

Introduction

Without a holistic view of the environment that transcends disciplines, we can never hope to have a comprehensive understanding of our world. Unfortunately, the language of each discipline includes its own set of jargon and words that are commonly used by people within a discipline but, frequently, cannot be understood by people from the outside. Too often, these barriers prevent us from understanding and developing a systematic view of our environment.

A Dictionary of Environmental Economics, Science, and Policy offers a reference that bridges the gap between the disciplines of environmental economics, environmental sciences and environmental studies. It provides a comprehensive set of words used in environmental, ecological and resource economics. In addition, the dictionary includes a selection of some of the most important and frequently used words in the environmental sciences and environmental studies. The book includes over 3,300 words from *abatement* to *zooplankton* and, where further explanations are required, further reading and references are provided. The dictionary is not only a ready-reference for students, but should prove useful to policy makers and professionals who need to understand the many different terms and concepts about the environment.

The book has a number of unique features. Included are three primers that provide introductions to the topics of Environmental Economics, International Environmental Problems, and Environmental Systems, Dynamics and Modeling. These primers can be used as reviews or introductions in many different courses and programs on the environment. In addition, the dictionary has a list of annotated references that provides a useful introduction to the topics covered in the dictionary, a comprehensive list of references referred to in the definitions and seven appendices that include: the Greek alphabet, Roman numerals, the système internationale (SI) units, prefixes for the SI, common abbreviations for measures and units, the geological time-scale, and a listing and description of selected environmental treaties. The appendix on environmental treaties should be helpful to readers who are interested in knowing what we are doing to sustain the global environment.

We trust that our book, with its primers and appendices, will prove a ready-reference that will bridge environmental disciplines and will help you to better understand the world we share.

R.Q.G., Ottawa, Canada
L.H.P., Los Angeles, USA
H.W.N., Vancouver, Canada

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