

Silent Spring revisited: Trends in Environmental Engineering and Sciences, from the 1960s to Today

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While *Silent Spring* was responsible for bringing the massive environmental issues of the post-war world to the attention of the voting public, scientists and engineers had been concerned for decades about pollution from radioactive fall-out, indiscriminate spraying of pesticides, and unsafe drinking water. This concern led to the formation of the most powerful environmental regulatory agency in the world, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), an organization whose scientists and engineers and sociologists and economists have been tasked to figure out policies to save “Spaceship Earth”. Today, the formidable knowledge and power represented by the USEPA are under threat of being destroyed and the very strategies that have helped to make the North American environment the envy of the world are in grave danger of being dismantled. In understanding the historical underpinnings, we can attempt to move forward with sustainable solutions.