3. Provide health teaching to individuals, families, and the public.  
4. Advocate for policy development and legislation designed to protect and preserve the environment, and thereby health.

During assessment and intervention, consider the client’s immediate environment while receiving health care, and the physical environment in which the person lives and works, if employed. Use the environmental nursing diagnoses reported in the Abstract for Evidence-Based Practice as a starting point to develop interventions. Also see the Box, Nursing Diagnoses Related to Environmental Considerations (60). The client’s surroundings should constitute a milieu free of environmental hazards and conducive to recovery (34, 85).

Health teaching can increase community awareness, contribute to maintaining a healthy environment, and decrease the incidence of illness from pollutants or hazards. Educate the public about current issues influencing health and the environment. Prevention of environmental damage can begin with informed consumer groups (77).

Be an advocate for environmental control through membership in professional organizations. There is power in numbers, and professional organizations can effectively lobby at local, state, and national levels for policies and legislation that support environmental safety (36). For example, the American Nurses Association (ANA) has advocated and lobbied for legislation for safe working conditions for nurses and for safe environments for patients. Refer to the American Journal of Nursing and The American Nurse; most issues inform about the ANA’s achievements.

**Personal Responsibility**

Be aware of what individuals and industries are doing to the air, water, and land. *Conserve natural resources* to the best of your ability as much as possible, and learn about and try to reduce...