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ABSTRACT

This master plan has been designed to involve and guide the citizenry and public officials of Alabama in environmental planning. Environmental awareness is one of the goals of the master plan. The publication is divided into two sections. Part one presents the Alabama environmental education philosophy, major environmental goals, and recommendations for implementation. Part two contains the ecological views of Alabama citizens, including an evaluation of the state's environmental crisis and recommendations for environmental improvement. Two appendices list members of state and regional Environmental Quality Councils. (MA)

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ALABAMA ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION  
MASTER PLAN  
November 1973

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But above all, gratitude is expressed to the Regional Environmental Quality Councils, the Alabama Environmental Quality Council and hundreds of grassroots citizens who have dedicated themselves to the immediate and long-range environmental improvement of their communities, state and nation.

M. Mc.

# FOREWORD

As a unique state, Alabama has unique environmental resources and issues. Ours is one of the more favored states as far as extent of environmental degradation, mainly because our development has been slower than that of many areas. And, on a people-per-square-mile basis, Alabama is one of the less densely populated states. Although our state is in an advantageous position in these respects, its major challenges are still to come: future development and population growth.

Our many virgin resources will be in great demand as other parts of the country become more and more overdeveloped. The pressure to follow the path to unplanned overdevelopment will be great. Our citizens must be prepared to blend controlled growth and prosperity with quality living.

To be ready for the challenge of future growth and increasing affluence, Alabamians must acquire an environmental awareness. Speed in effecting this awareness will be facilitated with implementation of the Environmental Education Master Plan.

This Master Plan represents a blueprint for action, custom tailored to meet the needs and demands of ordinary citizens as well as formalized groups from education, public and private organizations, state and local governments and business and industry. It has been structured so that the average citizen may play an active role in the state's com-

prehensive, long-range planning and participate in setting priorities for environmental improvement.

Citizens involved in Alabama environmental quality planning recognize that formal education will play a valuable role in creating our much-needed environmental awareness, but they also realize that society cannot afford to wait until the present generation of school children reaches adulthood to provide the leadership. Nonformal, community-based action is needed right now to disseminate knowledge about environmental problems and create an environmentally aware citizenry.

The Master Plan is the first step in creating this awareness. By focusing on action for raising awareness, it does not attempt to cover up obvious visible environmental problems that we now have or might have; rather it is designed to reduce the underlying causes of the problems by changing attitudes and values regarding the environment.

The material contained in Part One of the presentation relates to the background, philosophy and major environmental goals and recommendations of Alabama Environmental Education Planning.

Part Two relates to the "Ecological Views of Alabama Citizens," the nature of the environmental crisis, evaluation of the environmental crisis by Alabama citizens and recommendations and conclusions for changes and improvements in the environment as determined by an analysis of the views of a cross-section of the state's citizens.

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# part one

Alabama  
Environmental  
Education Planning

# INTRODUCTION

The Alabama Environmental Quality Council's highly regarded efforts in environmental quality had a modest beginning in 1967, long before the environment became an emotional issue nationwide. A group of women from the state's agricultural organization, the Alabama Farm Bureau Federation, were concerned about the garbage and litter problem multiplying rapidly over Alabama, especially in the rural areas. The concern was appropriately brought into focus by the voting delegates of the Federation, who passed a resolution recommending that a Rural Cleanup Week be observed. Hundreds of women then banded together to "clean up the state," enlisting the support of county officials, newspapers, and civic organizations. The publicity and cooperation were phenomenal, but one major problem became clear — as soon as the trash was cleared away, more took its place.

What was needed was not sporadic cleanup campaigns but an educational campaign to discourage people from putting the trash there in the first place. Also, rural residents needed a safe, convenient method for disposing of household garbage. As a solution to the solid waste problem, the Solid Waste Disposal Law of 1969 was passed. To begin solving the education problem, the Program Development Office of the Alabama Farm Bureau Federation under the leadership of its director, Martha McInnis, began assembling a statewide Rural Cleanup Advisory Committee, made up of the Farm Bureau women responsible for the first campaign, public officials, and knowledgeable experts in all areas of conservation, industry and development. From its inception, the Advisory Committee was steered by the Governor as ex-officio chairman and John W. Bloomer, managing editor of the *Birmingham News*, as chairman. The idea was to get all the state's agencies, resources, organizations and citizens involved in working toward reasonable solutions for the benefit of all segments of the population.

As the program expanded, so did its scope. First, it became obvious that urban citizens had a stake in having a clean state, too, and accordingly the name was changed to the Alabama Cleanup and Beautification Advisory Committee, reflecting this change in perspective. The second change, however, was the most far-reaching. The committee members realized that the old maxim, "Beauty is only skin deep,"

was not true where the environment was concerned. Beautification campaigns were only the tip of the iceberg. Keeping the state clean included not only cleaning up garbage and litter, but also guarding the state's air, water and land from further degradation. This would involve creating a change in attitudes among the entire population and educating the people of Alabama about the problems of their environment so that whatever project were undertaken in whatever realm, its impact on the environment would be a primary concern. It was imperative that the people be involved, that they be provided with factual information and given a role in the decision-making process.

## *Alabama Environmental Quality Council*

The name was changed for the last time, to the Alabama Environmental Quality Council. This time the organization knew its charge, and further changes would come only in its evolving role of creating environmental awareness.

The Alabama Environmental Quality Council unites under one umbrella all the resources, agencies and organizations in the state that are concerned and involved with the environment so that a coordinated course of action may be executed on a statewide basis. By bringing citizens, industrialists and environmental specialists, garden clubs, universities and public health departments to the same table to discuss environmental problems, Alabama's expertise is placed at the disposal of lay people for direct discussions, environmental solutions and educational programs.

Over a six year period, the Council operated entirely on a voluntary basis, with the Alabama Farm Bureau Federation providing the physical facilities and the necessary servicing. During this time lay citizens' concern increased, and the Council saw a need for staffing and additional financial support so that more Alabamians could become involved in this unique opportunity for decision making.

## *Alabama Environmental Quality Association*

In 1972, working closely with Alabama's Congressional delegation, the Alabama Environmental Quality Council

secured a small federal grant from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare's Office of Environmental Education to develop a State Master Plan of Environmental Education. To receive the grant, the Alabama Environmental Quality Association was incorporated and a full-time staff employed. The Alabama Environmental Quality Council serves as the policy-making body for the Association.

### *Regional Environmental Quality Councils*

Under the expanded program, complete with staff, nine Regional Environmental Quality Councils were set up to broaden the role of citizens' participation for improving environmental quality. These regions are congruent with the state's official regional planning districts established by executive order in 1967.

The regional councils provide the organizational structure for inventorying environmental needs and priorities and available resources. They serve as forums for all points of view and initiate education and action projects to correct problems. Action is encouraged to combat all areas of pollution and environmental degradation.

# ALABAMA ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY

To understand the Alabama Environmental Education Master Plan, one must understand our people and the underlying philosophy upon which the plan was developed.

## *Our People*

Alabama's approach to environmental quality is characterized by "average citizens" who are concerned and determined to be actively involved in planning the future of their communities and state. Our land's abundance of natural resources — mineral deposits, forests and water — is the key contributor to the income of many citizens. Yet, as in defending their human freedom, Alabamians are determined to conserve their state's natural resources.

Although in recent years Alabama has undergone extensive development, we are considered, by national standards, rural in nature. Most urban residents are not too many generations removed from the farm. What many of us consider an urban center, over 10,000 population, is a small community in some parts of the country. Less than a five minute drive is required, in most communities from "downtown" to the "country." Because of this rural heritage, the average Alabamian has close ties with the land and the outdoors environment. Our rural heritage also makes us a proud and independent people with a deep sense of community. Our strong sense of personal values is transmitted by closely-knit family units.

- The individual and family have traditionally dealt with the living things of animal and plant life; the land, rivers, rain and clean air; the inconsistencies of the weather and other forces of nature on which their livelihoods depend; and the response of nature to the skillful hand and the talented mind.

Such a heritage contributes to a somewhat more considered pace of change. In our Alabama society, religion and patriotism sometimes seem to be the only two constants in a time of continual change. We have seen fads come and go in the rest of the nation, but as we continue to work to support

our families, attend our churches and wave our flags, we have seen little that deeply affected our lives. Thus, Alabamians tend to question the aspects of change — to ask whether it is undertaken for its own sake or for a worthwhile reason.

This background forms the foundation upon which the average citizen is working to establish and maintain a quality environment and a quality life in his or her community. Because of Alabama citizens' natural love of the land, their increasing environmental awareness, based on a desire to preserve the land and its values, is not surprising.

A look at the heartland of Alabama, our small communities, reveals a blend of the enthusiasm and energy of the young, the on-going experience of the adult and the wisdom of the senior citizen all focused into a goal of realizing an "Alabama Dream." The small-town sense of community is still there to be channeled into a grassroots program of increasing awareness of the physical surroundings that make Alabama an ideal place to live.

The Alabama Environmental Quality Council, recognizing the valuable uniqueness of our own people, is building on the attitudes and characteristics already shown by them. As we work together to pinpoint and solve our problems, moving one step at a time when only one step is possible, we find ourselves recognizing more and more the value of our resources and the need to take care of them and use them wisely.

## *Our Philosophy*

The key tenet of Alabama's environmental philosophy is a belief that the average citizen is capable of making sound decisions based on factual information.

The purpose of environmental education is to develop an environmentally literate citizenry; effecting a change in attitudes, values and behavior patterns toward the environment. To carry out this purpose, people must be given the facts and helped in developing the necessary skills to under-

stand their relationship to the environment and to solve in a rational manner problems associated with their natural and man-made environment. The awareness thus raised must be both forward-looking enough to implement long-term solutions and broad enough to cope with new situations before they become crises. Environmental education cuts across all subject areas and recognizes the relationships of population, conservation, technology, transportation, and urban and rural planning to the total environment.

Environmental education is unique to the educational process as it involves all ages, is community based and is designed to build on all learning experiences offered by the community. This community environmental education is geared toward the entire citizenry rather than being an exclusive function of formal education. It involves both professional and nonprofessional educators working together toward a common goal, looking to all segments of the community to cooperate in the teaching and learning process and to furnish the necessary resource materials. It involves utilizing and managing all the community's resources: individual talents in the form of persons with skills to share, agencies and organizations with their manpower and facilities, and newsmedia with their far-reaching educational impact; plus utilization of natural and manmade assets such as rivers, lakes, swamps, parks, wildlife preserves, industries and sanitary landfills. The community and state are the textbook; the entire population the student body.

True community environmental education develops the mechanics through which the community may utilize its human and material resources. It allows local experts in

various fields to present specific environmental subjects to the public. This community involvement makes community environmental education relevant to the average citizen and his or her everyday life. A greater public awareness is generated through knowledge and the development of skills, resulting in the motivation necessary for citizens to work toward long-term solutions to real problems in their communities.

## Summary

Alabama's approach to environmental education is a natural evolution of our people and their lifestyles. It builds on the strengths of Alabamians as a down-to-earth people with a rural heritage and an innate love of the land.

Working through the structure of the Regional Environmental Quality Councils represents a return to the town-meeting democracy of an earlier age, when people felt themselves to be a part of the effort — felt that their opinions mattered. This is Alabama's contribution to genuine community environmental education. It is a procedure for uniting to attain the common goals of a quality environment, quality living, orderly growth and continuing prosperity.

