Capitalism vs. Ecological Economics

Robert Costanza

- Professor and Chair in Public Policy
  Crawford School of Public Policy
  Australian National University
  Canberra ACT 2601, Australia
- Editor in Chief, Solutions (www.thesolutionsjournal.org)
We need a third movie...
We need a third movie...

A new narrative

A sustainable and desirable economy-in-society-in-nature -
To create a sustainable and desirable economy-in-society-in-nature requires:

• Breaking our *addiction* to the "growth at all costs" economic paradigm, to fossil fuels, and to over-consumption

• Envisioning a more sustainable and desirable future that focuses on quality of life – a new narrative
The Sustainable and Desirable “doughnut”

(after: K. Raworth. 2012. A safe and just space for humanity: can we live within the doughnut? Oxfam International)
Integrated Questions/Goals:

- Ecologically Sustainable Scale
- Socially Fair Distribution
- Economically Efficient Allocation
TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD: THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Figure 2. The relationship of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to the framework of ecological economics and the overarching goal of a sustainable, equitable and prosperous system (Costanza et al. 2016)
Creating an “ecological civilization”

“A good ecological environment is the most universal common good, the most universal aspect of people’s wellbeing”

“We would rather have clear water and green mountains than mountains of silver and gold”

President Xi Jinping
EcoServices Classified According to Rivalness and Excludability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rival</th>
<th>Excludable</th>
<th>Non-Excludable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Market Goods</td>
<td>Common Pool Resources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Services</td>
<td>(some provisioning services)</td>
<td>(some provisioning services)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-rival</td>
<td>Congestable Services</td>
<td>Public Goods and Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>(some recreation services)</td>
<td>(most regulatory and cultural services)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From: Costanza, R., 2008. Ecosystem Services: Multiple classification systems are needed. Biological Conservation 141:350-352
Claim the Sky!

www.claimthesky.org

By asserting that we all own the atmosphere as a common asset, we can begin to use the Public Trust Doctrine and the legal institutions surrounding property rights to protect the climate, charge for damages, and provide rewards to those that improve this shared resource, by creating an Earth Atmospheric Trust.
Time to leave GDP behind

Gross domestic product is a misleading measure of national success. Countries should act now to embrace new metrics, urge Robert Costanza and colleagues.
Genuine Progress Indicator (or ISEW) by Component

Additions
- Personal Consumption Expenditure
- Income Distribution
- Personal Consumption Adjusted for Income Inequality
- Services of Household Capital
- Services Highways and Street
- Value of Household Labor
- **Value of Volunteer Work**
- Cost of Consumer Durables
- Loss of Leisure Time
- Cost of Commuting
- Cost of Automobile Accidents
- Cost of Crime
- Cost of Family Breakdown
- Cost of Underemployment
- Cost of Household Pollution Abatement
- Cost of Water Pollution
- Cost of Air Pollution
- Cost of Noise Pollution
- Loss of Wetlands
- Lost of Farmland
- Depletion of Nonrenewable Resources
- Long-Term Environmental Damage
- Cost of Ozone Depletion
- Loss of Forest Cover
- Net Capital Investment
- Net Foreign Lending and Borrowing

Subtractions
- Built Capital
- Human Capital
- Social Capital
- Natural Capital
Economic growth  Un-Economic growth

Maryland’s Genuine Progress Indicator
An Index for Sustainable Prosperity

www.dnr.maryland.gov/mdgpi/

Wealth vs. Well-Being: How Do We Measure Prosperity?

Maryland developed its Genuine Progress Indicator to measure how development activities impact long-term prosperity, both positively and negatively. Here in Maryland and across the globe people are continually challenged by the need to find a balance between advancing economic gain and ensuring social well-being.

Traditional indicators like the Gross Domestic/State Products address only economic transactions. They do not include the environmental and social costs of what we buy, the quality of life impacts of how we live, or fully appreciate the significant contributions of our natural systems.

We invite you to learn how we developed our GPI, find out how Maryland is doing in 26 different indicators, and explore a model to see how policy decisions made today may affect future generations.

Maryland Genuine Progress Indicator Tutorial

MD-GPI News
- Beyond GDP: US States Have Adopted Genuine Progress Indicators
- Baltimore’s Genuine Progress Indicator Shows Healthy Economic Growth
- Implementing GPI in Vermont, Maryland and Oregon
- Forget the GDP. Some States Have Found a Better Way to Measure Our Progress
- Time to leave GDP behind
- Maryland Continues to Lead the Nation in Genuine Progress Tracking

Contact Information
Elliott Campbell
590 Taylor Ave
Tawes Building C-3
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-269-8073
elliott.campbell@maryland.gov
Beyond GDP: US states have adopted genuine progress indicators

From Vermont to Hawaii, the GPI is becoming more popular. How can states use it to inform policy and economic development strategies?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Categories</th>
<th>Environmental Categories</th>
<th>Social Categories</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household Budget Expenditures</td>
<td>Services from natural capital</td>
<td>Services from human capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defensive Expenditures</td>
<td>Depletion of natural capital</td>
<td>Services from social capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Investments</td>
<td>Costs of pollution</td>
<td>Social costs of economic activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income Inequality</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Provisioning</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Services from built capital</td>
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CLIMATE SUMMIT

WHAT IF IT'S A BIG HOAX AND WE CREATE A BETTER WORLD FOR NOTHING?

