

CHAPTER 25 VOCABULARY – Environmental Worldviews, Ethics, and Sustainability

MILLER LITE, 17th EDITION

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| anthropocentric | Human-centered. |
| biocentric | Life-centered. Compare <i>anthropocentric</i> . |
| environmental ethics | Human beliefs about what is right or wrong with how we treat the environment. |
| environmental movement | Citizens organized to demand that political leaders enact laws and develop policies to curtail pollution, clean up polluted environments, and protect unspoiled areas from environmental degradation. |
| environmental revolution | Cultural change that includes halting population growth and altering lifestyles, political and economic systems, and the way we treat the environment with the goal of living more sustainably. It requires working with the rest of nature by learning more about how nature sustains itself. |
| environmental wisdom worldview | Worldview holding that humans are part of and totally dependent on nature and that nature exists for all species, not just for us. Our success depends on learning how the earth sustains itself and integrating such environmental wisdom into the ways we think and act. Compare <i>frontier worldview</i> , <i>planetary management worldview</i> , <i>stewardship worldview</i> . |
| environmental worldview | Set of assumptions and beliefs about how people think the world works, what they think their role in the world should be, and what they believe is right and wrong environmental behavior (environmental ethics). See <i>environmental wisdom worldview</i> , <i>frontier worldview</i> , <i>planetary management worldview</i> , <i>stewardship worldview</i> . |
| environmentalist | Person who is concerned about the impacts of human activities on the environment. |
| frontier worldview | View held by European colonists settling North America in the 1600s that the continent had vast resources and was a wilderness to be conquered by settlers clearing and planting land. |
| inherent value | See <i>intrinsic value</i> . |
| instrumental value | Value of an organism, species, ecosystem, or the earth's biodiversity based on its usefulness to humans. Compare <i>intrinsic value</i> . |
| intrinsic value | Value of an organism, species, ecosystem, or the earth's biodiversity based on its existence, regardless of whether it has any usefulness to humans. Compare <i>instrumental value</i> . |
| planetary management worldview | Worldview holding that humans are separate from nature, that nature exists mainly to meet our needs and increasing wants, and that we can use our ingenuity and technology to manage the earth's life-support systems, mostly for our benefit. It assumes that economic growth is unlimited. Compare <i>environmental wisdom worldview</i> , <i>stewardship worldview</i> . |
| spaceship-earth worldview | View of the earth as a spaceship: a machine that we can understand, control, and change at will by using advanced technology. See <i>planetary management worldview</i> . Compare <i>environmental wisdom worldview</i> , <i>stewardship worldview</i> . |

**stewardship
worldview**

Worldview holding that we can manage the earth for our benefit but that we have an ethical responsibility to be caring and responsible managers, or stewards, of the earth. It calls for encouraging environmentally beneficial forms of economic growth and discouraging environmentally harmful forms. Compare *worldview*, *environmental wisdom worldview*, *planetary management worldview*.

**sustainable
society**

Society that manages its economy and population size without doing irreparable environmental harm by overloading the planet's ability to absorb environmental insults, replenish its resources, and sustain human and other forms of life over a specified period, indefinitely. During this period, the society satisfies the needs of its people without depleting natural resources and thereby jeopardizing the prospects of current and future generations of humans and other species.

worldview

How people think the world works and what they think their role in the world should be. See *environmental wisdom worldview*, *planetary management worldview*, *stewardship worldview*.