The community environmental education program, although still in its early stages, is already expediting the process of involving Alabamians actively in preventing, identifying and solving community problems related to their quality of life and the sound economic development of their region of America.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

### STEPS FOR CONSERVATION

1. IDENTIFY PROBLEMS
2. IDENTIFY CAUSES
3. IDENTIFY SOLUTIONS
4. IDENTIFY RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
5. IDENTIFY SOLUTIONS

## URBAN SECTIONS

1. IDENTIFY PROBLEMS
2. IDENTIFY CAUSES
3. IDENTIFY SOLUTIONS
4. IDENTIFY RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
5. IDENTIFY SOLUTIONS

# ALABAMA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ASSOCIATION PLANNING IN RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANNING IN THE STATE

The Alabama Environmental Quality Association is coordinating its planning activities in as many areas as possible with other organizations. By its very nature, the Alabama Environmental Quality Council, the policy-making body for the Association, is interrelated with the activities of public and private organizations with an interest in the environment. Its membership is composed of representatives of these groups. In addition, each Regional Environmental Quality Council is composed of similar representatives. Although the State Council and the regional councils are free to function as independent agents, they necessarily take into consideration the viewpoints of their various members as well as drawing on their expertise.

It has been recognized nationwide that haphazard planning in the past is responsible for many of our problems in the present. Thus in Alabama, in 1967, a series of regional planning and development districts was set up, primarily, at first, to act as clearinghouses for federally financed projects. However, as they began gaining the cooperation of the various city and county governments represented in the regions, their functions were broadened to coordinating planning and development of the regions.

Recognizing the value of the regional planning districts and the possibility of mutual benefit between them and the Regional Environmental Quality Councils, the AEQA set up its regional councils congruently with the planning districts. Establishment of the councils on this basis provides for a closer link with the regional planning commissions and

the governmental agencies they represent and allows citizens to work with professionals who think on a regional basis and who know the characteristics and resources of the region. It also allows the Regional Environmental Quality Councils to provide input on environmental considerations for the regional planning districts.

The AEQA is also working closely with the Alabama Department of Education in planning environmental education guidelines and curricula. Members of the AEQA staff participated in the Environmental Education Advisory Council which made plans for setting up environmental education programs in the school systems. The results of the study have been published in booklet form: *Environmental Education in Alabama — A Comprehensive Approach*.

The AEQA is working with the Comprehensive Health Planning organization in Alabama, which consists of the state organization located in the Health Department and seven operating regional organizations. Particularly in the area of environmental health, the AEQA will coordinate its activities on the regional level with those of the Health Planning organizations.

Other state agencies with which the AEQA is establishing communication include the Environmental Protection Division of the Attorney General's Office, the Alabama Water Improvement Commission, the Alabama Air Pollution Control Commission, the Environmental Health Office of the State Health Department and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

# ALABAMA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ASSOCIATION PLANNING

The Alabama Environmental Education Master Plan has been developed from an environmental management systems approach, an approach which provides an appropriate structure for organizing environmental education planning activities to achieve the desired goals and objectives. Each citizen is an interface between Alabama's natural and man-made environment.

As depicted in Chart 1, Alabama's environmental quality is the result of how effectively citizens as individuals and as a collective group manage the components of their environment: human resources, man-made resources, natural resources and financial resources.

All environmental concerns are interrelated and must be approached by a comprehensive, systematic method. The systems approach breaks the environment into component parts and studies these parts in relationship to each other and to the total environment. Application of this approach organizes people toward a common goal of becoming environmentally aware and knowledgeable. It focuses attention on the educational and informational needs of people.

At the regional and state levels citizens, organizations, governmental agencies and other groups are divided into interest groups according to their concern and expertise:

Business/Industry	Education
City/County/State Government	Health
Civic/Service Clubs	Legislative
Communications Media	Rural
Community Improvement	Youth
Conservation	

This concentration allows a specialized effort in environmental educational planning.

The development of the Master Plan and its planning components has provided a process for establishing the necessary goals and objectives to achieve an environmentally literate citizenry capable of making sound en-

vironmental decisions. This is a unique application of the fundamentals of management to environmental education.

There are three planning sectors involved in Alabama's environmental management systems approach: the Alabama Environmental Quality Association, the Alabama Environmental Quality Council and nine Regional Environmental Quality Councils.

## *Alabama Environmental Quality Association*

The Alabama Environmental Quality Association is the planning agency designated by the United States Office of Education to coordinate the development and writing of the Alabama Environmental Education Master Plan. In addition to serving as a citizen planning agency, the Association functions as the operating branch of the Alabama Environmental Quality Council.

In order to chart a plan for grassroots environmental education, the Association has concentrated its planning efforts in two main areas carried on simultaneously:

Conducting a needs assessment inventory with assigned priorities;

Developing a regional organizational structure to involve average citizens in conducting the needs assessment and to raise their environmental awareness.

## *Alabama Environmental Quality Council*

Since 1968 the Alabama Environmental Quality Council has served as an umbrella organization for the state's resources, agencies and organizations that are concerned and involved with the environment so that a coordinated course of action may be executed on a statewide basis. Membership on the State Council cor-

Human Resources



Financial Resources



ENVIRONMENTAL  
MANAGEMENT



Natural Resources



Man-Made Resources



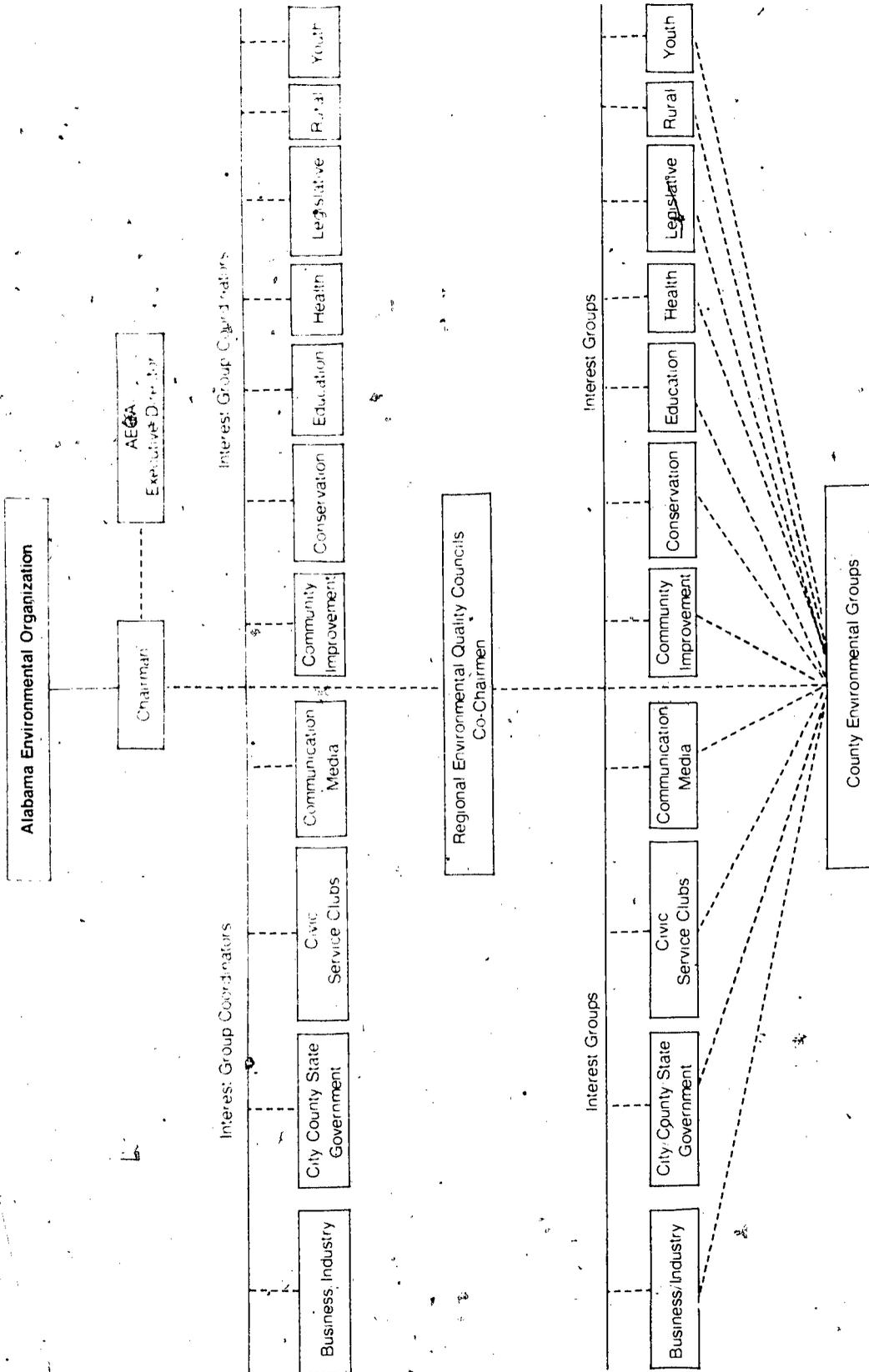


CHART 3

responds to the interest groups of the Regional Councils: business/industry, city/county/state government, civic/service clubs, communications media, community improvement, conservation, education, health, legislative, rural and youth. The Council serves as the policy-making body for the Alabama Environmental Quality Association.

## *Regional Environmental Quality Councils*

To provide a broad base and involve Alabama's grassroots citizens, the Association expanded the concept of the Alabama Environmental Quality Council to a regional level, setting up nine Regional Environmental Quality Councils as shown in Chart 2. Each region is autonomous in environmental planning and programming, with coordination and assistance from the Alabama Environmental Quality Association. The councils are headed by individuals selected for their interest in the environment and their leadership ability. At present there are 20-25 members appointed by the AEQC chairman on each regional council. These council members provide the structural framework for greater citizen involvement. The Alabama Environmental Organization Chart 3 indicates that membership on each regional

council is made up of the eleven interest areas included on the state level, and coordinators have been designated for each interest group. The coordinators are responsible for enlisting members in their group and leading the work with other citizens in the same interest group. Interest group recruitment has been done through announcements by news media and letters.

The interest group coordinators from each region will serve on their particular interest groups at the state level. They will be responsible for coordinating the implementation of recommendations for their interest groups at the regional level and coordinating the information gathered with that from other regions at the state level.

Once the initial information gathering is completed, and priorities have been set in each region, each regional council will decide on a plan of action to carry out priorities. Coordinating on-going projects will require preparation and preliminary discussions among those involved. The result should be a continuing, coordinated program aimed at preventing, identifying and solving specific problems and one which is designed to stimulate active participation by as many citizens as possible. Each region's plan, as well as the statewide plan, must be flexible enough to incorporate new problems as they arise and, hopefully, to recognize them beforehand.

# MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS

The development of the Alabama Environmental Education Master Plan has provided a process for establishing the necessary goals and objectives to achieve an environmentally literate citizenry capable of making sound environmental decisions.

Basic to any planning effort, is the process of determining goals and establishing objectives that will enable the goals to be achieved. Goals determine the objectives. That is to say that the ends determine the means.

The Alabama environmental education planning technique was structured to provide a framework through which citizens could be actively involved in an organized system of determining goals and objectives. This systems approach will allow all individuals the opportunity to participate in achieving these goals and thus establish a broad base to work from.

Based on the systems approach the goals of the Alabama Environmental Education Master Plan are:

## Long Range Goal (Beyond 3 years)

To establish an environmental awareness among Alabama citizens and provide them with the knowledge, skills, motivation and framework for preventing, identifying, and solving community problems related to their quality of life and the sound development of their area.

