Chapter 1: A Preview of Environmental Health
What is environmental health?

- People and the environment
  - Scientific reality: humans are just one player in ecosystems and in the global environment
  - Public health perspective: hazards to human health are core concern
• Core concerns of environmental health
  – Focus on chemical, physical, biological hazards
  – Interactions with genetic traits and with social/behavioral stressors
  – Emphasis on anthropogenic hazards
  – Much more than just pollution
FIGURE 1.1 The scope of environmental health.
Key Themes of this Textbook

• We make the world we live in, and we live in the world we make.

• People living a modern Western lifestyle create, use, and dispose of *lots* of “stuff.”

• In an ecosystem, nothing ever goes away. ¹

• Therefore, our “stuff” and its byproducts are transported and transformed, but they do not disappear.
• There has often been a lack of foresight in adopting new products and technologies.
• The natural environment is globally connected; and trade and travel are increasingly globalized.
• Global disparities in development and health are enormous.
• Western-style development is not sustainable at a global scale.