
State Governments

State governments also enact environmental laws and regulations and have regulatory agencies mandated to enforce the laws. Some states, such as California, are very progressive. Indeed, in some cases, California is writing air regulations and standards that will likely eventually be adopted by the federal government. California is also currently training new staff to in turn consult with and train the variety of states who wish to follow California's policy leads in different areas.

Traditional State areas of responsibility include the management of municipal solid waste and medical waste and land use controls. States may also enact statutes/regulations that are similar to, or more stringent than, federal laws. They may not enact less stringent requirements.

In practice, many state governments also regulate such areas as pesticides, hazardous materials transportation, oil tank spill prevention, community right-to-know, safe drinking water standards, and floodplain management. They regulate these areas through receiving delegation authority, and corresponding grants, from the federal government. To illustrate one example, 25 states have accepted authority to regulate industry under the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Under the federal Water Pollution Control Act, 39 states have been authorized to issue discharge permits. As indicated above, state programs must be consistent with or exceed minimum federal requirements. The state and local entities receive about \$US 530 million in grants from the federal government to help in the implementation and enforcement of environmental laws.

States may also choose to offer incentives, funding programs, and other policies to encourage environmental progress in a given area. For example, following a federal law on used oil, Minnesota imposed an auto title transfer fee to fund a used oil abatement program, New Jersey proposed additional language in the federally-mandated labelling requirement, and a number of states defined used oil as a hazardous waste.

There are areas of legislation where compliance requirements are led exclusively by the EPA. Under the Toxic Substances Control Act, for example, the EPA does *not* have the power to authorize states to implement/enforce the chemical registration program.

Permits

Specific compliance requirements are enforced through permits issued by the responsible federal or state agency. Typical industrial facilities require permits governing a number of areas, including: characteristics of raw material stream, emission limitations, design standards, contingency planning, labeling and shipping requirements, treatment efficiency, and notification. A permit