Human activity is putting such a strain on the natural functions of Earth that the ability of the planet’s ecosystems to sustain future generations can no longer be taken for granted.  Cordelia S. May
Cordelia S. May respected the beauty and balance of nature. She understood how this delicate balance had been compromised. By 1952, at age 23, charitable concerns for human quality of life led her to support family planning.

She recognized that incremental growth is imperceptible from one day to the next. The cumulative force of this growth would be overwhelming. Consequently, the impact of a burgeoning population on ecological balance would remain her lifelong passion.

Colcom Foundation was created by Cordelia S. May in 1996, at age 68, and was substantially funded following her death in 2005.

Today’s headlines reflect the effects of imbalances between people and their surroundings. Water shortages, air pollution, groundwater contamination, beach closings, collapsed fisheries, competition over energy supplies, congestion, urban sprawl, biodiversity losses, and malnutrition are among the consequences of population growth. Yet, our growth-driven culture seldom views these imbalances as a result of overpopulation. Mrs. May’s humanitarian perspective brought the approaching drama into focus decades before it reached public discourse.

Early reformers, like Mrs. May, were often misunderstood. George Bernard Shaw observed that “All great truths begin as blasphemies.” Advocates of gender equity in the days of Susan B. Anthony, of civil rights in the age of Lincoln, and of modesty in the age of Galileo, were heretics. Their vindication would await the judgment of future historians.

Colcom Foundation’s grantmaking honors the humanitarian objectives, the foresight, dignity, and compassion of its benefactor, Cordelia S. May.
Without love of the land, conservation lacks meaning or purpose. For only in a deep and inherent feeling for the land can there be dedication in preserving it.

Sigurd F. Olson
I thought of that (the theory of relativity) while riding my bike.  ~ Albert Einstein
The health of our surroundings does not vaporize before our eyes in a swift and thunderous event—the loss simmers over time, as forests slip into disharmony slowly, incrementally.

If America’s environmental losses of the past 50 years were suddenly inflicted by a foreign power, we would call it an act of war. Yet, the steady destruction of our natural environment fails to instill a sense of vulnerability.

Will future historians reflect positively upon our brief stewardship? Will we establish a commitment to improve the environment for our successors? Colcom Foundation, through its grantmaking, aims to foster dignity, respect, and compassion for our surroundings by addressing both the short- and long-term issues that threaten a sustainable quality of life.

The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value.  

*Theodore Roosevelt*
According to figures released by the Pew Research Center, the approximate number of people expected to be added to the U.S. between 2005 and 2050 will equal the total number of people in Canada and Mexico.

More people means more stress on the environment. More roads. More cars. More oil. And more pressure on the economy and on a healthcare system that isn’t working. Before we can honestly address the problems facing us, we need to have a serious discussion about the numbers. So, let’s start talking.

NumbersUSA, Talk About Numbers, Talk About Immigration
Humanity’s balancing act with nature has been disrupted, but when will we summon the collective will to acknowledge the cause?

With every passing day, humanity adds more than 227,000 people to the face of the earth. That’s like adding another Pittsburgh every day and a half. Nature yields, but not painlessly. Our encroachment on the biological world can be masked for a while, but not indefinitely.

Sustainability depends on global, national, and local action. History no longer allows the United States to postpone addressing its overpopulation issue. Colcom Foundation hopes the nation will lead the world by attaining a sustainable balance with nature. Every person has a role in adopting conservation strategies, and the nation has a role in attaining sustainable numbers by encouraging responsible family planning and adopting respectable immigration policies.

As no political generation in history, ours may turn out to be the one that squandered the nation’s past, paralyzed its future, and never noticed either.

**Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan**

### U.S. Population Size Options

| Year | 200  | 220  | 240  | 260  | 280  | 300  | 320  | 340  | 360  | 380  | 400  | 420  | 440  | 460  |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1970 | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  |
| 1980 | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  |
| 1990 | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  |
| 2000 | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  |
| 2010 | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  |
| 2020 | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  |
| 2030 | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  |
| 2040 | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  |
| 2050 | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  | 200  |

**Salmon Crash Forces Drastic Measures**
USA Today

**Mercury Found in all Fish Caught in U.S.-tested Streams**
USA Today

**State of Emergency: Water Shortage Proclamation by the Governor of the State of California**
USA Today

**Southeast Drought Study Ties Water Shortage to Population. not Global Warming**
The New York Times

**Battle Over Water Heats Up in Drought-stricken California**
USA Today

**Pollution Prompts Record Beach Closings**
WebMD Health News

**Pollution Linked to Lower IQ**
Pittsburgh Tribune Review

**Bird Species Plummet as Habitat Dwindles**
San Francisco Chronicle

**Chemicals That Eased One Woe Worsen Another**
The Washington Post

Can anyone explain how mass immigration will make the air cleaner, the water tables higher, the parks more pristine, the commute faster, wildlife safer, or energy more abundant? It takes people of rare vision, foresight, and courage to recognize how immigration policy is really at the crux of how future generations of Americans will live.

Dan Stein, President, Federation for American Immigration Reform
There is a reason that human beings long for a sense of permanence. This longing is not limited to children, for it touches the profoundest aspects of our existence: that life is short, and fraught with uncertainty. We know not where we come from, still less where we are going, and to keep from going crazy while we are here, we want to feel that we truly belong to a specific part of the world.

James Howard Kunstler, Author, Geography of Nowhere
A vibrant quality of life depends on the economic and cultural prosperity of the City of Pittsburgh at our core and its many distinct neighborhoods.

Colcom Foundation strives to strengthen Pittsburgh’s sense of place by preserving the cultural, civic, social, historic, and commercial heart of the city. Grants maintain and improve our community by supporting recreation, parks, museums, and other destinations in America’s “most livable city.” The Foundation is committed to preserving the hometown appeal of our city of innovation, and to encouraging a sense of civic responsibility.

A person can grow to his or her full capacity only in a mutually caring relationship with others. Fred Rogers
The primary mission of the Colcom Foundation is to foster a sustainable environment to ensure quality of life for all Americans by addressing major causes and consequences of overpopulation and its adverse effects on natural resources. Regionally, the Foundation supports conservation, environmental projects, and cultural assets.

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“Loss of freedom is an inevitable consequence of unlimited population growth in a limited space” is perhaps one of the wisest sentences Garrett Hardin ever wrote. Cordelia S. May