

## Biography Jay Benforado

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Jay Benforado is the Director of the National Center for Environmental Innovation at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). His organization serves as a focal point within EPA for strategic thinking on innovative approaches to environmental management. This includes piloting innovative cross-media environmental strategies, working in creative partnerships with businesses and communities, and engaging in environmental policy studies and dialogues aimed at strengthening our environmental protection system.

Jay has been involved in conservation and environmental issues throughout his career. Before joining the EPA in 1985, he worked as a water policy analyst at The Conservation Foundation and as a wetland ecologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Jay's initial work at the EPA was in the wetland protection and National Environmental Policy Act programs. He then moved to EPA's Office of Research and Development where for nearly 10 years he provided senior leadership on science policy issues and research planning. Notable accomplishments include establishing a new organization to review the scientific and technical basis of EPA policies and regulatory decisions, and instituting the successful regional scientist program that rotates a select scientist or engineer to an EPA regional office to advise the Regional Administrator.

Within his current position, Jay is a passionate advocate for new approaches to environmental problem-solving that involve partnerships with all parts of society, innovative technologies, information, incentives, and performance measurement to drive environmental improvements. He has worked extensively with national organizations on recommendations for improving the nation's environmental protection system, such as the National Academy of Public Administration's 2000 report, "Transforming Environmental Protection for the 21st Century". Jay led EPA in developing a comprehensive Innovation Strategy to guide the next generation of environmental protection and in launching a new State Innovation Grant program. He has chaired the Environmental Management Committee of the President's Council on Sustainable Development; and represented EPA internationally in Russia, Mexico, Chile, India and several eastern European countries

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Jay is a 1976 cum laude graduate of the University of Wisconsin at Madison with a degree in zoology and physical geography. He received a masters degree from Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs, with a concentration in ecology. Jay was awarded a Gold Medal, EPA's highest award, for his contributions to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Implementation Study in 1990. In 1994, he was selected for membership into the Senior Executive Service, the federal government's elite corps of career managers.