress in cleaning up the air, water and land are in danger of being undone by the president's proposed budget cuts and regulatory rollbacks.

Just as the nation and world were on the verge of addressing the existential threat of climate change, Americans put a climate change denier and science skeptic in the White House.

The Environmental Defense Fund (edf.org) has advocated for the planet for 50 years. The organization agrees with the other sites I looked at that Trump's policies are dangerous and short-sighted, but it takes a less inflammatory, more balanced approach in its defense of the earth.

Money as motivation

The EDF has a history of combining science and economics to convince policy makers on both sides of the aisle to do the right thing. In fact, some of the more radical sites complain that EDF has raised money for Republican candidates who support good environmental policy.



The EDF's strategy for saving the world is based on the premise that if you make acting in an environmentally sound way profitable, companies and governments will follow. They are staffed with not only scientists but also economists and policy experts. They don't want solutions that save the earth at the expense of its people.

The home page features three main areas of focus:

- **Stabilizing the climate**, by curbing greenhouse gas emissions around the world;
- **Feeding the world**, by managing agriculture and fishing in a sustainable manner; and

- **Protecting our health**, by regulating the materials and chemicals in the products we use.

There's plenty of overlap when you deal with these issues. For instance, farming activities can produce greenhouse gas emissions and chemicals that end up in the food stream.

The EDF site is nicely designed and easy to navigate. There's lots of good information on environmental issues and government policy. Most articles include form letters and information you can use to contact your legislators to pressure them.

Many of the solutions to safely manage our natural resources in ways that also are economically beneficial are known. But too often, deep-pocketed special interests have corrupted our legislators to act contrary to the common good, opting instead for short-term gain.

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