- ENERGY INDEPENDENCE
- PRESERVE RAINFORESTS
- SUSTAINABILITY
- GREEN JOBS
- LIVABLE CITIES
- RENEWABLES
- CLEAN WATER, AIR
- HEALTHY CHILDREN
- ETC. ETC.
Overcoming societal addictions: What can we learn from individual therapies?

Robert Costanza a,b,*,1, Paul W.B. Atkins b, Mitzi Bolton a, Steve Cork a, Nicola J. Grigg c, Tim Kasser d, Ida Kubiszewski a

a Crawford School of Public Policy, the Australian National University, Canberra, Australia
b Australian Catholic University, Sydney
c CSIRO Land and Water, Canberra, Australia
d Knox College, Galesburg, IL, USA

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ABSTRACT
Societies, like individuals, can get trapped in patterns of behavior called social traps or “societal addictions” that provide short-term rewards but are detrimental and unsustainable in the long run. Examples include our societal addiction to inequitable over-consumption fueled by fossil energy and a “growth at all costs” economic model. This paper explores the potential to learn from successful therapies at the individual level. In particular, Motivational Interviewing (MI) is one of the most effective therapies. It is based on engaging addicts in a positive discussion of their goals, motives, and futures. We suggest that one analogy to MI at the societal level is a modified version of scenario planning (SP) that has been extended to engage the entire community (CSP) in thinking about goals and alternative futures via public opinion surveys and forums. Both MI and CSP are about exploring alternative futures in positive, non-confrontational ways and building commitment or consensus about preferred futures. We conclude that effective therapies for societal addictions may be possible, but, as we learn from MI, they will require a rebalancing of effort away from only pointing out the dire consequences of current behavior (without denying those consequences) and toward building a shared vision of a positive future and the means to get there.

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Motivational Interviewing (MI) is one of the most effective therapies for treatment of substance addictions.

Based on engaging addicts in a positive discussion of their goals, motives, and futures.

MI suggests that there are four basic principles that underlie successful therapies.

In a societal context, these basic MI principles can be summarized as:

1. Engaging: building relationships with diverse stakeholders to enable change talk
2. Focusing: developing shared goals among those stakeholders
3. Evoking: helping stakeholders identify motivations for positive change
4. Planning: helping stakeholders move from goals to actual change
Creating a Sustainable and Desirable Future

Insights from 45 global thought leaders

The ever-pressing challenge for the current generation of mankind is to develop a shared vision that is both desirable to the vast majority of humanity and ecologically sustainable. Creating a Sustainable and Desirable Future offers a broad, critical discussion on what such a future should or can be, with global perspectives written by some of the world’s leading thinkers, namely Wendell Berry, Van Jones, Frances Moore Lappo, Peggy Liu, Hunter Lovins and Gus Speth.

Editors
Robert Costanza
Ida Kubiszewski

World Scientific
www.worldscientific.com
Australia: Our Future, Your Voice

STEP 1: Read about this survey

Australia is at a crossroads about the future we want. This is evident in the ongoing political, social, and economic debates. Should we pursue an approach to our economy which continues to focus on economic growth, continuing to pursue opportunities in the mining, energy and agriculture sectors. Should we focus more on our environment and social well-being? Should we increase or decrease the role of government. Pursue a free market economy or a more managed economy where environmental, social, as well as economic factors are balanced? Should we focus on building a more equitable and socially cohesive culture, or a focus on greater freedom of for individuals? These are important questions, however, till now, no one has asked the Australian public what they want the future to look like, where they want the priorities to be put.

The Australia: Our Future, Your Voice survey will allow participants to rank four possible future scenarios out to 2050 based on different priorities and trade-offs. The aim of the survey is to support a national discussion on what Australians want for their future and guide government, business and community leaders and help make policy decisions consistent with achieving this future. Although there have been many earlier scenario planning studies in countries around the world, Australia will be the first country to conduct a national public opinion survey where everyone is invited to take part in choosing their preferences for alternative futures for Australia in 2050.

The survey is open to all Australians, and everyone is encouraged to participate. The survey will be available to complete online between 31st March to 22nd April and the results will be released in June 2016. This is an important opportunity for every Australian to make their voice heard in what future they want for Australia. Taking part in this survey gives you the chance to shape Australia. It’s our shared future and we need to hear your voice.

To complete the survey first review the four scenario details by clicking on A, B, C, and D. Then click on the survey button below.

STEP 2: Review scenario details

A. Free Enterprise
   The market knows best
   Inequality not addressed
   Limited government

B. Strong Individualism
   Everyone for themselves
   Inequality not addressed
   Small government

C. Community Well-being
   We are all in it together
   Inequality addressed
   Governance at many levels

D. Coordinated Action
   Government knows best
   Inequality addressed
   Strong planning and government

STEP 3: Click Here to take the Survey

This project is run by researchers at The Australian National University. For more background information, click here.
Online and Print; Hybrid peer-reviewed academic journal and popular magazine; Uses a more participatory and transdisciplinary review process; Focuses on seriously creative dialog to solve complex problems in an integrated way

Editors-in-Chief: Robert Costanza, Ida Kubiszewski  
Associate Editors: Jacqueline McGlade, David Orr

Thank You

Planetary Boundaries—Governing Emerging Risks and Opportunities

By Victor Galaz, Aart de Zeeuw, Hideaki Shiroyama, Debbie Tripley

The notion of planetary boundaries attempts to define a safe operating space within which humanity can flourish. The boundaries relate to climate change, change in biosphere integrity (i.e. biodiversity loss and species extinction), stratospheric ozone depletion, ocean acidification, biogeochemical flows, land-system change, freshwater use, ...