

# U.S. OVERPOPULATION: EARTH'S BIGGEST PROBLEM

150,000,000: U.S. population in 1950

325,000,000: U.S. population today

**400,000,000: projected U.S. population in 2050**



Earth Day turns 47 this year.

What started in 1970 with 20 million Americans rallying for environmental protection has become a global movement – with over 1 billion participants each year.

**Yet one major environmental threat remains largely ignored:**

**America is growing by an average  
of 1 person every 16\* seconds.**

Population growth impacts every aspect of our daily lives, and every area of our country. And it's a real problem in the U.S. because our consumption levels are far higher than in the rest of the world. In 2014, our nation had less than 5% of the world's population but was responsible for over 20% of global oil consumption.

Every hour, the U.S. loses 50 acres of farm and ranch land to sprawl and development. Our nation's water use has nearly doubled since 1950, growing right alongside our population. In 2013, Americans generated 254 million tons of trash – representing 4.4 pounds per person per day – and our total garbage creation has nearly tripled since 1960.

Since the first Earth Day in 1970, the U.S. has worked to establish environmental protection policies – but because of our population growth, our consumption and emissions rates remain problematic.

**If we want to protect our environment,  
we must talk about population size and growth.**

NPG is leading the conversation – and **YOU CAN HELP!**

Visit **www.NPG.org** and get involved!

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