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READINGS FOR Module IX: Humans in the Environment

The Habitable Planet Textbook <http://www.learner.org/courses/envsci/>

- **Unit 6 : Risk, Exposure, and Health**

We are exposed to numerous chemicals every day from environmental sources such as air and water pollution, pesticides, cleaning products, and food additives. Some of these chemicals are threats to human health, but tracing exposures and determining what levels of risk they pose is a painstaking process. How do harmful substances enter the body, and how do they damage cells? Learn how dangers are assessed, what kind of regulations we use to reduce exposures, and how we manage associated human health risks.

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|--|---|
| 1. Introduction | 7. Benefit-Cost Analysis and Risk Tradeoffs |
| 2. Risk Assessment | 8. Risk Perception |
| 3. Measuring Exposure to Environmental Hazards | 9. The Precautionary Principle |
| 4. Using Epidemiology in Risk Assessment | 10. Major Laws |
| 5. Cancer Risk | 11. Further Reading |
| 6. Other Risks | |

- **Unit 13 : Looking Forward: Our Global Experiment**

Emerging technologies offer potential solutions to environmental problems. Over the long-term, human ingenuity may ensure the survival not only of our own species but of the complex ecosystems that enhance the quality of human life. In this unit, examine the wide range of efforts now underway to mitigate the worst effects of human-made environmental change, looking toward those that will have a positive impact on the future of our habitable planet.

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|---|---|
| 1. Introduction | 4. Confronting the Climate-Energy Challenge |
| 2. Measuring (and Reducing) the Human Footprint | 5. Further Reading |
| 3. Multiple Stresses on Interconnected Systems | |

Regulating Toxic Chemicals (CQ Researcher) <http://scidiv.bellevuecollege.edu/gj/EnvirChemRisksProCon.pdf>

- **Read this issue of CQ Researcher.** (Reload/refresh the webpage if it shows up as unreadable code.)

Waste-Related Fact Sheets (U Michigan) <http://scidiv.bellevuecollege.edu/gj/ENVS100/ENVS100-W11/UM-CenterForSustainableSystems.html>

- **Read the following one-page fact sheets:**

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Social development indicators | <input type="radio"/> Municipal solid waste |
| <input type="radio"/> Residential buildings | <input type="radio"/> U.S. wastewater treatment |
| <input type="radio"/> Commercial buildings | <input type="radio"/> U. of Michigan waste management and recycling |
| <input type="radio"/> U.S. material use | |

Supplemental

- *Environmental Science: A Self-Teaching Guide*, by **Barbara W. Murck** – *Ch. 7:* People, Population, and Resources; *Ch. 13:* Water Pollution and Soil Pollution; *Ch. 15:* Cities and Waste Management

- **Fact Sheets & Quick Reference Guides** from University of Michigan's [Center for Sustainable Systems](#):

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Biodiversity | <input type="radio"/> U.S. cities | <input type="radio"/> CAA = Clean Air Act |
| <input type="radio"/> Biofuels | <input type="radio"/> U.S. energy system | <input type="radio"/> CERCLA = Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, & Liability Act |
| <input type="radio"/> Carbon footprints | <input type="radio"/> U.S. environmental footprint | <input type="radio"/> CWA = Clean Water Act |
| <input type="radio"/> Climate change: Policy & mitigation | <input type="radio"/> U.S. food system | <input type="radio"/> EPCRA = Emergency Planning & Community Right to Know Act |
| <input type="radio"/> Climate change: Science & impacts | <input type="radio"/> U.S. material use | <input type="radio"/> FIFRA = Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, & Rodenticide Act |
| <input type="radio"/> Commercial buildings | <input type="radio"/> U.S. renewable energy | <input type="radio"/> NEPA = National Environmental Policy Act |
| <input type="radio"/> Green I.T. | <input type="radio"/> U.S. wastewater treatment | <input type="radio"/> OSHA = Occupational Safety & Health Act |
| <input type="radio"/> Greenhouse gases | <input type="radio"/> U.S. water supply: Distribution | <input type="radio"/> PPA = Pollution Prevention Act |
| <input type="radio"/> Municipal solid waste | <input type="radio"/> U.S. wind energy | <input type="radio"/> RCRA = Resource Conservation & Recovery Act |
| <input type="radio"/> Personal transportation | <input type="radio"/> U. Michigan 2005 environmental performance | <input type="radio"/> TSCA = Toxic Substances Control Act |
| <input type="radio"/> Photovoltaic energy | <input type="radio"/> U. Michigan air & water pollution emissions | |
| <input type="radio"/> Residential buildings | <input type="radio"/> U. Michigan energy consumption & conservation | |
| <input type="radio"/> Social development indicators | <input type="radio"/> U. Michigan waste management & recycling | |
| <input type="radio"/> Sustainable tourism (article) | | |

(I can post additional resources for you. Please let me know which particular topics you would like to learn more about.)



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