## Intermediate Goals (1 to 3 years)

To develop an environmentally literate citizenry effecting a change in attitudes, values and behavior patterns toward the environment.

To create a consciousness of the environment so that Alabamians are forward looking enough to implement long-term solutions and broad-minded enough to cope with new situations before they become crises.

## Short Range Goals (to 1 year)

To provide direction and coordination in effecting community environmental education.

To structure a program so that the average citizen can play an active role in the State's comprehensive, long-range planning and participate in setting priorities for environmental improvement.

To develop the mechanics through which Alabama communities may utilize the human and material resources and expertise of professional environmentalists, government agencies and other resource organizations.

To provide citizens with factual information and help them to develop the necessary skills to understand their relationship to the environment and to solve in a rational manner the problems associated with their natural and man-made environment.

To recognize the relationships of population, conservation, technology, transportation and urban, rural and regional planning to the total environment.

# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Consistent with the process of environmental management systems applied to the Alabama Environmental Education Master Plan, objectives have been projected that when achieved will enable goals of the Master Plan to be met.

These objectives are presented in the form of recommendations to serve as guides in developing additional techniques and approaches. The suggestions indicate some of the undertakings that would be useful to each planning sector of the State Plan: Alabama Environmental Quality Association, Alabama Environmental Quality Council and Regional Environmental Quality Councils.

They are not intended to be exhaustive in nature but rather to give direction and guidance to participants for future action.

Using the Alabama Environmental Education Master Plan as a guide, each planning unit must develop its own set of objectives based on its needs and priorities. Only with a planning process based on the principles of "participatory democracy" will the goals of environmental education be achieved.

## ALABAMA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ASSOCIATION

*(The objectives presented for the Association are classified according to program areas of general, communications, field service, program development and financial.)*

### General

Continue to function as the operating branch of the Alabama Environmental Quality Council.

Continue to serve as the state's citizens' environmental planning agency.

Assist and coordinate the implementation of community environmental education programs.

Keep informed, and encourage leaders to be informed, on local, state, and national issues and legislation relating to the environment. (Keep necessary sources of information — newsletters, news clippings, brochures, etc. — filed for reference.)

### Communications

Develop a comprehensive Environmental Education News Program. The program emphasis will be on selected aspects of community environmental education.

Write and disseminate news releases to the Alabama press on state, regional and local environmental programs.

Establish a close working relationship with newspapers, encouraging them to report on the underlying causes of environmental problems rather than only the immediate news item.

Furnish television and radio features on a regular basis to Alabama broadcasters.

Develop and schedule monthly public television features on specific phases of community environmental education. Community leaders should be an active part of the programming.

Develop, tape, film and distribute public service announcements on environmental quality to the state's broadcasters.

Publicize state, regional and local meetings both before and after through the appropriate state and local media.

Advise regional council members and other interested citizens of public hearings concerning environmental issues through regular publication of a public hearing fact sheet.

Continue publication and dissemination of *EnviroNews*, a monthly newsletter, to local environmental leaders and other interested citizens. The publication offers in-depth treatment of various environmental problems, bringing about an informed environmental awareness among its readers. It communicates other helpful opportunities and resources, furnishing information about activities which individuals and groups can undertake to involve themselves in improving environmental awareness.

Publish a Legislative News Service for community leaders and interested individuals. This service will include all environmental bills to be considered by the State Legislature. Also, key national environmental bills will be included. Accurate information will be made available to persons so that they can rationally decide their positions on legislative issues that will have an immediate and long-term effect on community, state and regional environmental quality.

Develop, publish and disseminate publications and audiovisuals for raising environmental awareness.

Provide a State Film Library on environmental quality for community programs.

Write and film an Alabama Environmental Education Documentary.

Create a short film on the nature of Environmental Education.

Publish a *Community Leadership Guide for Environmental Education*. The guide would develop mechanics for structuring a community approach to environmental quality and present basic tools and techniques for organized citizens' environmental education and action endeavors.

Compile and publish a *Resource Catalog* listing all available state and community resources, facilities, personnel, technology and funding for environmental programs. The catalog will provide valuable information to community groups, regional councils, educational systems and others in developing priority programs.

Place copies of the Alabama Environmental Education Master Plan in libraries throughout the state and publicize their presence for review, comments and recommendations by the public.

## Field Service

Offer a State Advisory Service, complete with staff, to local communities concerned with environmental quality and effective community planning.

Serve as a liaison between the AEQC and the regional and local environmental education programs.

Work closely with the nine Regional Environmental Quality Councils:

Assist regional chairpeople in developing a plan of work with assigned priorities.

Surface, motivate and develop effective local environmental leaders in the region.

Establish active interest groups within each region so that each segment of the population is involved in an educational program to increase environmental awareness.

Coordinate all regional meeting arrangements and attendance at meetings.

Assist councils in holding public hearings on issues concerning the environment.

Build good rapport with local newspapers in each region.

Develop prospective environmental leaders list and encourage its use by regional and local programs.

Assist regional councils in developing an awards program.

Hold a series of public hearings on the Alabama Environmental Education Master Plan.

Maintain and continually update a mailing list of key citizens, news media representatives and groups with interest or expertise in the environment.

Call on civic groups, local chambers of commerce, business and industry and others to enlist support for the regional programs.

Present speeches and programs across the state upon request.

Maintain constant contact with colleges and universities, junior colleges and trade schools offering environmental programs.

Establish a working relationship with the Alabama Develop-

ment Office and regional planners.

### Program Development

Prepare an Annual Report of Progress in Environmental Education.

Revise the State Plan through a series of public meetings every five years.

Cooperate with the State of Education in the implementation of *Environmental Education in Alabama — A Comprehensive Approach*.

Serve in an advisory capacity to the State Department of Education.

Coordinate the annual Governor's Environmental Awards Program to recognize outstanding environmental activities.

Coordinate activities of Governor's proclaimed Alabama Environmental Quality Month.

Coordinate local and state programs in Alabama with Keep America Beautiful, Inc., a national public service organization dedicated to environmental quality.

Establish communication for mutual exchange of information and resources with national professional education groups whose purposes are similar to the goals of environmental education as stated in this Master Plan.

Support and advance the establishment of a Southeastern Environmental Quality Council (Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Louisiana and Arkansas).

Develop and sponsor a Southeastern Environmental Symposium. This would be a high-level symposium for key community environmental leaders in the southeastern states. The overall purpose would be to establish an understanding and appreciation for regional and community environmental problems and solutions.

Evaluate existing Alabama Statutes regarding environmental quality and make recommendations for needed changes to the Legislature.

Expand mechanics and structure for enabling community groups to utilize the human and material resources of professional environmental groups, governmental agencies and other resource organizations. This includes the use of local

experts in various fields to present specific environmental subjects to the lay people.

Operate a Clearinghouse Service that will link areas of community need with the appropriate resources or agencies. This includes the setting up and functioning of a central source for the collection and dissemination of environmental information, educational material and other supportive services. The operation of a Clearinghouse will provide a means through which individuals, groups and agencies can become more informed about what others are doing, thus avoiding unnecessary duplication of efforts. It will provide them with a basis upon which to expand and improve their own efforts.

Establish an Environmental Educational Data Bank with a computer retrieval system and a program to provide answers to individuals' inquiries. Users of the data bank would include citizens, media personnel, legislators, governmental agencies, planners and educators. Such a center could prepare data briefings for media personnel on current environmental controversies and furnish data for government decision-making on environmental issues.

Generate and report research data which can be used as a measure of the level of environmental awareness and understanding by citizens.

Collect research data in cooperation with the Alabama Development Office for use by:

- a. Planners — systematic and comparative data which can be reviewed for changes and trends over long periods of time.
- b. Social Problem Analysts — data useful in solving immediate environmental education problems.

Develop systems to ensure that the environmental education activities of the Alabama Environmental Quality Council, the Regional Environmental Quality Councils and their interest groups are consistent with the State Plan.

### Financial

Obtain permanent funding for the operation of the Alabama Environmental Quality Association as the citizens' planning and coordinating system for environmental education. Funding may require the blending of foundation, private and governmental sources of money.

Set up a professional staff in each district of the Regional Environmental Quality Councils.



Business/Industry



Conservation



Education

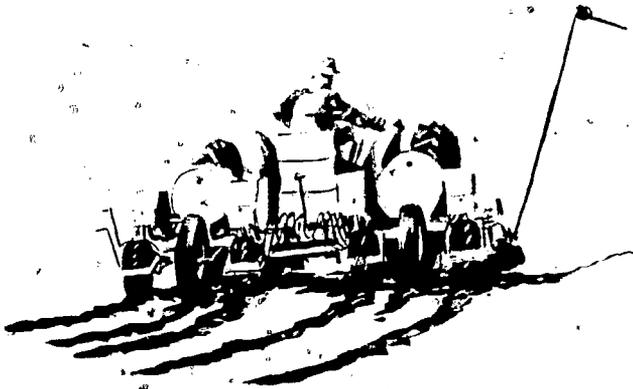


City/County/State Government



Youth

Rural



Communications Media



Community Improvement



Legislative



Civic/Service Clubs

Secure monies to be used in contracting for community environmental education programs.

Review program proposals for environmental education and make recommendations for funding projects consistent with the State Plan.

## ALABAMA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

Serve as the policy-making body for the Alabama Environmental Quality Association.

Meet quarterly to review progress on implementation of State Plan and project long-range planning and programming.

Work with the Alabama Environmental Quality Association to implement the State Master Plan.

Inventory all the environmental education resources available at the state level (human, man-made, natural and financial).

Continue to assess and determine statewide needs and priorities for environmental education.

Identify the roles and responsibilities related to environmental education that the various public and private entities (business, formal education, government, etc.) should assume to implement the State Master Plan.

Provide a speakers bureau from council membership.

Cooperate with the State Department of Education in the implementation of their state plan, *Environmental Education in Alabama — A Comprehensive Approach*. (Copies of the plan may be obtained by writing the State Superintendent of Education, Montgomery.)

Sponsor environmental workshops and seminars.

Sponsor the Governor's Environmental Awards Program.

Coordinate establishment and functioning of eleven interest groups with a designated interest coordinator. The state chairman designates council members to serve on interest groups based on the members' concern and expertise. In addition, regional interest coordinators will serve on the State Interest Groups.

Business/Industry	Education
City/County/State Government	Health
Civic/Service Clubs	Legislation
Communications Media	Rural
Community Improvement	Youth
Conservation	

Encourage acceleration of environmental interpretation offerings at state parks and other nature centers.

Encourage development in state government of inter-agency awareness of environmental policies and regulations in order to alleviate conflicts and avoid duplication.

Develop a dissemination system for getting state agency policy and environmental information to the public.

Encourage the Commission On Higher Education to appoint an Environmental Education Committee to make a periodic assessment of environmental curriculum needs and determine the capacity of Alabama's higher education system to meet these needs. Also, the committee might make regular recommendations for program improvements.

Review, research and evaluate Alabama's existing laws in areas related to the environment.

Work toward coordination of environmental education planning in the southeastern United States.

## REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCILS

Serve as a forum for discussion on environmental issues, concerns and approaches.

Establish an active interest group with an assigned coordinator for the following areas:

Business/Industry	Education
City/County/State Government	Health
Civic/Service Clubs	Legislative
Communication	Rural
Community Improvement	Youth
Conservation	

Develop a Regional Environmental Education Master Plan with assigned priorities.

Serve as a channel for two-way communication between grassroots citizens and state and governmental officials.

Continue to assess and determine regional needs and priorities for environmental education.

Inventory all the environmental education resources available in the region: human, man-made, natural, financial.

