Chapter Exercises for **Chapter 16: Environmentalism**

1. Review Nader.org, the website of Ralph Nader, a longtime advocate for environmental

concerns. From your review, list at least five ways Nader has integrated issues such as

poverty with environmental concerns.

2. Watch *An Inconvenient Truth,* the 2006 Academy Award-winning documentary narrated by former Vice President Al Gore. List six “takeaway points” from the film.

3. President Obama created the new position of assistant to the president for climate and energy. First, search for information on who holds this position. Then write what you think would be an appropriate job description for the position. What skills and knowledge should this person have, and what duties and responsibilities should come with the title?

4. Some people conclude that the environmental movement in the United States began

with Rachel Carson’s book *Silent Spring.* Read the book and discuss how Carson’s

warnings regarding exposure to the hazards of pesticides such as

DDT have become evident in your lifetime.

5. Select a familiar community. It can be your hometown or college or university

community. Track or map where your community’s trash goes, sewage drains, water

and electricity come from, and public transportation travels. What does this exercise

tell you about your interaction with the community and resources?

6. Review social work’s developing role in environmental issues by reading the position statements of the International Federation of Social Workers, the National Association of Social Workers, and the Council on Social Work Education. What themes emerge from these statements? What do you think needs to be added to bring them up to date for today’s environmental concerns?

7. The Brundtland Commission, formally the World Commission on Environment and

Development, was established by the United Nations in 1983. The commission links

peace, security, development, and the environment to oppression and degradation of

the earth. Read an overview of the Brundtland Commission at

[www.un-documents.net/our-common-future.pdf](http://www.un-documents.net/our-common-future.pdf). Select an opinion you endorse and

another opinion you question, and explain your choices. In addition, answer this

question: What possible direction could the report offer the profession of social work?