Worldwatch Institute Encyclopedia Article

Worldwatch Institute

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Worldwatch Institute

Worldwatch Institute, a research organization based in Washington, D.C., compiles and publishes information on worldwide environmental problems; it also suggests solutions and alternative courses of action. The Institute was founded in 1975 by **Lester R. Brown**, with financial assistance from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. Brown is now its president and director of research; chairman of the board is former Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman. Membership is $25 annually. The fee helps support the Institute's research and publications, which members receive, but there are no avenues for membership participation within the Institute.

The Institute has published the *State of the World* report annually since 1984; sales in recent years reached $200,000. It is issued in 26 languages and is used as a textbook in over 600 colleges in the United states alone. The publication examines such topics as global warming, water and **air quality**, and the environmental impact of social policies. In 1990, *State of the World* was produced as a 10-part series on public television, a joint venture with the producers of *Nova*. The 1992 edition describes "a planet at risk" and warned that "the policy decisions we make during this decade will determine" the quality of life for **future generations**.

Six to eight other Worldwatch papers are published each year, and over a hundred monographs have been issued on specific subjects. *Worldwatch* magazine is published in several languages, and the *Environmental Alert* series targets particular environmental issues.

Resources

Organizations

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