

Ecological Economics



LIVING WELL
WITHIN EARTH'S
LIMITS

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United States Society
for Ecological
Economics



THE SCIENCE OF
SUSTAINABILITY

WHAT IS ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS?

Today's human population exceeds six billion people. Science has revealed much about human dependence on ecological systems, as well as our lack of understanding of these systems and ability to destroy them. Human-produced capital is relatively plentiful while natural capital is increasingly scarce. The goals of sustainability, equity, justice, fairness, and good governance have emerged.

The transdisciplinary field of **ecological economics** was created to address these goals and to create solutions, focusing on the health and well-being of people, ecosystems, the economy and future generations.

A central tenet of ecological economics is that the planet is the foundation of the economy. The economy does not exist in a vacuum in space, but rather is part of what goes on in the biosphere. The economy depends on the Earth as a source of natural materials and resource inputs, such as fossil fuels, minerals, and renewable resources. The economy also draws on the Earth as a sink for its wastes, such as carbon dioxide, toxic chemicals, chloro-fluorocarbons, and other outputs.

In addition to these "source" and "sink" functions, the economy, like all human

systems, depends on the intricate natural processes that support human life on Earth. Ecological economics focuses on the interplay of human economies and the Earth's ecosystems at all scales. But the scale of greatest concern is that of the global economy relative to the biosphere. If the global economy grows too large, consuming too many resources and putting out too much waste, the very workings of the biosphere will be affected. Evidence that this is happening is growing.

There is an urgent need to engage scientists, managers, policymakers, and NGOs in interdisciplinary research and application. Ecological economics is an exciting field of inquiry where theory meets practice.

The US Society for Ecological Economics (USSEE) was formed in 2000. It is part of the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE). USSEE provides a venue for a holistic and strong community of ecological economists, social and natural scientists, and people who care for the well-being of this planet and its inhabitants so as to allow its diverse membership to easily communicate with and learn from each other on a regular basis.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF USSEE MEMBERSHIP?

- Membership is also in the International Society for Ecological Economics, a trans-disciplinary group representing 70 nations
- Electronic subscription to the journal Ecological Economics
- Reduced rate on paper subscription to the journal
- Discounts on books
- Reduced rates to conferences
- Updates through newsletters
- Access to the USSEE members-only listserv
- Job information
- Ability to communicate with like-minded individuals

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Membership categories are priced according to income level.