

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The significant impact of environmental regulations in the 1990s on industry in general, and the chemical industry in particular, is indisputable. Public awareness of the need to avoid endangerment of the natural systems that support life on earth, ie, the atmosphere (see Air pollution; Air pollution control methods; Atmospheric modeling), water (qv), soil, and living things, has also intensified.

A concomitant increase in the coverage of environmental issues is evidenced in the *Encyclopedia*. There are new articles, ie, Groundwater monitoring, Hazard analysis and risk assessment, Hazardous waste treatment, and Waste reduction, which have environmental topics as the primary focus. There is also a growing tendency to merge environmental issues and economics in decision making within the chemical industry (see Economic evaluation; Fuels from waste; Herbicides; Recycling; Solvents, industrial; Wastes, industrial). Moreover, because environmental issues are pervasive in the chemical industry, these concerns have brought about change in chemical technology. In many fields, environmental concerns and regulations are driving technological development (see Coating processes; Dyes, environmental chemistry; Exhaust control, automotive; Exhaust control, industrial).

The impact of environmental issues is apparent within the majority of *Encyclopedia* articles having counterparts in previous editions. For example, the effect of environmental concerns on manufacturing and other processes is evident in articles such as Alkali and chlorine products, Electroplating, Mineral recovery and processing, and Petroleum. Concern about the environment has also played a role in the types and quantities of materials produced (see Chlorocarbons and chlorohydrocarbons; Coatings, marine; Corrosion and corrosion control; Pigments, inorganic) as well as with regard to the technology employed (see Coal conversion processes; Food packaging).

Related Articles

Air pollution; Air pollution control methods; Atmospheric modeling; Groundwater monitoring; Hazard analysis and risk assessment; Hazardous waste treatment; Dyes, environmental chemistry; Exhaust control, automotive; Exhaust control; Waste reduction; Fuels from waste; Recycling; Wastes, industrial