

**~ ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY PRESS RELEASE ~  
EPA Launches Blog on Acid Rain**

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WASHINGTON - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is hosting a month-long online discussion to expand the conversation on acid rain. Acid rain is a serious environmental problem that affects large parts of the United States and is particularly damaging to lakes, streams, and forests and the plants and animals that live in these ecosystems. Sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), the pollutants that form acid rain, can cause serious respiratory illnesses and premature death.

Starting today, EPA is posting daily blogs to inform and engage the public in an interactive Web discussion. Topics will include an overview of acid rain and its effects, a description of the Acid Rain Program's cap and trade policy, an explanation of how EPA monitors power plant emissions, and how air and water quality monitoring data are used to measure environmental improvements.

EPA established the Acid Rain Program 20 years ago under the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments and it requires major emission reductions of sulfur dioxide SO<sub>2</sub> and nitrogen oxide NO<sub>x</sub> from the electric power industry. The program sets a permanent cap on the total amount of SO<sub>2</sub> that may be emitted by electric generating units in the United States, and includes provisions for trading and banking allowances. Since the first year of the program in 1995, SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions have each been cut by more than 60 percent.

For the kickoff Greenversations blog: <http://blog.epa.gov/blog/>

For the rest of the blog series: <http://blog.epa.gov/acidrain/>

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