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#### *About the Institute*

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

## 35 WAYS THAT YOU CAN HELP FIGHT POLLUTION

### Insecticides and herbicides

1. If you are a home gardener, make sure fertilizer is worked deep into the soil -- don't hose it off into the water system, Pull weeds instead of using herbicide.

2. Don't buy DDT to fight garden and home insects. Use a spray gun instead of aerosol cans. If you must spray, use botanical poisons -- those made from natural plant substances such as pyrethrum, rotenone, and nicotine sulphate. Don't use aldrin, chlordane, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, lindane or toxaphene. These have dangerous, long-lasting effects. Use pellets for roaches and ants inside the house. Avoid no-pest strips and pet collars.

### Use soap

3. Use soap rather than soapless detergents until new substitutes for phosphates are found. Available soaps include Ivory Snow, Ivory Flakes, Lux Flakes, Fels-Naptha soap. If water needs softening, add 1/3 cup washing soda for each washer load. Avoid enzyme pre-soaks.

### Reduce Air Pollution

4. If you don't really need to use a car, don't. Motor vehicles are the cause of 60% of our air pollution. Bike or walk!

5. If you must drive, form car pools. Don't drive alone.

6. When selecting a new car, make sure it burns fuel efficiently (is high in miles per gallon).

7. Keeping your car in top running order can save 25% in air pollution.

8. Use lead-free or low-lead gas, and have your car's anti-pollution valve (in 1968 or newer cars) checked yearly.

9. Cut down on power consumption. Turn down the thermostat. Don't burn lights unnecessarily. Don't use hot water when cold will do. Don't run the dryer unnecessarily long. Weigh the pollution potential against your desire for new electrical appliances. Remember -- ALL POWER POLLUTES.

10. Stop smoking.

### Trash equals Solid Waste

11. Don't litter. Carry a litter bag in your car and when you walk; set an example by picking up bottles and cans. If you see a litterer, object politely. ("Excuse me, sir, I think you dropped something.")

12. Use recyclable containers or those that disintegrate readily. Choose containers in the following priority:

- a) Cardboard (can be recycled, eventually returned to earth)
- b) Glass (inert, recyclable, reusable, can be ground fine)
- c) Metal (but aluminum cans never disintegrate)
- d) Plastic (more on this later; it's complicated and in a state of change. At present plastic containers are a problem at Tryon's fine new landfill operation).

13. Don't buy throwaway bottles. Patronize stores that offer returnables, and let them know you approve.

14. Don't allow filter-tip cigarettes to be flushed in your toilet or put into your garbage disposer. They can ruin your plumbing and clog up pumps at the sewer treatment plant.

### Recycle

15. Old paper and rags can be made into new paper; old bottles into new glass; old cans into new cans. Polk County Library will accept old newspapers and magazines. We'll let you know when glass and can pickups are available.

16. Make sure everything is used as many times as it can be. Insist on returnable bottles. Aluminum foil and plastic bags and wrap can be washed and used over and over. When you throw something away, remember that there is no "away."

17. Never burn leaves. Compost them.

18. Save your cooking fat for the birds. Don't wash it in sink.

19. There's only so much water. Don't leave it running indoors, or into the plumbing system. If it has to be recycled too fast, the treatment plants can't purify it properly. Make sure that faucets don't drip.

### Fight Noise

20. Use heavy-duty unbreakable garbage cans instead of metal..

21. Protest the SST-- write the President.

### Write letters

22. Write your Congressman and Senators when environmental issues come up. Let them know that at election time you'll support candidates who vote positively on environmental measures.

### Become Aware

23. There are many excellent and readable books and publications on the environmental crisis, some of which include more suggestions on what you can do to help. Those listed below have been found particularly worthwhile. Read some, and pass your copies on to a friend.

Books (almost all available in paperback) include:

Sierra Club, Ecotactics

Wesley Marx, The Frail Ocean

Garrett DeBell, ed., The Environmental Handbook

Robert and Leona Rienow, Moment in the Sun

Paul Ehrlich, The Population Bomb

Barry Commoner, Science and Survival

Rachel Carson, Silent Spring

Frank Graham, Since Silent Spring (now in paperback)

Stewart Udall, The Quiet Crisis

Garrett Hardin, Population, Evolution, and Birth Control

Publications include:

Environment, \$6 per year, 438 Skinker Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 68130

Environmental Action Weekly, \$5 for 6 months, Rodake press,

Emmaus, Penna., 18049

Zero Population Growth, Inc., \$10, 330 2nd St., Los Altos, Cal.

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Care (Who will, if we don't?)

24. Individuals often feel helpless in the face of the gigantic problems that we now face. Remember that individuals, acting alone and together, can halt it. Think ecologically at home. Find as many ways as you can to save our resources of air, water, and earth. The following suggestions may help.

25. Limit your use of disposables. Use cloth napkins, diapers, towels, and handkerchiefs -- and wash them with soap.

26. When you shop, take along a tote bag, as the Europeans do. Don't accept excess bags and packaging. If you accumulate grocery bags, take one back to the store when you shop. The bags cost the stores about 5 cents each, and they will be delighted to refill it for you.

27. Don't accept junk mail. Mark it "Refused-- return to sender." The sender will have to pay return postage; he should quickly get the idea.

28. Run your dishwasher only once a day, using the short cycle if possible. Watch for the non-polluting dishwasher detergents that some companies are preparing to make.

29. Put bricks in your toilet tank. They will reduce the amount of water per flush by the volume of the bricks. A family of four can save 3,000 gallons of water a year this way.

30. Use sand instead of salt on snowy sidewalks.

31. Fur and feathers look better on their original owners. Don't buy articles made from wild animal skins.

32. Help get anti-pollution ideas into children's heads. Teach them about litter, noise, conservation. It's going to be their world, and you'll find that they really do care.

33. Don't over-buy and over-consume. Plan for a simpler Christmas next year.

34. If you have a fireplace, cut down as much as you can. If you must use it, burn wood instead of coal, and never cannel coal. Don't use kerosene to start the fire.

35. Last, and most important, be aware of the population crisis, which is strongly correlated with the environmental crisis. If you want more than two children, give serious thought to adopting them. Our population growth will have to be checked, either by birth control or by "death control"-- disease, war, famines, riots. Which is preferable? (All churches are agreed on the necessity for birth control; the only disagreement is on methods.) Care-- about our people and about our earth. Who will, if we don't?

PASS THIS ON TO A FRIEND

Adapted by the Tryon League of Women Voters as a community service.

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a special publication of the national association of biology teachers

June 1973  
To George Van Schaack  
My very best friend  
and critic  
with warmest best  
wishes  
from  
JH

# POLLUTION

Editors

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Paul E. Klinge

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BIOLOGY TEACHERS  
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