What is the EPI?

The Environmental Performance Index (EPI) ranks countries’ performance on high-priority environmental issues in two areas: protection of human health and the protection of ecosystems. Within these two policy objectives, the EPI scores national performance in nine issue areas composed of more than 20 indicators. EPI indicators measure country progress in meeting internationally established targets, or, in the absence of agreed targets, how nations compare to one another.

Complete methods, data, and results are available online at www.epi.yale.edu.

Why the EPI?

Pioneering data-driven approaches to environmental policy in the last 15 years, the EPI has accelerated the global use of quantitative metrics to evaluate policy performance. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in September 2015, have assimilated a parallel approach, defining 17 goals and 169 targets to guide the global development agenda. Aligning the EPI’s indicators with the SDGs provides a baseline for evaluating national performance and shows how for countries see from reaching global targets.

1. **Why the EPI?**
   - The EPI value lies not only in the overall ranking, which are intended to drive competitive performance, but also in the issue-by-issue metrics that provide a diagnostic tool for countries to look internally for areas of weakness and strength. A common framework and methodology allows countries to compare their performance with that of neighbors and peers, and see how their own performance has changed over time.

2. **EPI RANKINGS**
   - The Peer Comparison column identifies whether a country performs better or worse than countries in its region.

3. **Country**
   - **Rank**
   - **Country**
   - **Score**
   - **Peer Comp.**

4. **Score Peer Comp.*
   - **74.88**
   - **75.32**
   - **76.23**
   - **76.69**
   - **77.02**
   - **78**
   - **78.02**
   - **78.67**
   - **79.69**
   - **79.84**
   - **80.15**
   - **80.59**
   - **81.26**
   - **82.3**
   - **83.78**
   - **88.48**
   - **88.63**
   - **88.91**
   - **90.68**
   - **92**
   - **99**
   - **63.28**
   - **63.67**
   - **63.73**
   - **63.97**
   - **64.92**
   - **64.99**
   - **65.85**
   - **66.06**
   - **66.32**
   - **66.91**
   - **67.37**
   - **68.58**
   - **69.14**
   - **69.34**
   - **69.59**
   - **69.94**
   - **70.07**
   - **70.2**
   - **70.24**
   - **70.72**
   - **70.85**
   - **71.02**
   - **71.08**
   - **73.13**
   - **73.25**
   - **73.38**
   - **74.18**
   - **74.23**
   - **74.38**
   - **74.48**

   - *** The Peer Comparison indicates whether a country performs better or worse than others in its region.**

5. **2016 POLICYMAKERS SUMMARY**

   - The Environmental Performance Index ranks countries’ performance on high-priority environmental issues.
GLOBAL METRICS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Why the EPI?

Pioneering data-driven approaches to environmental policy, the EPI has accelerated the global use of quantitative metrics to evaluate policy performance. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in September 2015, have assembled a parallel approach, defining 17 goals and 169 targets to guide the global development agenda. Aligning the EPI's indicators with the SDGs provides a baseline for evaluating national performance and shares how far countries see from reaching global targets.

The EPI value lies not only in the overall ranks, which are intended to drive competitive promotion, but also in the issue-by-issue metrics that provide a diagnostic tool for countries to look for areas of weakness and strength. A common framework and methodology allow countries to compare their performance with that of neighbors and peers, and see how their own performance has changed over time. This Policymakers Summary provides a big-picture overview of global environmental trends. Readers are encouraged to delve deeper into the country profiles and indicator data on the website.

What is the EPI?

The Environmental Performance Index (EPI) ranks countries' performance on high-priority environmental issues. Within these two policy objectives, the EPI scores national performance in nine issue areas comprised of more than 20 indicators. EPI indicators measure country proximity to meeting internationally established targets or, in the absence of agreed targets, how close countries compare to one another.

