

We're not even 85 days into the Obama Administration and yet the signs of environmental change are all around us. The EPA [announced](#) today its formal determination under the Clean Air Act that greenhouse gases are pollutants that endanger public health and welfare. This is only the latest in a string of announcements that show just how quickly Obama is moving to undo much of the environmental damage done by the Bush Administration (if I miss anything please post a comment):

- [Including in his budget](#) a strong commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions dramatically by 2050;
- [Committing](#) \$13 billion to high speed rail;
- Including [almost \\$50 billion](#) in direct money and tax incentives for energy efficiency, a smart transmission grid and renewable energy in the stimulus bill;
- Beginning the process of [regulating greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act](#) by finding that carbon dioxide and other global warming gases are pollutants that endanger public health and welfare (see Jonathan's post on land use and the Clean Air Act [here](#));
- [Considering whether to use the Clean Water Act](#) to regulate ocean acidification — caused by changes in the marine pH from increased greenhouse gas emissions (see related posts by [Holly](#), [Dan](#) and [Sean](#));
- [Cracking down on mountaintop removal mining](#), which involves blasting the tops off mountains to get at coal and ends up filling streams with nasty detritus (see Holly's post [here](#));
- [Announcing that California](#) will in all likelihood get its waiver to implement tough new standards to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars;
- Signing the [Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009](#), which designates two million acres of wilderness off limits to development and extends federal wild and scenic river protection to a huge number of new stretches of river (see [Rick](#) and [Sean's](#) comments about the Act)
- [Reconsidering a Bush Administration decision not](#) to phase out cancer causing dry cleaning chemicals (see Tim's post [here](#));
- [Reversing](#) last minute Bush Administration efforts to gut the Endangered Species Act (see Eric's post [here](#)).

Of course not all of these accomplishments have resulted in actual change: enacting a plan to reduce carbon emissions dramatically is far from certain and there's been some criticism of Obama for [turning cautious](#) on the issue. But it's hard to read the list of accomplishments so far and not marvel at the change from eight years of Bush.