**Step 1: Background information**
You may need to look up background information or definitions of terms to help you understand your topic better. For other background sources, search the Library catalogue.

**Environmental contaminants encyclopedia**
(http://www.nature.nps.gov/hazardssafety/toxic/index.cfm)
Free online access from the US National Park Service.

**ToxFaqs**
(http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html)
Online information about frequently asked questions related to contaminants at Hazardous Waste Sites from the Us Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

**The Canadian Encyclopedia Historica**

**Step 2 : DVDs, Videos and Movies**

**Chernobyl 2006** YouTube.com

**Exxon Valdez** YouTube.com

**Step 3 : Books**

**No breathing room: the aftermath of Chernobyl**
HD9698.S652M4313 1993  
Waterloo

**In the wake of the Exxon Valdez : the devastating impact of the Alaska oil spill**
TD 427.P4 D39 2006  
Guelph

**Viruses vs. superbugs: a solution to the antibiotics crisis?**
RC112 .H3513 2006  
Guelph

**Hope or hype : the obsession with medical advances and the high cost of false promises**
RA418.5.M4 D49 2005  
Guelph

**Step 4 : Legal Issues, Laws and Regulations**

**Water - Ministry of Environment – Ontario:** See news section.

**ehscompliance.ca:** News on Canadian environmental and health and safety issues.

**Canada’s Clean Air Act:** Legislation
Step 5: Magazines and Scientific Articles

To find articles and current research about your topic, use a journal index online at the Guelph library website (see link below). A journal index is similar to the library catalogue. But instead of searching our collection of books in the catalogue, it searches a database where articles from magazines and journals are collected. Look for the ‘Get It’ button or full-text link to read articles online.

Start Here: Journal indexes – select Biology & Life Sciences
http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/resources/journal_articles/

Agricola: a comprehensive index to agricultural and life sciences information. The primary focus is on the United States but there is international information as well.

Biological Sciences: an interdisciplinary database offering abstracts and citations to a wide range of research in biomedicine, biotechnology, zoology and ecology, and some aspects of agriculture and veterinary science.

CABDirect: provides international literature in agriculture, forestry, and allied disciplines, including: animal and crop husbandry, animal and plant breeding, plant protection, genetics, forestry engineering, economics, veterinary medicine, human nutrition and rural development.

Plant Science: contains citations and abstracts of scientific literature on plant science, focusing on all plant scientific aspects, especially pathology, symbiosis, biochemistry, genetics, biotechnology, techniques and environmental biology.

Journals & Magazines

Alternatives
A University of Guelph publication
Ridgetown and Online @ your library

E – the Environmental Magazine
An American monthly.
Ridgetown and Online @ your library

New Internationalist
Great short articles on global and environmental issues with references to further reading and experts.
Online @ your library

Scholarly societies project - University of Waterloo
A list of academic groups that publish scientific articles.

Web of Science
Database of academic research.
Online @ your library

Environmental Issues and Policy Index
Database of academic research
Online @ your library

Canadian Newsstand
Full text articles from Canadian newspapers - the Globe & Mail, the Toronto Star and the Guelph Mercury.
Online @ your library

Factiva
Online @ your library
Step 6 : Searching the Internet
The term "public websites" refers to sites that can be freely reached through a search engine. Many of the links given above lead you to "invisible web sites" that the library pays for, such as journal databases. Typically, if your professor tells you not to use web sites on an assignment, they are referring to public web sites.
When searching, remember to try alternate words for your topic.

**Plants Database**
An American government resource providing standardized information about the vascular plants, mosses, liverworts, hornworts, and lichens of the U.S. and its territories.

**Part X of Environmental Protection Act Spills (Section 91-123)**
**Regulation 675/98 (Classification and exemption of spills and reporting of discharges)**

**Ontario Regulation 224/07 Spill prevention and contingency plan**

**Regulation 222/07 (Environmental penalties)**
(http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_070222_e.htm)

**Ontario Regulation 225/07 Classification and exemption of spills**

**Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS)**
(http://www.ccohs.ca/)

**Ministry of Agriculture and Lands**
(http://www.gov.bc.ca/al/)

**Canada's aquatic environments**
An interactive educational website to promote awareness of Canada's aquatic resources

**Environment Canada Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse**

**Greenpeace International**
Current issues in conservation & protection

**Incident News**
American government source for chemical and oil spills information includes Top Ten Spills list.

**Centre for Disease Control and Prevention**
(US) a government agency database on disease and parasites.

**Watershedss**
Information and fact sheets on water quality and pollution issues from the North Carolina State University WATERSHEDSS group.
Remember the difference reading a webpage online:

Who wrote it? Why? What is it for?

Learning more about evaluation of websites:

http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/assistance/tutorials/evaluating_web_sites/

Step 7: Associations, Societies and Departments

Health Canada
Canadian government source of health-related information.

Environment Probe
Canadian agency for improved environmental regulation.

Ecojustice
Formerly the Sierra Legal Defense Fund. A non-profit society for environmental protection.

Step 8: Help for your assignments

Don’t forget Peer Helpers and the Academic Skills Consultant @ your library!

Refworks  http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/research/create_bibliographies/
Use this to organize the sites and sources you need to create your references.

Citation Machine  http://citationmachine.net/
This website is open to the public. It can organize your sources while you search.

APA Style Guide  http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/assistance/writing_services/undergraduates/citations_&_referencing/APA.cfm
Use this guide to correctly cite your sources in written work – essays, assignments, etc.