Identify the roles and responsibilities related to environmental education that the various public and private entities should assume to implement the Regional and State Master Plans in cooperation with the AEQA.

Meet quarterly to review progress in implementation of Regional and State Master Plans and project long-range planning and programming.

Encourage implementation of the State Department of Education's state plan, *Environmental Education in Alabama — A Comprehensive Approach*, by educational systems in the region. (Copies of the plan may be obtained by writing the State Superintendent of Education, Montgomery.)

Provide coordination among local and regional organizations and agencies working on various environmental problems.

Promote and coordinate specific programs on a wide basis with active support by all interests represented on the regional councils.

Develop and activate programs that will bring about an environmentally educated citizenry who will be more aware, knowledgeable and involved in environmental problem solving.

Coordinate, when feasible, environmental education activities with the regional planning commissions.

Hold public hearings on issues concerning the environment.

Develop a Regional Environmental Awards Program.

Review, research and evaluate local laws in areas related to the environment.

Establish a local clearinghouse service, in cooperation with the state clearinghouse service, that will link areas of community need with the appropriate resources or agencies.

# part two

Ecological Views of  
Alabama Citizens



# INTRODUCTION

Few people would have predicted, even as recently as three or four years ago, the strong swell of public opinion and concern about the environment that now preoccupies Americans. The great silent majority have discovered that our country is running out of clean air and pure water. Suddenly, we all understand that smog, noise, congestion, highway carnage, oil-stained beaches, junk graveyards, ugliness, and blatant commercial advertising not only offend our senses but threaten our very lives.

In Alabama, we are attempting to identify the culpable

parties and to demand corrective action. What are the basic forces behind environmental deterioration and why has a crisis emerged so swiftly on a local, state and national basis? What are the merits of the diagnoses and prescriptions that may be advanced for the environmental problem? How can the environment be improved and who should pay the costs? What are the reflective roles and responsibilities of business and of government in restoring environmental amenities? Above all, what lessons does the environmental crisis teach about the functions of our political and market systems and about reforms needed to forestall other crises in the future?



# THE URBAN PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Attention is directed to the urban physical environment — that is, upon the spatial and sensory qualities of the land, air, water and physical facilities that surround citizens who live in towns and cities. The cities have problems of air and water pollution, noise, industrial and household materials, declining quantity or quality of housing per capita, crowding, congestion, loss of privacy and recreational facilities, rising accidents and loss of time in urban transportation, and, not least of all, drabness and ugliness.

The physical environment is only one dimension of the quality of human life. In focusing upon physical factors, one excludes important social and psychological factors such as order and security, social mobility, and the social participation or alienation of the individual. All of these environ-

mental factors, along with per capita income, wealth, health and education need enhancement.

Spatially, the urban environment must be viewed as one subdivision of the entire global ecosystem, which also embraces rural lands, the ocean, the atmosphere surrounding the earth, and outer space. Since all parts of the ecosystem interact, ideally it should be analyzed, planned and managed as a whole.

The urban physical environment merits a top priority because it affects the majority of our population, and by general assent, its qualities are below the threshold of tolerability. In addition, physical factors powerfully influence the health, mental attitudes, and lifestyles of urban residents, and their enhancement will elevate the social and psychological qualities of American society.

# FORCES ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Three basic forces have operated to affect adversely the urban physical environment for the worse: (1) population concentration, (2) rising affluence and (3) technological change. The tendency today of people to concentrate in cities has worsened the environment in many ways. Traffic congestion, crowding, overloading of transportation, marketing and living facilities, delays and loss of time, along with rising levels of air, noise and water pollution have been among the social costs of urbanization. During the half-century between 1910 and 1960 the percentage of Americans living in urban areas of 2,500 or more rose from 45.7 to 70 percent, while the number of urbanites tripled from 42 to 125 million people. Urbanization does bring many benefits to people, such as wider job opportunities, richer educational and cultural benefits, and more individual freedoms from social constraints. Yet, beyond some levels of population size and density, the total costs of urbanization begin to exceed the total benefits. Discovery of the optimum density of their populations are vitally important tasks confronting planners in Alabama and nationally.

A second prime mover in environmental change has been, and is, rising affluence, the expansion and increase of annual real income and expenditure per capita. Real income per person (measured in terms of 1958 dollars) more than doubled during the eighteen years, 1950-1968, from \$1,501 to \$3,409. As real incomes have mounted, each person has bought and consumed more tangible goods, thrown them away more quickly, and generated more solid waste. Each person has traveled more miles per year, multiplied his contacts with other people, and rapidly expanded his usage of energy. All of this has increased air, water and noise pollution, crowding and congestion, and traffic accidents.

Environmental degradation is not, of course, inherent in rising affluence. Only the particular forms and methods of production and consumption to which our society has become accustomed degrade it. Rising affluence can and should be a source of environmental enhancement.

It is often overlooked that rising per capita income results in an increased demand for environmental amenities. People demand better public goods, more comfort and con-

venience, and beauty in their communities to match the better private goods and services their rising incomes enable them to buy. One reason for the environmental "crisis" today is the frustration felt by the public with a short supply of environmental amenities available to meet a rising demand for them.

The physical environment of American cities has not degenerated absolutely in an overall sense, but has probably improved in some respects. Examples of improvement are air-conditioned offices, restaurants and homes, thermostatically controlled electric and gas heat, underground utility wires, paved boulevards and auto freeways. These have, in some instances, replaced the crowded slums, the filth of unpaved streets, the drafty cold-water flats, and the steaming miseries of unrefrigerated summers. What has happened is that the overall supply of urban amenities has fallen far short of the rising effective demand for them, and the supply of certain critical goods, such as pure air and water, has virtually vanished.

The third source of the environmental problem is technological change. Advancing technology has expanded the variety of products available for consumption, made products more complex, raised rates of obsolescence and thereby added to waste disposal. It has also added immensely to the per capita consumption of physical materials and energy with consequent increments of waste and pollution. It has expanded the amount of information required by consumers to make rational choices in markets, thereby creating market imperfections that are the source of the contemporary "consumerism" movement. Technological change is, however, like rising affluence, a two-edged sword; it can be used to improve as well as to degrade the environment. Technology can reduce material consumption and recycle harmful wastes.

Examples are the replacement of bulky vacuum tubes by microminiaturized circuits in computers or the conversion of sewage into pure water plus fertilizers. Environmental preservation calls for a redirection of our technological efforts as well as a restructuring of our patterns of consumption.



# SOME ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

One conspicuous aspect of environmental deterioration has been the disappearance of free goods such as clean air, pure water, and, often, space. These items are in such ample supply, relative to the demand for them, that they are not economized. Pure air is no longer free. To obtain it one must buy air conditioning equipment and acquire a home in which to install it. Pure water must be purchased by the bottle, now that the product of many municipal water systems is barely potable. Most urban dwellers must spend large sums of money for travel in order to gain the privacy and recreation of a natural environment unavailable at home.

A second aspect of environmental change is the fast-rising importance of spatial relationships in the cities. Such factors as building heights and population densities, street layout, park location and zoning patterns largely determine the life-styles of urban residents and the supply of amenities available to them. The atrocious planning of most American cities and the abject perversion of zoning and building requirements to some short-term commercial interests are well documented.

Now, the public is belatedly recognizing the heavy social costs that neglect has created. Popular concern with planning, zoning and building development is rising. The heavy stake of the individual in the physical attributes of his community is finally being appreciated.

A third aspect of environmental change is the multiplication of interdependencies among individuals. To an increasing extent the activities of each of us impinge upon others. This is so, not only because more people live in cities, but also because the scale and variety of each person's activities rise with the amount of real income he produces and consumes.

Increasing interdependence is one way of looking at what economists call the "spillover effects" or external costs

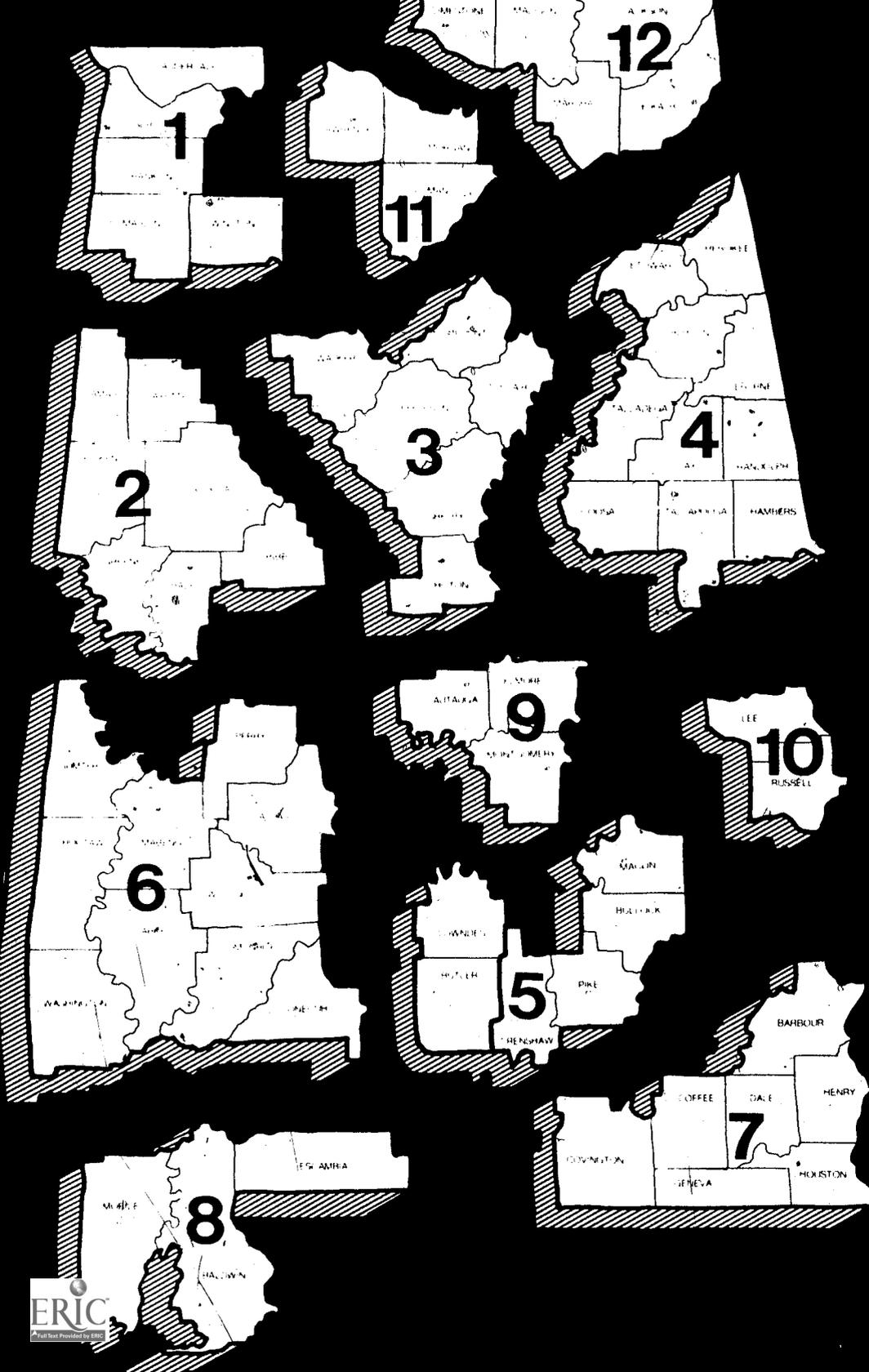
of production or consumption. For example, paper mills emit chemical wastes into lakes and streams, copper smelters inject sulphur dioxide into the air, and electric generating stations throw off carbon monoxide, radioactive wastes, or hot water, depending upon their fuels. Motor vehicles cause massive air and noise pollution, traffic accidents, and vast expenditures on medical, legal, policing, and engineering services and facilities, all borne mainly by the public. These industries all generate external costs, thrust upon society in the form of loss of environmental amenities. Although reliable estimates are lacking, total external costs in the U. S. economy amount to tens of billions of dollars a year.

