

## EPA'S REPORT ON THE ENVIRONMENT 2014 (DRAFT)

Understanding trends in the condition of the United States' natural resources, human health, and ecological systems is an important part of making informed environmental protection decisions. The Report on the Environment (ROE) provides EPA and others with important information about trends in the environment and human health.

### What is the ROE?

The ROE is a comprehensive source of scientific indicators that describe the condition of and trends in the nation's environmental and human health. It compiles, in one place, the most reliable indicators currently available to help answer 24 questions that EPA believes are of critical importance to its mission.

ROE indicators provide information about the current status and historical trends in the nation's air, water, land, human health and exposure, ecological systems, and aspects of sustainability at the national and, where possible, regional levels.

### Why is the ROE important?

Data on environmental trends can inform EPA and the public about how well our nation is doing to protect



human health and the environment. These data also provide valuable information to EPA in developing its strategic priorities.

### What's new in the revised ROE?

ROE indicators are based on data generated by multiple agencies and are updated regularly. The revised ROE presents 86 indicators, all of which were peer-reviewed to meet high standards for accuracy, representativeness, and reliability. The ROE also includes four new sustainability indicators. Sustainability is defined as "conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, and fulfill the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations."

The ROE was last released in 2008 as a hard copy report. The new ROE is

entirely web-based with no printed version.

### What are the next steps?

EPA is releasing the ROE as a draft at this time for public comment and external peer review by the Agency's Science Advisory Board. Once final, EPA's ROE will provide critical environmental and human health information that EPA and others will use to inform decisions to protect public health and the environment.

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