Key Environmental Legislation

Statute	Area Covered	Key Points
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (**CERCLA**)	Hazardous Waste	Sets up a fund to clean up abandoned hazardous waste sites Establishes liability scheme for parties to collect from one another for $$ to clean up sites; EPA and others can sue to recoup cleanup $ Sets up guidelines on how to clean up sites EPA locates dumps and sets priorities of worst sites, known as National Priority List (NPL); Mining sites, nuclear sites, military sites (all government) plus industrial sites of all sorts Implemented "polluter pays principle"
Oil Pollution Act (**OPA**)	Oil Spills	Establishes liability for oil spills; establishes fund to clean up oil spills Mandates spill cleanup procedures
Pollution Prevention Act (**PPA**)	Pollutant Generation	Seeks to prevent pollution through the reduced generation of pollutants at their origin Companies required to report toxic releases each year EPA tests products and works with companies mostly on voluntary basis
Clean Air Act (**CAA**)	Air Pollutants	Requires EPA to set and enforce rules regarding: --mobile source limits (cars) --ambient air quality standards (smog) --hazardous air pollutant discharge standards (what can come out of smokestacks) --standards for new pollution sources (invent a polluting source?: talk to EPA before it can be used) --acid rain reduction --ozone depletion protection EPA works with areas that don't attain clean air standards
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act **(RCRA)**	Hazardous and Solid Waste	Regulates wastes from "cradle to grave". (rules for handling of waste from the time it's generated, while it is packaged, stored, transported, and its disposal) Regulates: - Landfills - Underground storage tanks - Hazardous waste disposal - Transportation manifests - Permits to possess, treat and dispose of waste - Record keeping and reporting
Endangered Species Act (**ESA**)	Animals and Plants	ESA makes a list of endangered and threatened species Violation if one "harms" such a species: "harm" includes impacting environment Hint: also remember that if question involves birds, Migratory Bird Act protects what can be done to birds
Clean Water Act (**CWA**)	All waters except oceans	Regulates and enforces program for discharges into U.S. waters Regulates wetland destruction/construction Establishes sewage treatment construction grants program

Safe Drinking Water Act (**SDWA**)	Water	Establishes primary drinking water standards Establishes groundwater protection program
Ocean Dumping Act (**ODA**)	Oceans	Regulates intentional disposal of materials into oceans
Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (**EPCRA**)	Chemicals Information	Requires reporting of toxic releases: the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Encourages response for chemical releases
Toxic Substances Control Act (**TSCA**)	Chemicals	Regulates the testing and use of chemicals (amount produced, how handled, warning labels, limit uses) Also covers the following programs: --radon --lead in buildings --asbestos protection
Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (**FIFRA**)	Pesticides	Governs pesticide use: amount and locations Creates a pesticide registry; bans some Food and Drug Administration also administers
National Environmental Policy Act (**NEPA**)	Study of Federal Projects Affecting Environment	Environmental Impact Statements must be filed for "major" federal actions Only paperwork and research need be done; no other activities mandated
Kyoto Protocol:	CO_2 Emmisions	Controlling global warming by setting greenhouse gas emissions targets for developed countries
Montreal Protocol	CFCs	phase out of ozone deleting substances *Chlorofluorocarbons*
CITES	Endangered Species	*Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species*: lists species that cannot be commercially traded as live specimens or wildlife products
Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act	Strip mining	Requires coal strip mines to reclaim the land.
Water Quality Act	Water	Attempts to reduce non-point source pollution
Food Quality Protection Act	Pesticides	set pesticide limits in food, & all active and inactive ingredients must be screened for estrogenic/endocrine effects
Nuclear Waste Policy Act	Nuclear Waste	US government must develop a high level nuclear waste site by 2015