The speed with which public interest in the environment has mounted may be explained primarily by the swift decline in amenities below thresholds of tolerability. The automobile driver whose vehicle spews out air pollution gets the benefit of rapid and convenient travel, but he imposes part of the costs of that travel upon people who are forced to breathe bad air and hear deafening noises, and who must bear the costs of painting and maintaining property corroded by pollutants. Because this is manifestly inequitable, upgrading the environment by elimination of this kind of pollution will not only add to aggregate real income but also improve its distribution.

In view of the very serious and accelerated increase in environmental problems, it is believed that a very effective approach to gaining a better understanding of the environmental "crisis" is to obtain a cross section of the opinions and thoughts of the people of Alabama as all of the people of the state are affected by these serious problems.

Therefore, efforts were made to obtain thoughts and ideas from citizens of Alabama so as to secure grassroots ideas concerning our environmental problems within the state.





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# ALABAMA CITIZENS EVALUATE THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

Questionnaires were designed by specialists in the Alabama Environmental Quality Association. The AEQA is the planning agency designated by the United States Office of Education to coordinate the development and writing of the Alabama Environmental Education Master Plan. The AEQA serves not only as a citizen planning agency but also as the operating branch of the Alabama Environmental Quality Council. Currently the AEQA has nine (9) Regional Environmental Quality Councils, as indicated in Chart 1, but each of these is autonomous from the standpoint of the AEQA. This means that the local councils may take any action, or actions, they deem necessary to combat environmental problems in their areas. However, the AEQA disseminates information so that the local council may make

sound decisions based upon the best facts obtainable. It is expected that the local council will be the chief vehicle within the state of Alabama to monitor programs and long-range environmental planning within the territorial limits of the local councils.

Although the Alabama Development Office includes twelve (12) planning districts (see Chart 1), several of these districts were combined to establish the nine Regional Environmental Quality Councils of the AEQA. None of the ADO districts were broken up or subdivided for purposes of the study. Reference is made to the Alabama Development Office map as to the counties that comprise the twelve ADO planning districts, and to the AEQA map indicating the nine Regional Environmental Quality Councils.

# THE SAMPLE GROUPS

Two groups were selected by the AEQA planners for inclusion in the study. One group, referred to herein as the "Select Group," was composed of persons deliberately named to receive the questionnaire; and the number of persons sampled in each of the twelve districts was approximately equal in number so that the results from a given district would have no more weight than those of another district. A total of 2,600 questionnaires was mailed from the AEQA, and 947 returns were received, making a total percentage return of 36.4. The return is considered to be an adequate representation of the entire population sampled. Furthermore, persons included in the "Select Group" were from all groups and economic classifications so that no bias would exist on the basis of selection. No particular group among the respondents was outstanding in number compared to other groups in the sample.

The second group was selected from a random sample of names included in the telephone directories of a considerable number of cities, both large and small, as evenly distributed as possible throughout each of the twelve districts surveyed. Since a large number of persons in all economic classifications have telephones in their homes, it is thought

that no bias exists here as was true in the 1936 Literary Digest poll indicating Mr. Landon to be the winner over Mr. Roosevelt. The group receiving questionnaires, whose names were drawn from telephone directories, is hereafter referred to in the study as the "Random Sample Group." As in the case of the "Select Group," no particular group of respondents seemed to prevail or to dominate the thinking of the "Random Sample Group."

Some 1,297 questionnaires were mailed to members of the "Random Sample Group," but returns were received from only 268 for a percentage return of 20. The 20 percent return from the "Random Sample Group" is adequate compared to the entire population of 1,297; however, the percentage falls well below the 36.4 percent received from the "Select Group." Since the "Select Group" consisted of a large number of persons previously expressing some interest in problems of the environment, it is quite possible that the interest level of the "Select Group" was simply greater than that of the members comprising the total population of the "Random Sample Group." No other explanation seems feasible.

# THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Six major subjects are included in the questionnaire, and each area consists of a number of questions relating to some phase of the environmental "crisis." The areas of concern, and the questions included in each area, were selected by the planning and environmental experts in the office of the Alabama Environmental Quality Association.

The same questionnaire was mailed to members of both groups, so that each respondent was considering the same information regardless of the sample group that he represented.

Questionnaires were tabulated on a weighted basis. Some respondents wrote in opinions and ideas, some of which are stated herein. The following statistical data indicates the responses to the questionnaire by each of the sample groups:

## QUESTION 1: ALABAMA'S MOST PRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

	SELECT GROUP	RANDOM SAMPLE GROUP
Air pollution	124	58
Solid waste	107	26
Over-population	18	8
Water pollution	116	50
Energy crisis	78	23
Land use	69	14
Noise pollution	81	11
Litter	111	31
Clear cutting of forests	83	17
Radiation from nuclear power plants	74	1
Strip mining	85	24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>263</b>

Both the "Select Group" and the "Random Sample Group" considered air pollution to be the number one environmental problem in Alabama, followed by water pollu-

tion in second place. Each group considered littering to be the third in importance. Neither group considers over-population to be a very serious problem in Alabama at the present time.

## QUESTION 2: MOST EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS TO ALABAMA'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

	SELECT GROUP	RANDOM SAMPLE GROUP
Have educational system instill environmental awareness in youth	229	56
Wait for federal government to pass and enforce laws	37	3
Instill an environmental awareness in adults	222	45
Strict legislation	191	48
Enforcement of existing legislation	248	59
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>211</b>

The Select and Random Sample Groups believe that the most effective solution to Alabama's environmental problems is strict enforcement of existing legislation. Both groups believe strongly that education, so as to instill an environmental awareness in youth and adults, is almost as important as the enforcement of existing legislation. This suggests that the citizens of Alabama are aware that a grassroots process such as education at the local level is very necessary to cope with environmental problems.

Furthermore, it is interesting to note that few people in the sample feel that federal laws, and federal enforcement, will be of much value. This finding is in keeping with the grassroots thinking of Alabama citizens. Strict legislation is also in great favor with Alabama citizens. Both groups in the study indicated strong approval of strict legislative measures.

QUESTION 3: WHAT IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE ROLE FOR THE ALABAMA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL AS A GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, AND FOSTERING QUALITY LIVING?

	SELECT GROUP	RANDOM SAMPLE GROUP
Concentrate on adult education through speeches to civic clubs, publishing brochures, etc.	112	37
Supporting specific legislation related to environment, and working directly with those responsible for making environmental decisions	237	72
Collecting and disseminating information regarding what resources (such as agencies) are available	98	16
Working with communications media to get expanded environmental coverage	141	33
Working with other environmental groups to coordinate efforts to make the public aware of environmental problems	127	39
Concentrate on formal education	193	38
(a) kindergarten	27	5
(b) elementary	34	5
(c) high school	82	16
(d) college	50	12
TOTAL	908	235

The Select and Random Sample Groups very strongly agree that the most effective role of the AEQC as a grassroots organization would be to support legislation relating to the environment and to work directly with those making environmental decisions. Continued emphasis was placed by both groups upon formal education at both high school and college levels with a slight preference for the high school level.

QUESTION 4: WHAT IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE ROLE OF THE REGIONAL COUNCILS?

	SELECT GROUP	RANDOM SAMPLE GROUP
Community projects such as re-cycling centers, cleanup campaigns, etc.	217	63
Working directly with local legislators and others responsible for making environmental decisions	253	70
Organized to apply for and use federal funds for environmental projects	135	27
Forum for discussion	64	12
Provide a speakers bureau to speak to civic groups on the environment	108	20
Activist organization with regular meetings	126	20
TOTAL	903	212

Working directly with local legislators and others responsible for making environmental decisions seems to be the most effective role of the Regional Councils according to the findings of the survey. Community projects scored high with both groups. This high response toward efforts to secure federal funds for environmental projects contrasts sharply with the response in Question 2 where both the Select and Random Sample Groups thought little of federal activities at the local level. Apparently, federal funds would be most welcome to support grassroots activities of the Regional Councils.

**QUESTION 5: POSSIBILITIES COMING CLOSEST TO EXPRESSING VIEWS OF CITIZENS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS**

SELECT GROUP      RANDOM SAMPLE GROUP

We are approaching environmental crisis—polluting our air and water, using up our vital resources, producing too many people—and it's time to sacrifice everything to finding solutions.	209	87
The problem is serious, but there is still time to solve it in a reasonable manner with only minimal changes in our standard of living and sacrifices of the economy.	673	119
The whole ecology thing is a fad and there is no reason for concern. We should make no changes in our lifestyles or standard of living and should not worry about pollution if it is in any way detrimental to the economy.	17	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>208</b>

Most of the citizens of Alabama who participated in the surveys feel that our environmental problems are serious but that time still remains to take corrective action with a minimum of change in our standards of living. However, a strong percent of the members of both groups feel that we are approaching an environmental crisis and that sacrifices will have to be made.

Only a few of our citizens believe that ecological concern is a fad and that no reasons exist for concern or for corrective action.

**QUESTION 6: ARE YOU WILLING TO MAKE REASONABLE SACRIFICES FOR A QUALITY ENVIRONMENT SUCH AS PAYING HIGHER PRICES FOR PRODUCTS SO MANUFACTURERS CAN INSTALL POLLUTION CONTROL DEVICES, DRIVING SMALLER CARS, USING LESS ELECTRICITY, ETC?**

(Restricted to Random Sample Only)

Yes	147
No	54
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>199</b>

In keeping with their concern about the environmental crisis, Alabama citizens are willing to make sacrifices such as using less energy, driving smaller cars, and otherwise making adjustments as needed to bring about desired goals and objectives for a higher standard of living through improvements in the environment.

**SOME INTERESTING WRITE-IN STATEMENTS**

1. Loud cars that smoke must go.
2. If you can't stop littering, you can't do anything.
3. Control water flow. Enforce laws already made.
4. Energy crisis. The most critical problems now facing the American citizens are the lack of farm fuel reserves.
5. Environmental awareness is needed on the part of both adults and youths.
6. Push for strong environmental legislation.
7. Enforce laws already made.
8. I don't believe in harassing industry, but they should be made to understand that the laws concerning the environment are passed for the good of all.
9. I think that the public is aware of the problems. It is hard for the individual to do much.
10. Practice and teach environmental control in all areas. We are all careless and wasteful.

# RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The public awakening to the environmental crisis over the past few years has been remarkable. The study bears out this statement. Of interest is a recent Gallup Poll which shows that every other American is concerned about the population (50 percent).

A questionnaire was sent to five hundred University of California freshmen asking them to name twenty-five topics that should be included in a general biology course. The top four were Human Population Problems (85%), Pollution (79%), Genetics (71%), and Ecology (66%). At least many citizens are aware of the environmental "crisis" and that we all have a job to do so that the problems created by our advanced lifestyles can be dealt with effectively on a timely basis.

