



Interactive encyclopedia of the environment

The complexity of the environment can be difficult to understand. Climate change, biodiversity and air pollution comprise a multitude of interconnected elements which have, until now, remained within the exclusive domain of the scientific fraternity.

In line with efforts of the European Environment Agency (EEA) to make the environment more accessible to everyone, they have launched an online environmental encyclopedia.

EPAEDIA, as it is called, presents today's major environmental themes and issues in a simple and fun way. It offers news and information to the general public, taking full advantage of the internet's interactive possibilities.

EPAEDIA contains different levels of information presented through a variety of multimedia features, including:

- Maps with graphical illustrations of environmental impacts
- "Mind stretchers" or simulation games allowing the users to see the immediate effect of their behaviour and actions
- Animated illustrations showing the complexity of environmental issues
- Videos enabling visitors to interact with EEA experts who answer questions within their area of expertise.

EPAEDIA is structured at three levels to cater for differing degrees of interest in the theme or issue:

- A short introduction
- A snapshot or summary
- A full article

The full article is a re-edited version of one or more EEA reports. The articles are designed specifically for the web and use simple, everyday language. For users who require a more detailed examination of the theme, information sources are also available on the site.

For more details, visit EPAEDIA at:

epaedia.eea.eu.int

This newsflash is issued by the EECN which is DG Environment's support structure for European Environmental Communication Networks.

*Visit the web site of the EECN on:
http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/networks/index_en.htm to learn more about the activities of the networks and read newsflashes previously released.*

