

Environmental Ethics & Policy

ENV221H1

Sept 24, 2020

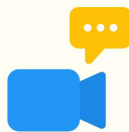
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Announcements

- This week using ZOOM for class lectures.
- Tutorial # 1 next Wed

SCHOOL OF THE
ENVIRONMENT



2020

UNDERGRADUATE ORIENTATION

September 24, 2020 | 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Register at: <https://bit.ly/2DY058n>



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Environmental Students' Union





Elections

Looking to fill 5 positions for the 2020-21 year! Deadline October 2nd.



Mentorship

Currently looking for mentors and mentees. Deadline extended to October 2nd.



Events

October 14th 1PM - Skype a scientist with Dr. Rachel Golden Kroner (Conservation international)
End of October/November - Global climate change discussion panel (with Green Up Initiative)

For event details, check out our social media pages!

 @uoftensu

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Environmental Policy

- Policy that specifically pertains to human interactions with the environment
- Requires input from science, ethics, and economics

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Policy

- Formal set of plans and principles intended to address **problems** and guide decision making
- Public policy – policy made by governments and can consist of:
 - Laws
 - Regulations
 - Orders
 - Incentives
 - Practices
- All intend to promote societal welfare

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- Government: The state and its administration
- Goal: Peace, order and good government

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How do things happen? What makes things happen?

- Interest
- Institutions
- Ideas
- Actors

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Evolution of Environmental Policy

- Evolve with social and economic conditions
- 1780s – late 1800s: intended to promote settlement and resource extraction
- Late 1800s: regulate resource use and mitigate some of the environmental impacts of westward migration
 - Emergence of conservation and preservation ethic which saw the establishment of the National Parks system in US and Canada
- Early 20th Century development of land management policies stemming from the Dust Bowl years (1930s)

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1960s – 1970s

- increasing awareness of pollution impacts
 - 1962 publication of Silent Springs by Rachel Carson
 - 1968 The Population Bomb by Paul Ehrlich
 - 1971 Diet for a Small Planet
 - 1972 The Limits to Growth

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- 1950s & 60s: Cuyahoga River caught on fire repeatedly
- 1970s: death of Lake Erie
- Hooker Chemical waste dump at Love Canal

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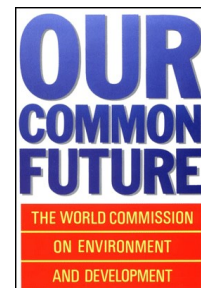
Growth of Environment Movement in the 60s & 70s

- Convergence of factors:
 - Evidence widely apparent
 - Public could envision policies to deal with the problems
 - Political will, from public and leaders
 - Economic stability
 - Willingness to pay transition
 - In response grassroots activism, e.g. Greenpeace

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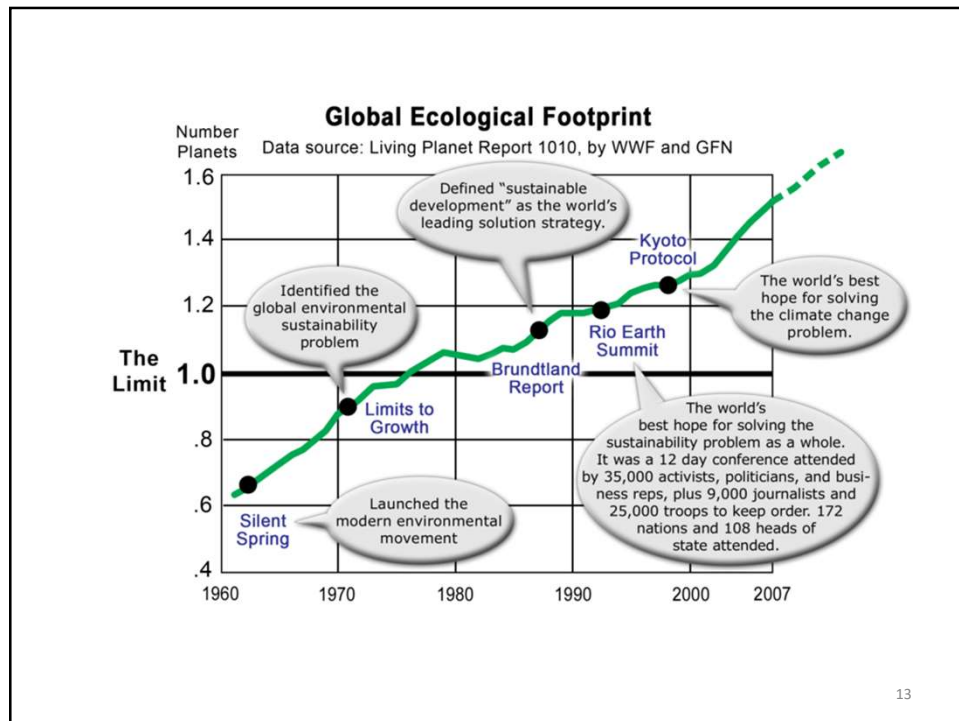
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- 1987 Our Common Future defined **sustainable development** as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”
- 1992 Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro



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Why Policy Needed?

- To protect the environment will generally cost money or behavioural changes
- Unless public universally embraces this concept and voluntarily make changes, policy will be needed
- Market capitalism shortcomings
 - Tragedy of the commons – overexploitation of public resources
 - Free riders
 - External costs

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Actors

- Federal government
- Provincial/territorial governments
- Aboriginal governments
- Municipal/local governments
- United States
- International organizations: UN, EU, WTO, World Bank
- Environment non-government organizations (ENGOS, NGOs)

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Approaches and Tools

- Voluntary
 - Information campaigns, education
- Command & Control
- Market Incentives

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Approaches and Tools Carrots & Sticks

- Command & control (stick): setting rules (laws) or limits with threat of punishment if violated
- Legal instruments:
 - Acts
 - Regulations
 - Agreements
 - permits
- Repercussions:
 - Criminal enforcement
 - Penalties or fees
 - Civil actions

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Economic Carrots/Market Incentives

- Subsidies (perverse?)
- Taxes – polluter pays principle
 - Cons: often passed along to the consumer, may affect low-income families disproportionately
- Permit trading, e.g. Emissions trading in a cap and trade system
 - Cons: *to be discussed further in our climate & energy lectures*

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