Some of the highlights of the AEQA study are listed below:

1. Air pollution is the number one pollution problem, in the opinions of Alabama citizens, followed by water pollution, littering and solid waste.
2. Overpopulation is not considered to be a problem in Alabama at this time.
3. The most effective solution to Alabama's environmental problems is strict enforcement of existing legislation, followed by strong efforts to educate our citizens at all age levels so as to instill an environmental awareness.
4. Most Alabama citizens prefer not to wait for federal laws and federal enforcement of environmental laws.
5. Very strong feeling exists that, since the problems of environment are local, these problems should be solved at the grassroots or local level.
6. Strict and strong additional legislation should be passed as needed to deal with the problems. This would require strong action on the part of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of state government.

7. The most effective role for the Alabama Environmental Quality Council is that of supporting specific legislation relating to the environment, and in working directly with those responsible for making environmental decisions.
8. The most important role of the Regional Councils is in working with local legislators and others making environmental decisions.
9. Most of the persons surveyed believe that our environmental problems are serious, but they can be effectively dealt with at this time if appropriate measures are taken and enforced.
10. Approximately 75% of the Alabama citizens surveyed indicated that they are very willing to make sacrifices such as using less electricity and other forms of energy, driving smaller cars, and paying higher prices for products so that the quality of the environment may be improved and the environmental "crisis" solved.
11. Write-in statements by some of those polled further emphasize the above conclusions.

In view of the findings of the study, the following recommendations would seem to be in order for improvement of the environment within Alabama:

1. Have strict enforcement of existing laws.
2. Make penalties severe for violation of environmental laws.
3. Have the Regional Councils work closely with the educational system at all levels and provide educational activities for all ages so that our citizens in Alabama will be well informed. Furthermore, at the local level, projects and other measures may be established to further inform citizens.

4. The AEQA should continue to work closely with the legislative and the executive branches, recommend goals and objectives, disseminate news and information to the Regional Councils and other local groups, serve as a coordinating unit, and render staff services to concerned and interested personnel and agencies.

5. Solve problems at the local level and develop stronger local organizations and better leadership.

6. Have the local regions establish priorities as to what their most pressing problems are. A critical problem such as smoke pollution in one area may not exist as a problem in another district.

7. Appoint a field coordinator to work out of the office of the AEQA. The position should be established and well funded so that a capable person may be obtained. The coordinator will work closely with the AEQA, the Regional Councils and interested groups at the local level.

8. If these and other suggestions contained within the study can be implemented, then the standard of living can be raised for all people of Alabama and a better life enjoyed by all for the foreseeable future.

9. Finally, the findings, conclusions and recommendations contained herein represent a cross section of the views, beliefs, and thinking of citizens of Alabama throughout the state. In some instances, views of professional planners and experts are not the same in regard to the problems and needs as the views of the citizens of Alabama off the local scene.

Feedback from the point at the local level where action takes place, when effectively communicated to government officials, planners and environmental experts, will result in a larger and more productive effort for the good of all people of the State of Alabama.

10. The study does not answer all questions nor suggest solutions to all of our environmental problems, but it gives guidance and direction and indicates areas for further research.

In summary, the citizens of Alabama realize that the environmental "crisis" is a very large one that affects the lives of all of us now and for yet unborn generations. However, despite the very serious environmental situations, Alabama citizens believe that the problems can be solved if real efforts are undertaken at the present time. The people of Alabama do not have a doomsday philosophy that nothing can be done. The typical citizen of Alabama believes that we can solve our environmental problems if constructive action is taken on the part of all our citizens, both young and old.

Alabama citizens are law-and-order oriented, believing that strict enforcement of existing environmental laws is necessary if our problems are to be overcome. In addition, Alabama citizens place great emphasis upon community environmental education at the local level to instill an environmental awareness in all of our people.

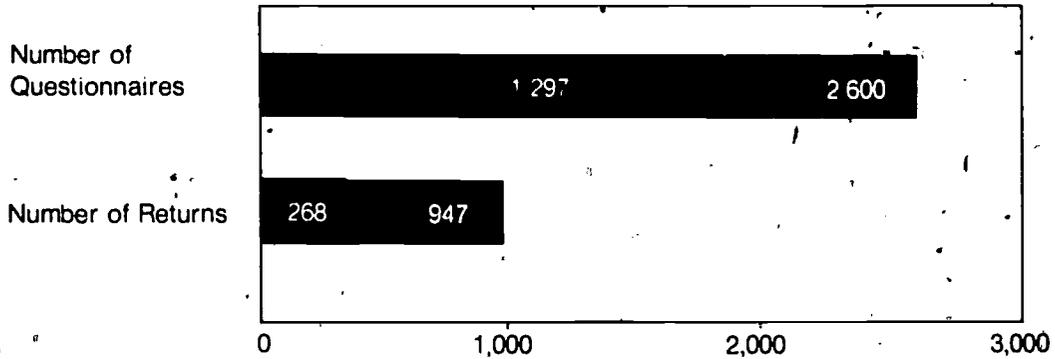
The citizens of Alabama believe that environmental problems should be solved at the local level in keeping with the grassroots philosophy that has made our state and nation great. This is also in keeping with basic management philosophy that action should take place at as low a level in an organization as possible, and that decisions should likewise be made at the point where action occurs. Alabamians believe that the solutions to local environmental problems can best be dealt with by local citizens and prefer that approach to relying on the federal government for solutions.

The charts that follow pictorially depict some of the findings of the study. Alabama citizens feel confident that the environmental "crisis" will be solved and that all of us can have and enjoy a more abundant material and spiritual life.

Finally, Alabama citizens are doers and not just hearers and talkers. They believe in a strong activist endeavor at the local level.

## CHART 2

### Number of questionnaires and returns in Alabama Environmental Quality Association Study



Legend:

The select group

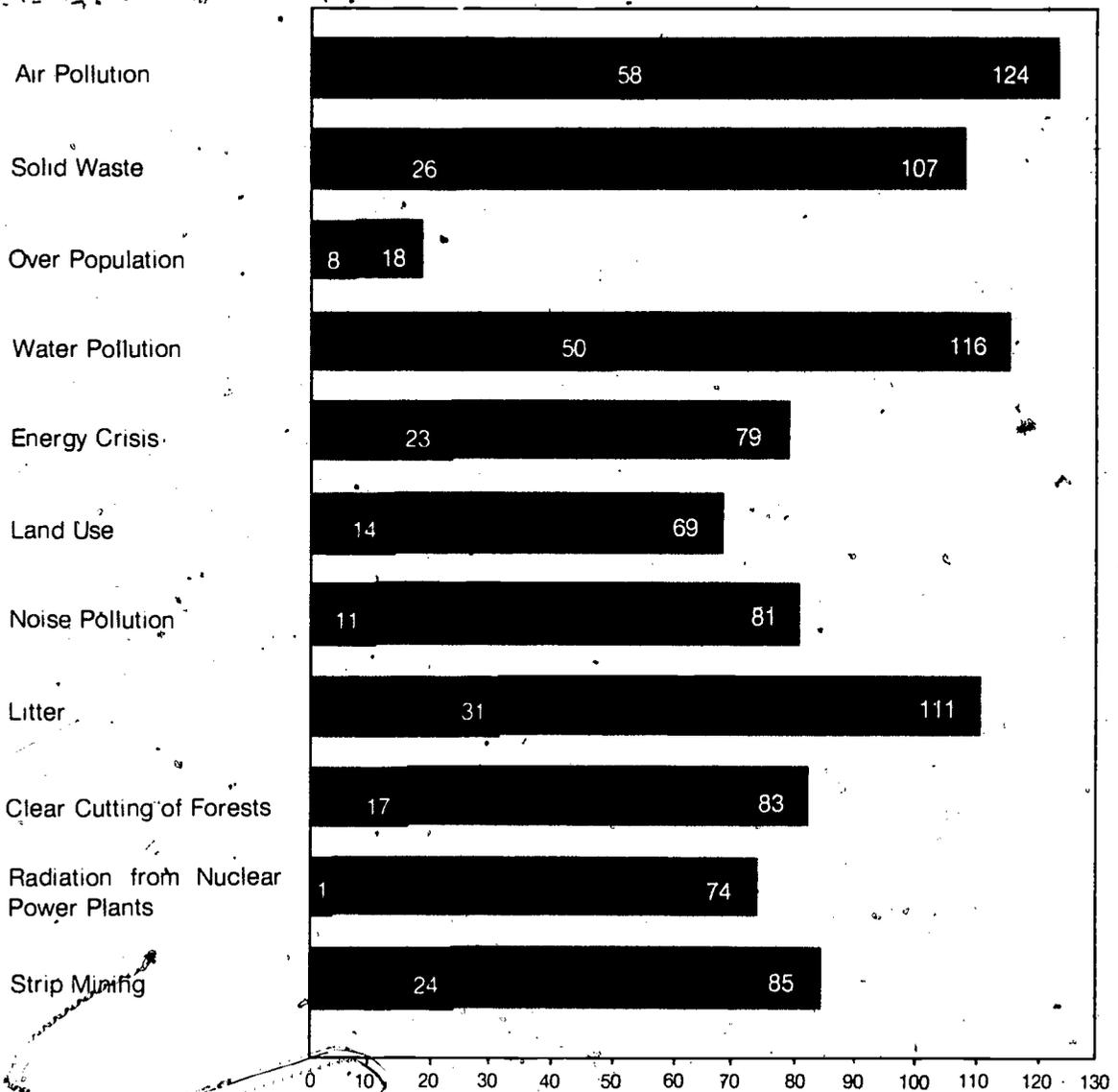


The random sample group



# CHART 3

## Alabama's most pressing environmental problem



Numbers represent people

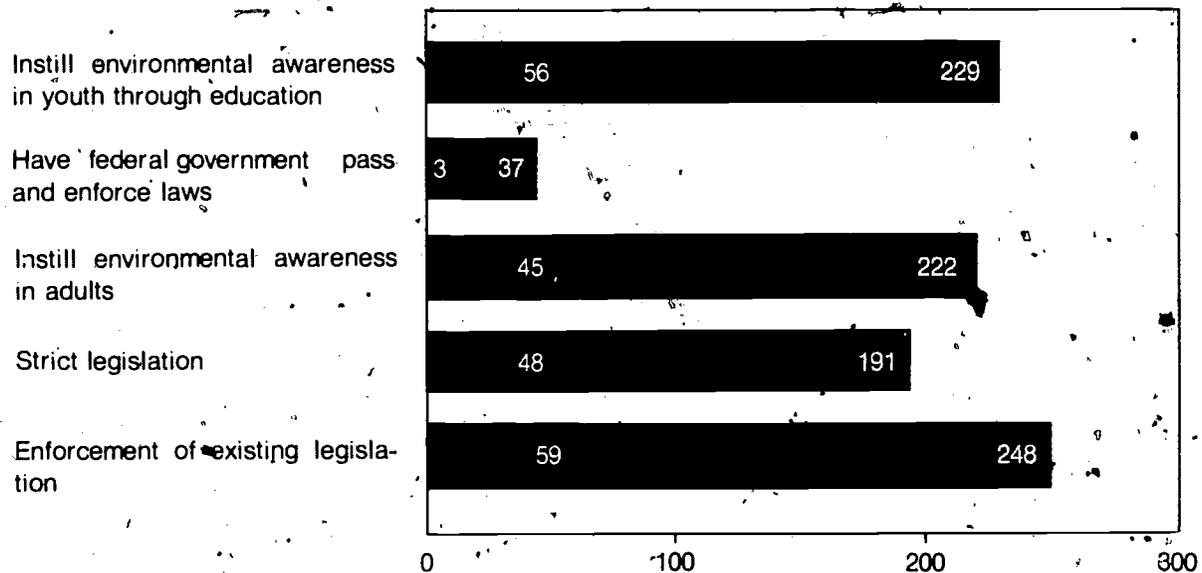
Source: Opinions of Alabama citizens in AEQA Study

Legend:   
 The select group    
 The random sample group 



# CHART 4

## Most effective solutions to Alabama's environmental problems



Numbers represent people

Source: Opinions of Alabama citizens in AEQA Study

Legend: The select group

The random sample group

# CHART 5

## Most effective role for Alabama Environmental Quality Council

Concentrate on adult education through speeches, etc.

