

Preface

A noted author, Thomas Pynchon, once said ‘If they can get you asking the wrong questions, they don’t have to worry about the answers.’ In this line, there are many confusing questions being asked today about environmental sustainability.

Some politicians say let market forces decide energy policy. Eliminate all renewable energy standards and energy efficiency mandates. Natural gas producers advertise that natural gas is the ‘clean energy’ choice despite the fact that natural gas is a fossil fuel which creates carbon pollution. Electric utilities are petitioning to eliminate energy efficiency mandates since these mandates are reducing the demand for electricity. Isn’t that what these mandates are supposed to do? One airline says it flies on ‘eco-friendly skies’ even though airplanes cause considerable pollution. In the current situation, it is more important than ever to publish high quality research on environmental sustainability, which is the mission of *Critical Issues in Environmental Taxation*.

Volume XIV of *Critical Issues in Environmental Taxation* contains 19 chapters on environmental taxation issues and green fiscal reform. These chapters have been prepared by environmental experts from around the world. We hope you find these studies to be enlightening and worthy of serious consideration by policy makers throughout the world.

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