

# Individuals Protecting the Environment

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Protecting the environment may just amount to refraining from littering, or keeping the oil change out of the storm drain, or recycling. But here are some individuals who have taken environmental protection to heart, and made lifetime commitments to it:

**David Suzuki** is a Canadian geneticist who has attained prominence as a science broadcaster and an environmental activist. Since the mid 1970s, Suzuki's TV and radio series and books have sought to educate in an engaging way about nature and the environment. He is best known as host of the popular and long-running CBC TV science magazine, *The Nature of Things*, seen in syndication in over 40 nations. He is co-founder of the David Suzuki Foundation.

**Maurice Strong** is an industrialist and public servant who was the Secretary-General of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), better known as the Earth Summit. He is currently a senior advisor to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

**Bob Hunter** was a Canadian environmentalist, journalist, author and politician. A member of the Don't Make a Wave Committee in 1969 and co-founder of Greenpeace in 1972 with Patrick Moore and several members, Hunter was a long-time campaigner for environmental causes and helped lead a successful campaign to ban commercial whaling. He was named by *Time* as one of the ten "eco-heroes" of the 20th century.

**Grey Owl**, born as Archie Belaney, left a legacy of awareness of the wilderness that ranks him as one of the pioneers of the modern conservation movement. To advertise his views, Grey Owl lectured, wrote numerous books and articles, and invented a fictional personality, the Métis *Washa-quon-asin*. Grey Owl was living in the wilderness, following the ways he had learned from the Ojibway, when he decided to give up hunting to become the advocate of his beloved "little people," the beavers. Only with his death came public realization that Grey Owl was not an Indian. He may have played a role, but his concern for conservation was sincere and influenced people all over the world.

**Al Gore** is an American politician, teacher and businessman, who served as the 45th Vice President of the United States in the Clinton administration from 1993 to 2001. In the past few years, Gore has remained busy traveling the world speaking and participating in events mainly aimed towards global warming awareness and prevention. His presentation on global warming has received standing ovations, and he has presented it at least 1000 times. Global warming is an issue which Gore has followed since the 1970s, and in 2006, Gore starred in the movie *An Inconvenient Truth* by Paramount Pictures. In the movie, some of Gore's more recent speeches are shown, as well as him talking and researching. He also published a book of the same title.