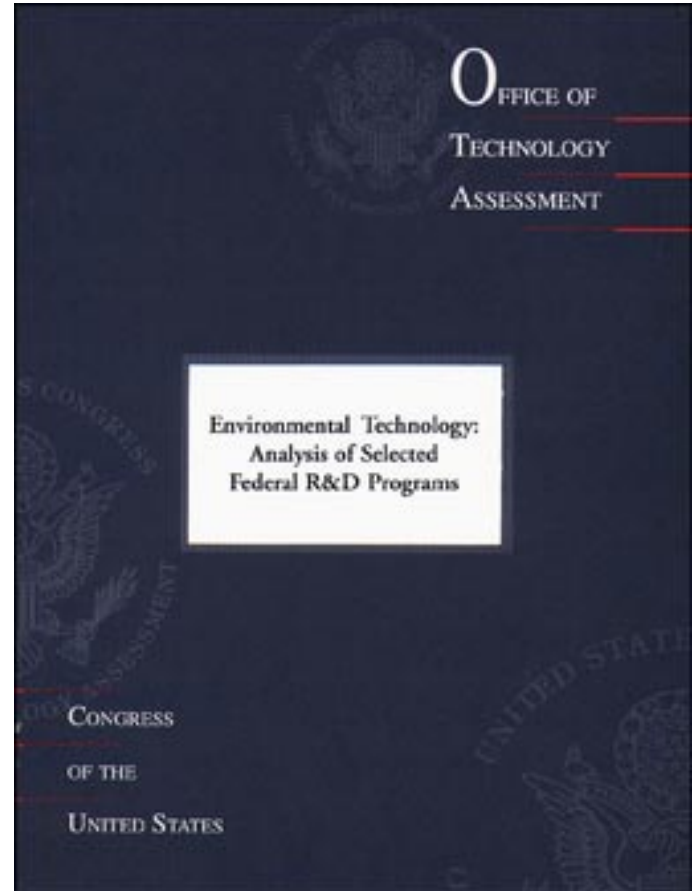


*Environmental Technology: Analysis of
Selected Federal R&D Programs*

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Foreword

In recent years, federal agencies have given increasing attention to environmental technology research and development (R&D). The Department of Energy and the Department of Defense account for the lion's share of the spending on environmental technology R&D and precommercial demonstrations, but six other departments and agencies spent more than \$30 million each on such activities in fiscal year 1994. The total spent is debatable, given different assumptions about what projects count as environmental technology, but the 1994 estimates range between \$2.5 billion and \$3.5 billion. (Total federal R&D expenditures for *all* purposes in 1994 exceeded \$70 billion).

Getting the federal government's own environmental house in order is one rationale for this R&D. Federal agencies now spend several billion dollars a year to clean up or manage wastes at their facilities, and to operate in compliance with environmental requirements. The R&D could result in more cost-effective technologies that could help lower future expenditures or help agencies address specialized problems more effectively. Several federal agencies also conduct or support R&D on technologies that could help state and local governments or the private sector reduce the environmental impact of their activities, with the largest amount by far aimed at reducing the significant environmental impact of energy production and use.

This Background Paper responds to a request by the staff of the House Committee on Science for information about federal environmental technology R&D programs. It discusses estimates of environmental technology R&D spending, interagency coordination mechanisms, and major federal programs, including programs administered by the Department of Energy, the Department of Defense, the Environmental Protection Agency, and several other agencies. The analysis is by no means comprehensive; evaluation of program effectiveness was outside the scope of this paper. The Background Paper is the first product in a broader assessment of development and diffusion of innovative environmental technologies requested by the Science Committee and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. The final report in this assessment is due in the spring of 1996.



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