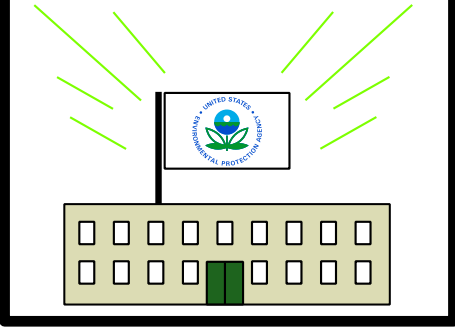


a closer look at a struggling hero, the US

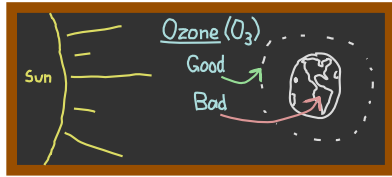
Created by
Eric Jones

Environmental Protection Agency

In 1970, Congress created our group. We were to protect human health and the environment. Not a light job.



We studied environmental issues, taught the public, and gave grants to states, non-profits, and others to help us protect.

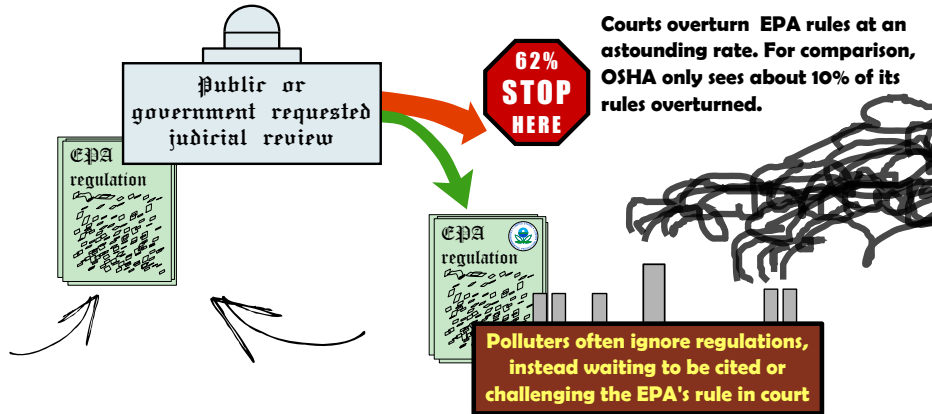
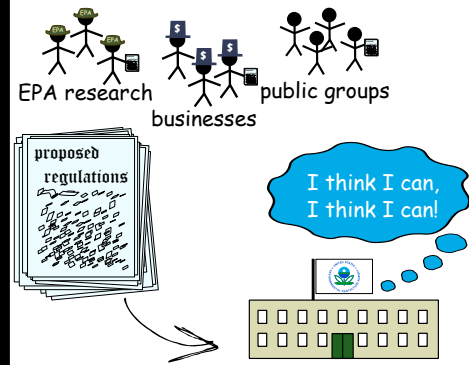


Congress also told us to develop and enforce national legislation relevant to our cause...

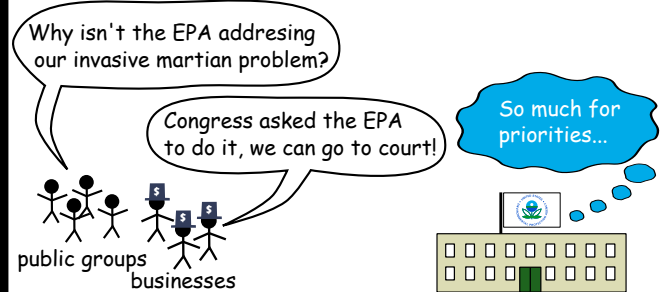


In 2009, Gallup reported that the EPA had an approval rating of only 42%. This informative comic attempts to convey the EPA's responsibilities and how it interacts with other parts of the government, the public, businesses, and pollution sources. The EPA is large and every case is different, but this graphic should serve as a general overview and hopefully spark interest in the topic.

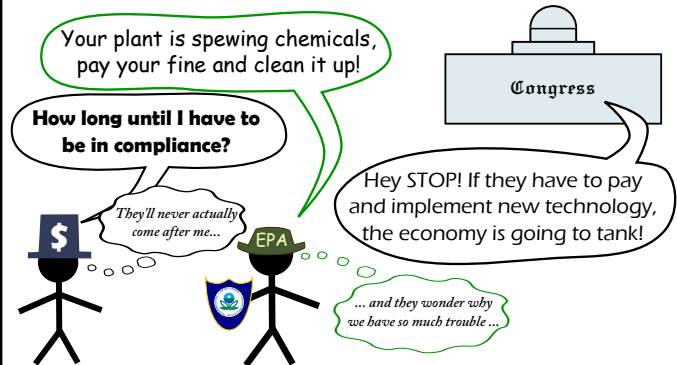
This turned out to be too much to handle...



Congress sets unrealistic goals, and our work becomes prioritized by the highest bidder. Congress doesn't seem to care, ...



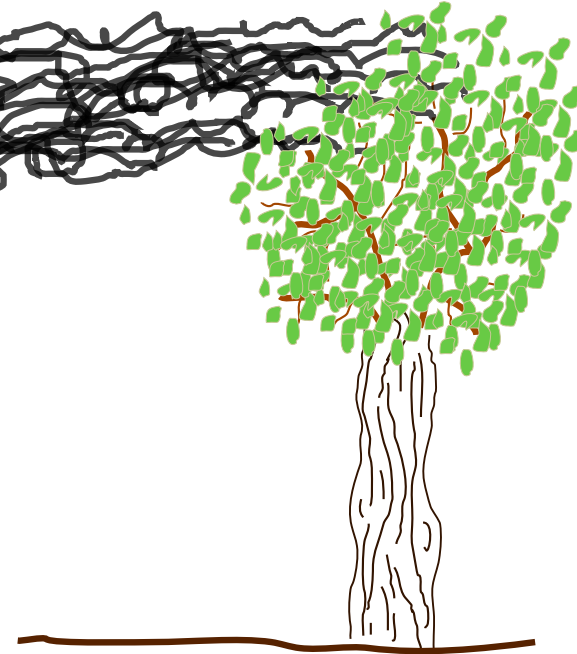
... and that enforcement piece doesn't really work out as planned.



62% STOP HERE

Polluters often ignore regulations, instead waiting to be cited or challenging the EPA's rule in court

Courts overturn EPA rules at an astounding rate. For comparison, OSHA only sees about 10% of its rules overturned.



The information presented here is based on David Schoenbrod's *Saving Our Environment From Washington*. If you're interested in learning more about when environmental policy does and doesn't work, I encourage you to read this book.

The Clean Air Act

Originally written in 1963 with major updates in 1970, 1977, and 1990, the Clean Air Act, along with other regulation, has done wonders to clean the air we breathe. Now that the low-hanging fruit are mostly resolved, is the structure still effective?