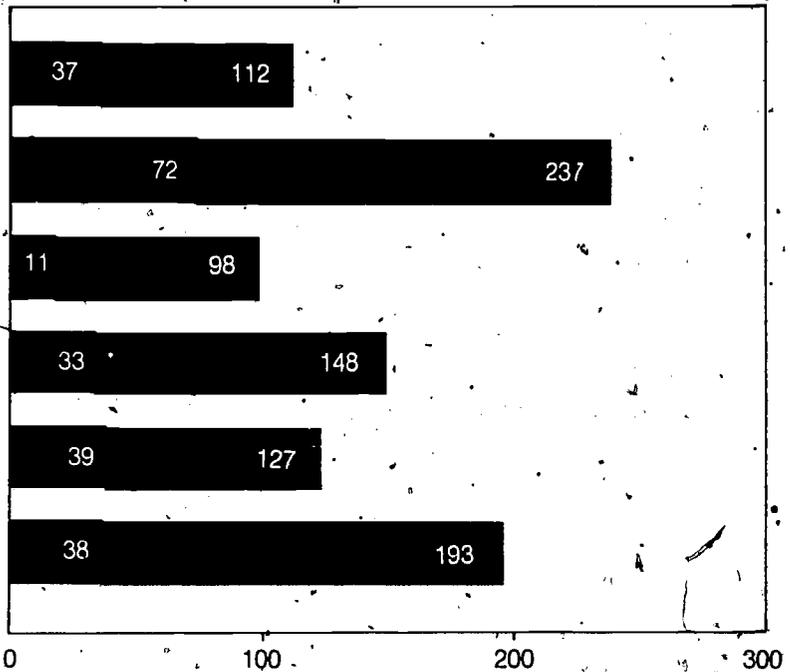
Support specific legislation and work with decision makers

Collect and disseminate information regarding available resources

Work with communications media to get more environmental coverage

Work with other groups to make public more aware of environmental problems

Concentrate on formal education rather than environmental



Numbers represent people

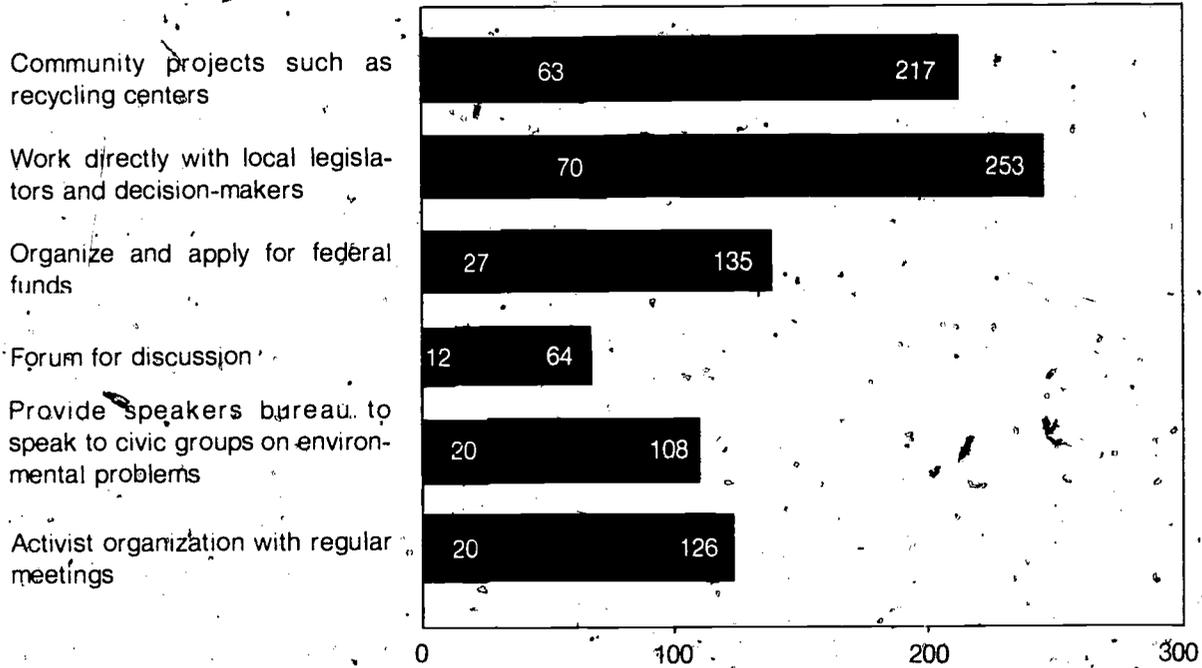
Source: Opinions of Alabama Citizens in AEQA Study

Legend: The select group

The random sample group

# CHART 6

## Most effective role of Regional Councils



Numbers represent people

Source: Opinions of Alabama Citizens in AEQA Study

Legend: The select group

The random sample group

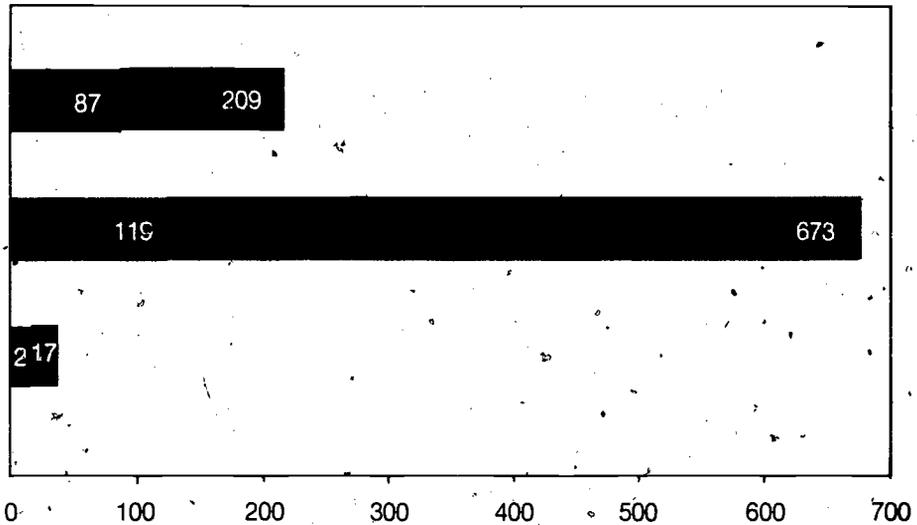
# CHART 7

## Views of Alabama Citizens as to critical nature of the Environmental crisis

Approaching environmental crisis

Problem serious but still time to solve it with minimal changes in living standards

Ecology thing is a fad. No reason for concern or change in our lifestyles



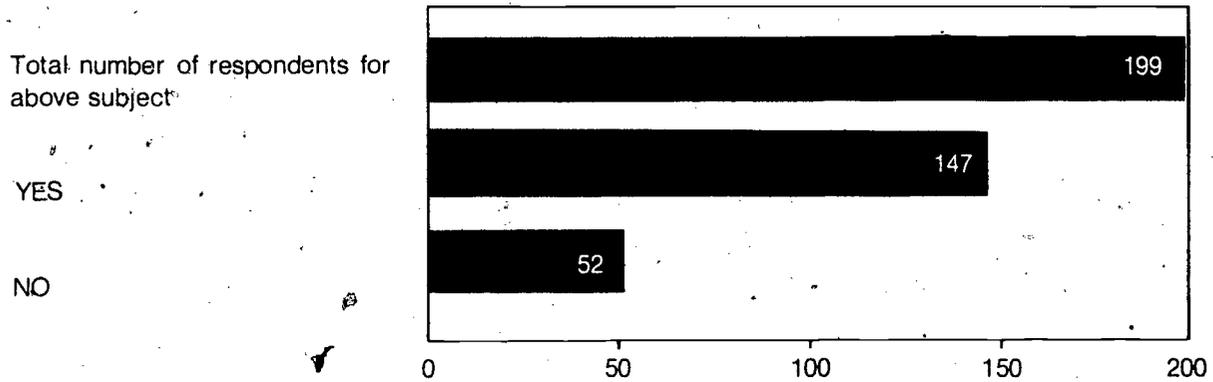
Source: Opinions of Alabama Citizens in AEQA Study

Legend: The select group

The random sample group

## CHART 8

### Willingness of Alabama Citizens to make personal sacrifices for a quality environment (Random Sample Survey Only)



Source: Opinions of Alabama Citizens in AEQA Study

Legend: Random Sample Group only (Poll was not taken of the select group.)

# APPENDIXES

THE ALABAMA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
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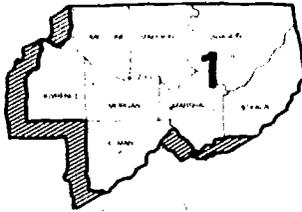
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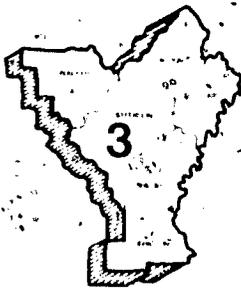
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Mrs. John Haynes  
Pell City, AL 35125

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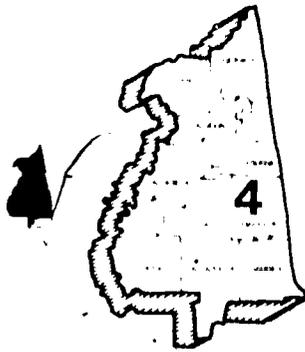
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Mr. H. W. Green  
Montgomery, AL

Miss Sheila Roberts  
Troy, AL

Mr. Dick Brogdon  
Auburn, AL 36830

Mr. Ove Jensen  
Auburn, AL 36830

Mr. Ed White  
Auburn, AL 36830

Mr. Fred Hammode  
Auburn, AL 36830

Mr. W. A. Heustess  
Montgomery, AL

Mr. Richard K. Means  
Auburn, AL 36830

Mr. Luther M. Holt  
Auburn, AL 36830

Mr. Michael Jones  
Opelika, AL

Ms. Louise Martin  
Eufaula, AL

Ms. Mary Ann Bowden  
Eufaula, AL

Mr. W. O. Patterson  
Ft. Mitchell, AL 36856

Mr. Elbert R. Taylor  
Phenix City, AL

Mr. Earl J. Hodgkins  
Auburn, AL 36830

Mrs. C. G. Lee  
Seale, AL 36875

Mrs. Claude C. Parkman  
Seale, AL 36875

Mrs. James C. Batchelder  
Phenix City, AL

Mrs. James E. Laney  
Phenix City, AL

Mr. Claude C. Parkman  
Seale, AL

Mr. Lewis E. Duckworth  
Montgomery, AL 36111

Mr. C. A. Woods, Jr.  
Phenix City, AL 36867

Mr. Donald A. Hawke  
Auburn, AL 36830

Ms. Sandy Whaley  
Opelika, AL 36801

Mr. Hank Morris  
Auburn, AL 36801

Mr. Bart Ingram  
Opelika, AL 36801

Ms. Jo Ann Douglas  
Midway, AL 36053

Ms. Shirley Jordan  
Midway, AL 36053

Mr. Earnest Todd  
Auburn, AL 36830

Mrs. Hoyt Sheppard  
Shorter, AL

Mrs. Harry Cox  
Shorter, AL

Ms. Elsie Timberlake  
Auburn, AL

Ms. Sara R. Pope  
Union Springs, AL

Mrs. Kathleen Cope  
Union Springs, AL

Mrs. Annie L. Oliver  
Union Springs, AL

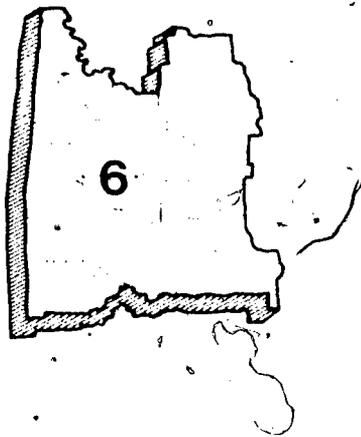
Mr. Donnie Jones  
Perate, AL 36061

Mr. Darryl Andrews  
Perate, AL 36061

Mr. George W. Reynolds  
Auburn, AL 36830

Mr. F. Mitchell Garrett  
Montgomery, AL 36111

Dr. Ken Hudson  
Montgomery, AL 36109



REGION 6 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL  
AND  
SOME LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS

