

The Office of Surface Mining's "Reclaim the Future!" initiative

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Surface Coal Mining Regulation in the U.S.

- Based on the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977
- Implemented by the States under the oversight of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Evolution of Environmental Approaches in the U.S.

- Originally “command and control”
 - Do things a particular way
 - Limited discharge of “pollution”
 - Put things back the way they were

Evolution Continued

- Slow movement towards sustainability
 - Technical conferences
 - Industry commitment
 - Government actions
 - Study
 - Talk
 - Do

Reclaim the Future!

- We know we can do some things better
 - Reforestation
 - Wildlife protection
 - Prime farmland reclamation
 - Determining post-mining land uses
- We need a systematic approach to get better on-the-ground results

Reclaim the Future!

- Recognize landowner rights
- Involve all stakeholders
- Identify desired outcomes up front
- Identify barriers
- Work collaboratively on new solutions
- Continued communication
- Shared risk

Some current needs

- Building trust among all parties
- Addressing incompatible goals
- Modifying regulatory and statutory framework
- Develop common goals for sustainability