

Cultivating the garden

Embrace solutions to save the Earth

Once upon a time — before we started burning the fossilized remains of the life that preceded us — the Earth was a Garden of Eden. The air was clean, the water pure, and an abundance of life flourished.

Humans rose to become the most successful species on the planet. Our numbers grew, and we created civilizations. Our impact on the environment started to become increasingly negative.



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InSites

We consumed more and more resources and created tremendous amounts of waste. We defiled the land, sea and air with reckless disregard. We did this initially out of ignorance, but then out of greed.

Our actions have caused mass extinctions, degradation of ecosystems, extreme human suffering and even altered the climate of the planet. We now know better, but we're still trashing our only home at an unsustainable rate. The challenge is to get those driven by greed to change their minds and do the right thing.

The United Nations Environment Programme's website, unenvironment.org, identifies environmental problems and provides possible solutions. The U.N. is an organization based on the premise that people of all nations are citizens of one planet, so the effort to repair the environment is global.

The site features stories on a variety of environmental challenges and remedies. The subjects include endangered species, energy efficiency, pollution control, activism and sustainable practices in agriculture, industry, government and finance.

The home page features a gallery of photo links to the stories and features. The navigation bars at the top of the page allow you to find subjects that interest you. You can browse for content by region or topic in a half dozen languages.

The articles are authoritative and informative, but some of the reports are a bit of a dense read because of an abundance of academic and bureaucratic language. Most are nicely illustrated with photos, graphics and video. The design of the site is organized, unified and easy to navigate with a nice color palette and good typography.

There's a danger of feeling hopeless when you read about how numerous and serious the problems we face are. This site does a good job of highlighting the progress being made and the possibilities of solving the problems. It leaves you with some hope.

Most people realize we need to change our ways in order to make the Earth like the Garden of Eden again. Unfortunately, the deeds of a few bad actors in positions of power can undo the good work done by everyone else.

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