Co-Chairmen

Mr. Bill Stewart  
Monroeville, AL 36460

Mrs. Nick Dixon  
Linden, AL 36748

Mrs. Della Browder  
Camden, AL 36726

Mr. John F. Calhoun  
Grove Hill, AL 36451

Mr. Roswell L. Falkenberry  
Selma, AL 36701

Mr. Watrous Garrett  
Grove Hill, AL 36451

Judge Fred L. Huggins  
Grove Hill, AL 36451

Mr. Joseph S. Knight  
Camden, AL 36726

Mr. Jim T. McKay  
Demopolis, AL 36732

Mrs. Leacy Newell  
Camden, AL 36726

Mrs. Elsie M. Reid  
Selma, AL 36701

Mr. Luther J. Reid  
McIntosh, AL 36533

Mrs. Annie Richardson  
Monroeville, AL 36460

Mr. Philip H. Speir  
Selma, AL 36701

Mr. Julius E. Talton  
Selma, AL 36702

Mr. W. H. Tucker  
Grove Hill, AL 36451

Mr. R. B. Williams  
Monroeville, AL 36460

Ms. Janis Quinn  
Selma, AL 36702

Mr. B. B. Williamson  
Livingston, AL 35470

Mr. John Kelly  
Selma, AL 36701

Mr. Joe B. Dunagan  
Coffeeville, AL 36524

Mrs. Cora Dunagan  
Coffeeville, AL 36524

Mr. Hal Bloom  
Demopolis, AL 36732

Mr. Henry Harrison  
Linden, AL 36748

Mr. Willie Tucker  
Grove Hill, AL 36451

Mrs. Margaret C. Lyons  
Livingston, AL 35470

Mr. Frank Norris  
Magnolia, AL 36754

Mrs. Aileen Nixon  
Livingston, AL 35470

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Fields  
Gainsville, AL 35464

Mrs. John Lavender  
Livingston, AL 35470

Mrs. J. C. Bryant  
Ward, AL 36922

Mrs. Hodges Dial  
Sumterville, AL 35485

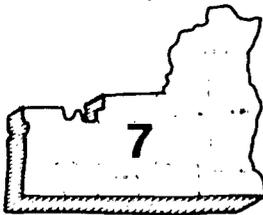
Mr. Joe Mines  
Sumterville, AL 35485

Mrs. Ben George  
Demopolis, AL 36732

Mr. Paul Gay  
Butler, AL 36904

Mr. John W. Bailey  
Selma, AL 36701

Sen. Walter C. Givhan  
Safford, AL 36773



REGION 7 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL  
AND  
SOME LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS

Co-Chairmen

Mr. John T. Powell  
Dothan, AL 36301

Mrs. Cecil Patterson  
Kinston, AL 36453

Miss Glynn O'Donnell  
Dothan, AL 36301

Mr. James S. Radcliff, Jr.  
Andalusia, AL 36420

Mrs. Sarah Russell  
Eufaula, AL 36027

Mrs. Troy Shearon  
Dothan, AL 36301

Miss Katharina Thornberry  
Ozark, AL 36360

Mr. Paul Vaughn  
Ozark, AL 36360

Mr. Ben T. Williams  
Andalusia, AL 36420

Mr. Ronald Williamson  
Andalusia, AL 36420

Mrs. Caroline Cavanaugh  
Andalusia, AL 36420

Mr. Kenneth Ball  
Geneva, AL 36340

Mr. James Bradley  
Eufaula, AL 36027

Mr. Bruce Dillard  
Enterprise, AL

Mr. Walter Pyron  
Opp, AL 36467

Mrs. Bruce Whitehead  
Dothan, AL 36301

Mr. Harvey E. Carroll  
Enterprise, AL 36330

Mr. L. E. Tompkins  
Pinckard, AL 36371

Mr. William F. Burns, Jr.  
Andalusia, AL 36420

Mr. M. D. Monk  
Ozark, AL 36360

Mr. C. F. Lyle  
Ozark, AL 36360

Mrs. Lee Anderson  
Dothan, AL 36301

Rep. Fred Barkett  
Ozark, AL 36360

Mrs. Beth Bowdin  
Samson, AL 36477

Mrs. Nancy Brunson  
Enterprise, AL 36330

Mr. Thomas C. Casaday  
Enterprise, AL 36330

Mrs. Lawrence Cater  
Andalusia, AL 36420

Mr. William T. Cathell  
Dothan, AL 36301

Mr. Donald Cooke  
Opp, AL 36467

Mr. Dewey Corbett  
Eufaula, AL 36027

Mr. Richard Crossett  
Andalusia, AL 36420

Mrs. Max Davis  
Andalusia, AL 36420

Mayor G. C. Donaldson  
Enterprise, AL 36330

Mr. J. S. Doyle  
Dothan, AL 36301

Mr. Bobby Gains  
Daleville, AL 36322

Mrs. Virginia Green  
Clayton, AL 36016

Mr. C. H. Harper  
Ozark, AL 36360

Mr. Lawrence Harris  
Stocomb, AL 36375

Mr. Tex Middlebrooks  
Dothan, AL 36301

Mr. A. A. Middleton  
Dothan, AL 36301

Mr. Thomas B. Steele  
New Brockton, AL 36351

Mrs. Abner Barnes  
Hattford, AL 36344

Mr. Stanhope Elmore, Jr.  
Dothan, AL 36301

Mr. James M. Gachet  
Clio, AL 36017

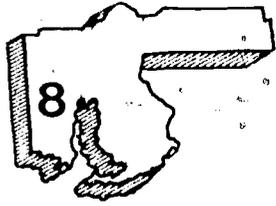
Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Phillips  
Headland, AL 36345

Ms. Shirley H. Griggs  
Enterprise, AL 36330

Mr. R. T. Garlington  
Eufaula, AL 36027

Mr. Guy P. Dunnivant  
Fort Rucker, AL 36360

Mr. Harry James Hatten  
Enterprise, AL 36330



REGION 8 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL  
AND  
SOME LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS

Co-Chairmen

Dr. David Bjork  
Mobile, AL 36608

Mrs. Thomas Horne  
Fairhope, AL 36532

Mrs. Peggy Bracken  
Brewton, AL 36426

Mr. Vincent Brocata  
Mobile, AL 36601

Mr. J. H. Faulkner, Jr  
Bay Minette, AL 36507

Mr. James E. Fibbe  
Mobile, AL 36604

Dr. Arthur Garrett  
Mobile, AL 36608

Mr. Tommy Jarnan  
Mobile, AL 36607

Dr. E. E. Jones  
Mobile, AL 36688

Mr. Elton R. Jones  
Mobile, AL 36601

Dr. Michael A. Magnoli  
Saraland, AL 36571

Sen. L. D. "Dick" Owen  
Bay Minette, AL 36507

Mr. Freeman W. Pollard  
Mobile, AL 36617

Mr. Don "Rocky" Reich  
Mobile, AL 36604

Dr. Joseph F. Riccio  
Mobile, AL 36605

Rep. Bill Roberts  
Mobile, AL 36607

Mr. Fallon Trotter  
Mobile, AL 36630

Mr. John Tyson  
Mobile, AL 36609

Mr. Charles B. Vickery  
Mobile, AL 36602

Mr. Alvin Downing  
Brewton, AL 36426

Mr. Richard D. Pruitt  
Mobile, AL

Mr. Smith Pickett, Jr.  
Mobile, AL 36601

Mr. J. P. Schaffner  
Mobile, AL 36600

Mr. George H. Rains  
Daphne, AL 36526

Ms. Natalie Crozier  
Mobile, AL 36600

Mrs. Einar Mikkelsen  
Summerdale, AL 36580

Mrs. George Kaiser  
Foley, AL 36535

Mr. Earl Norton  
Mobile, AL 36600

Mr. H. C. Geron  
Mobile, AL 36600

Mr. William L. McDonough  
Mobile, AL 36600

Mr. Charles H. Kilpatrick  
Mobile, AL 36602

Mr. Olin D. Rogers  
Mobile, AL 36600

Mr. J. P. Schaffner  
Mobile, AL 36600

Mr. Hugh Hazer  
Mobile, AL 36600

Mr. W. J. Hearn  
Mobile, AL 36600

Mr. Doug Modling  
Mobile, AL 36600

Mr. Earl Norton  
Mobile, AL 36600

Mr. W. H. Tucker  
Grove Hill, AL 36451

Mrs. Alicia Linzey  
Mobile, AL 36688

Mr. Robert Erhardf  
Mobile, AL 36609

Mrs. Ruth McDonnell  
Daphne, AL 36526

Mrs. Doris Naylor  
Daphne, AL 36526

Mrs. L. O. Moseley  
Robertsdale, AL 36567

Mrs. Alice Petelinski  
Robertsdale, AL 36567

Mr. William L. McDonough  
Mobile, AL 36600

Mr. E. P. Pierce  
Mobile, AL 36600

Mr. Folbert O. Owens  
Brewton, AL 36426



REGION 9 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL \*  
AND  
SOME LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS

Chairman

Dr. Jack S. Brown  
Florence, AL 35630

Mr. Bailey Anderson  
Florence, AL 35630  
Sen. Joe Fine  
Russellville, AL 35653  
Mrs. Talmadge Goodwin  
Haleyville, AL 35565  
Mr. Hal Kirby  
Russellville, AL 35653  
Mr. Allan O'Neal  
Russellville, AL 35653  
Mrs. Sandra Owens  
Florence, AL 35630  
Mr. Gary Shannon  
Florence, AL 35630  
Mrs. Earl Stamps  
Florence, AL 35630  
Mr. Henry L. Turner  
Muscle Shoals, AL 35660  
Mr. William E. Bustin  
Haleyville, AL 35565  
Mr. Robert B. Fish  
Double Springs, AL 35553  
Mrs. Betty L. Martin  
Florence, AL 35630  
Mr. Gordon Park  
Muscle Shoals, AL 35660  
Mrs. Bernice McRae  
Hamilton, AL 35570  
Mrs. H. T. Gregg  
Hamilton, AL 35570  
Mr. Stanley E. Munsey  
Muscle Shoals, AL 35660

\*The Region 9 Council was established late in 1973. Membership is to be expanded.