Compare methods, data, and results are available online at www.epi.yale.edu.
In 2015, unsafe water was responsible for 2% of global deaths (~15 million), while poor air quality was responsible for 9% of all global deaths (~5.5 million). Economic development tends to improve some environmental areas, but it is also associated with increased air pollution and occupational health risks. As nations become wealthier, they increasingly invest in sanitation infrastructure and fewer people are exposed to unsafe water. Yet, deadly deaths from waterborne diseases, like cholera and typhoid, increase in industrialized countries due to increased industrial production, urbanization, and increased transport routes. Exposure to dangerous air pollution is also rising. In rich countries, more people are being exposed to unhealthy air, which is responsible for 10% of all global deaths (~5.5 million). Economic development leads to improvement in some environmental areas, yet it is also associated with increased environmental pollution for human health. As nations become wealthier, they increasingly invest in sanitation infrastructure and fewer people are exposed to unsafe water. Yet, deadly deaths from waterborne diseases, like cholera and typhoid, increase in industrialized countries due to increased industrial production, urbanization, and increased transport routes. Exposure to dangerous air pollution is also rising. In rich countries, more people are being exposed to unhealthy air, which is responsible for 10% of all global deaths (~5.5 million). Economic development leads to improvement in some environmental areas, yet it is also associated with increased environmental pollution for human health.

Dangerous air pollution is a global issue. One-third of the world’s population – 3.5 billion people – half of the world’s population – 3.5 billion people – 3.5 billion people – is breathing polluted air. Among the world’s poorest, the burden of air pollution is especially heavy, with more than 50% of their populations breathe unsafe air.

The number of people lacking access to drinking water has been nearly cut in half from 960 million in 2000 to 500 million today, around 8% of the world’s population.

23% of countries have no wastewater treatment.

15.4% of terrestrial habitats and 8.4% of marine habitats are protected.

Nations are less than 2% away from reaching global targets on biodiversity and habitat. But, there is roughly a 3% global gap between the desired level of terrestrial and marine protected areas to protect 15% of terrestrial habitats and 10% of marine areas. Protected areas are often established on marginal lands, rather than in high-value areas where wildlife is forced out by agricultural development and human settlements.

2% of countries scored on Climate and Energy are reducing their carbon intensity.

Globally, renewable energy and energy efficiency are starting to decline rapidly. The 2016 EPI uses data from the International Energy Agency’s World Energy Outlook 2016, which assesses energy policies and performance across all sectors of the economy. As a result, the EPPI Climate and Energy indicators might show slow or static performance levels rather than whether countries are making concrete progress towards their targets.

10% of countries have no energy efficiency.

34% of global fish stocks are over-exploited or collapsed.

The slow advances in fish stocks show that many measurement is poor or not aligned with proper management. Environmental and human health suffer. Marine fisheries are poorly managed, as many countries lack the capacity to monitor fish stocks, and international policy targets are from slow to nonexistent.

3.5% of countries have no marine protected areas.

Marine fisheries are poorly monitored, as many countries lack the capacity to monitor fish stocks, and international policy targets are far from slow to nonexistent.

15% of countries have no forest protection measures.

The 2016 EPI uses data from the International Energy Agency’s World Energy Outlook 2016, which assesses energy policies and performance across all sectors of the economy. As a result, the EPPI Climate and Energy indicators might show slow or static performance levels rather than whether countries are making concrete progress towards their targets.

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99% of global population are exposed to severe air pollution.

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The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in September 2015, have assembled a parallel approach, defining 17 goals and 169 targets to guide the global development agenda. Aligning the EPI’s indicators with the SDGs provides a baseline for evaluating national performance on the SDGs.

The EPI’s value lies not only in the high-priority environmental issues, which are intended to drive productive competition, but also in the in-use by-issue metrics that provide a diagnostic tool for countries to look internally for areas of weakness and strength. A common framework and methodology allows countries to compare their performance with that of neighbors and peers, and see how their own performance has changed over time.

This Policymakers Summary provides a big-picture overview of global environmental trends. Readers are encouraged to delve deeper into the country profiles and indicator data on the website.

2016 EPI RANKINGS

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*The Peer Comparison reveals whether a country performs better or worse than countries in its region.*