



EPA's Report on the Environment

2008



2008

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Preferred Citation:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). (2008) EPA's 2008 Report on the Environment. National Center for Environmental Assessment, Washington, DC; EPA/600/R-07/045F. Available from the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, VA, and online at <http://www.epa.gov/roe>.



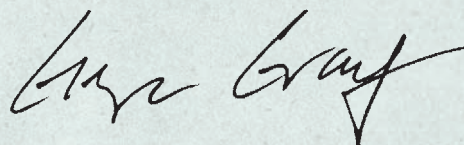
Message from the Assistant Administrator for Research and Development

I am pleased to present *EPA's 2008 Report on the Environment* (ROE). This report compiles, in one place, the most reliable indicators currently available to answer key questions about trends in human health and the condition of the nation's environment.

EPA's 2008 Report on the Environment demonstrates the importance of scientifically sound information to help us understand the state of the environment, identify areas of concern, and monitor progress. We can all celebrate the fact that our air is cleaner, our water is purer, and our land is better protected than it was just a generation ago. Today, we are beginning to measure just how much progress we have made. Though we once took our environment for granted, we now understand the importance of environmental quality for our future. Much work remains to be done, however, and we must continue to build on our record of progress.

I thank the many EPA staff members from every program and Region; our federal, tribal, state, and local government partners; and the independent scientists and research institutions who contributed to this report. The 2008 ROE represents the culmination of an effort that began in 2001 when EPA embarked on a bold initiative to assemble, for the first time, indicators of national conditions that are important to the Agency's mission to protect human health and the environment. EPA first presented this information in its 2003 *Draft Report on the Environment*. We have since revised and refined the ROE in response to feedback from EPA's Scientific Advisory Board and our stakeholders, and we have updated the indicators to reflect the latest available data.

EPA's 2008 Report on the Environment is part of an important national dialogue on how we can improve our ability to assess the nation's environmental quality and human health, and how we can use that knowledge to better manage for measurable environmental results. I invite you to participate in this dialogue with us and our partners. Your comments and feedback are essential to our future efforts.



George Gray, Ph.D.
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Acknowledgements

Development of this report was a collaborative effort that could not have been accomplished without the substantial commitment of many people, both inside and outside EPA. EPA thanks the following individuals and organizations for their contributions to this effort.

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