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Environmental Coverage

From Siberia to Alaska and North Carolina to Colorado, NPR reports on the environment around the world.

Areas explored by NPR from August-November 2006 include: the effects of human influence on glaciers, how Texas is rethinking nuclear power, why many companies offer incentives to commuters to cut down on driving and how the creation of vegetation corridors connect islands of habitation.

NPR.org continues and expands the coverage with topic pages containing all the environmental coverage (http://www.npr.org/templates/topics/topic.php?topicId=1025) and global warming stories (http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5394326) aggregated in one place. Additional, web-only content such as photographs, maps, extended interviews and links to outside resources can also be found on www.NPR.org

Highlights of NPR's environmental coverage are below. These and many more reports can be heard on www.NPR.org

On July 26, as part of NPR's "Radio Expedition" series, Elizabeth Arnold took *Morning Edition* listeners with George Schaller, a world-renowned naturalist with the Wildlife Conservation Society, to the upper Sheenjek River of Alaska's Brooks Range. There he celebrated the golden anniversary of wilderness activists Olaus and Mardy Murie's journey there that led to the effort to protect what is now the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

Schaller found the region still pristine—and yet still threatened by the potential for development and oil exploration. Expanded coverage of this report on NPR.org (http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5582159) includes photo galleries of the 1956 and 2006 expeditions, a video clip of Muries' "Letters from Brooks Range," an extended interview with Schaller and links to related Web resources.

On the September 5 *Morning Edition*, NPR's John Nielsen examined the results of the theory that the creation of corridors—strips of trees that lead rare plants and animals to other biodiversity "hotspots"—will reconnect the variety of habitats once made up of giant forests now divided by development.

Houston vies with Los Angeles for the title of the nation's smoggiest city. Now, Texas utility companies are proposing 18 new coal-burning power plants over the next four years. NPR's Wade Goodwyn reported during *All Things Considered* on September 25 that while the Texas governor supports this plan, some big city mayors are putting up a fight. On NPR.org, a map of the locations of the proposed plants (http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=6110191).

On September 22, *Talk of the Nation* continued the series about energy alternatives. Host Ira Flatow spoke with guests and callers about solar energy technology, which is becoming a more competitive with fossil fuels as an economical choice for meeting U.S. energy needs.

NPR's environmental reporter Elizabeth Shogren reported how North Carolina's efforts to clean up their air include filing a public nuisance lawsuit against the Tennessee Valley Authority to cut down on pollution drifting across state lines. In addition to a piece during *All Things Considered* on November 1, Shogren wrote an article for NPR.org (http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=6417740) about other states' efforts to fight environmental problems such as haze and global warming through public-nuisance lawsuits.

For *All Things Considered* on September 18, NPR's Gregory Feifer traveled to the Arctic Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Region in Siberia to see a process that many experts attribute to global warming. There, vast tracks of Russian tundra, frozen for tens of thousands of years, are starting to thaw. Feifer took photos of the thawing tundra, which are posted on NPR.org (http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=6098974).

Environmentalists concerned about global warming are considering a radical idea: nuclear power as an acceptable way of making electricity. NPR's Science Correspondent Christopher Joyce reports on September 30 *Weekend Edition Saturday* that, unlike electricity from burning coal and gas, nuclear power doesn't produce the greenhouse gases that warm the atmosphere, but there are drawbacks.

On August 8, *Day to Day*'s Madeleine Brand interviewed Jay Lawrimore of the National Climatic Data Center, about the summer's record-breaking temperatures and how greenhouse gasses are linked to the hot weather.

On October 16, *Talk of the Nation*, host Neal Conan, the guests and callers discussed a new law in California which sets strict standards on greenhouse gas emissions. Its goal is to reduce the emissions 25 percent by 2020, and the program examines how the state will meet these goals and how the economy could suffer.

With the nation's roads growing more congested, some companies are offering employees incentives to cut down on driving. On the October 26 *Morning Edition* and on NPR.org are reports on the Environmental Protection Agency's list of workplaces that offer the best incentives for commuters (http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4965876).