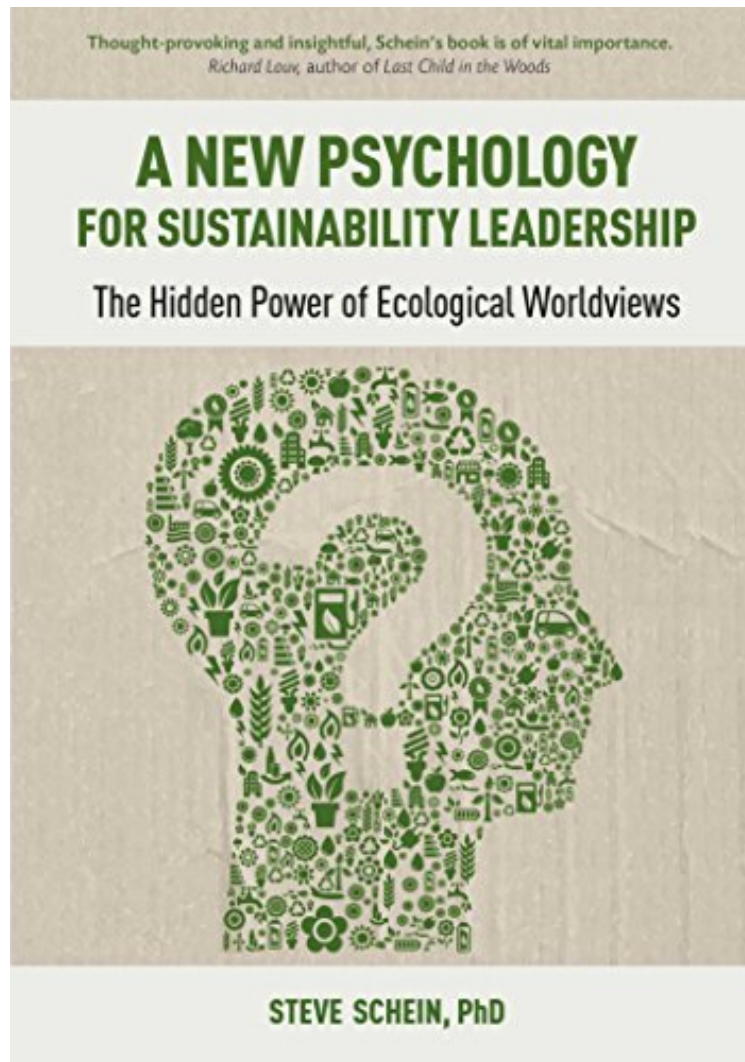


(Read free) A New Psychology for Sustainability Leadership

# A New Psychology for Sustainability Leadership

*Steve Schein*

*audiobook / \*ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#546533 in eBooks 2015-07-01 File Name: B010FIYGHY | File size: 48.Mb

**Steve Schein : A New Psychology for Sustainability Leadership** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A New Psychology for Sustainability Leadership:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The movement for businesses to be primary driving forces in ...By David RThe movement for businesses to be primary driving forces in sustainability efforts is in force, but it is one that needs more attention and guidance. Companies need to develop a vision for how they can make a difference and this mindset generally starts at the top -- in the C suite. Stein's focus on the psychology of sustainability leadership rather than the a basic roadmap of corporate sustainable actions is what sets this book apart from others on the topic. The valuable lessons learned from the interviews conducted by the author should be used in helping to engrain sustainability as a key point of interest for the up and coming generation of leaders. Stein's contribution to "saving our planet" is a noble one and this book can make a difference.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Scheir

gives an excellent perspective on the future of ecological movements! Finally a well-rounded and inclusive look at what it takes to inspire all of us to get involved with climate change-and in a manner that builds bridges rather than placing blame. Thank you for the great book!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Opening the Conversation

By Shel Horowitz

Much has been written about the mainstreaming of sustainability efforts in the corporate world. But very little has been written about the mindset and worldview of the people making that change. Thus, this repurposed doctoral dissertation steps into the breach. It opens a much-needed conversation about the shifts we need to take; not just our own small groups but the entire business culture; so that sustainability thinking percolates even more deeply into the culture. Schein spends a lot of energy calling for a more eco-focused worldview, including integrating sustainability thinking into the standard MBA curriculum; not just the MBA programs in sustainability. To Schein; and I agree with him on this; the biggest shift we need to take is from an anthropocentric (human-focused) to an eco-centered (planet-focused). How far do we have to go? Schein, in a book with this year's copyright, says the average resident of the United States eats 400 pounds of petroleum per year, once we factor in all of the Big Ag practices that make up most of our food supply (machinery, fertilizers, pesticides, processing, and transportation; p. 6). On the same page, he cites Lester Brown's warning that food and water shortages can lead directly to political instability. Most of the book is quotes from interviews he conducted with executives in the corporate and NGO worlds charged with developing and carrying out the corporate sustainability program, and his narrative interpreting and analyzing the results. He sees the job of Chief Sustainability Officers, or eco-minded CEOs as translating sustainability into the rest of the business world (p. 146). Noting that we desperately need business models aimed not at corporate growth but on profitably reducing the negative consequences of human intervention (p. 76), Schein calls out five different ways (pp. 72-84) his interviewees have self-identified their worldviews:

- Awareness of ecological embeddedness
- that a business vision must encompass the environmental context
- \* Awareness that planetary ecosystems are vulnerable
- \* Belief that nature has intrinsic value
- \* Holistic, systemic consciousness
- \* Earth-centrism

This level of thinking, he says, evolves over time; and he speculates that one reason so much sustainability thinking is bubbling up right now is simply that people are living longer and have more time for their thinking to evolve. On this, I'm not so sure I agree; I see this consciousness fairly evolved among my children's generation, but what does evolve is the ability to work in complex, sometimes-frustrating, often-hierarchical organizations to make the change. Schein's book should be seen as opening the conversation, rather than a definitive Great Work. His action steps are rather limited, and the book has a few key flaws: small sample size (only 75 corporate and NGO sustainability professionals), an inexcusable failure to identify the sources of each quote; which, in turn, makes it impossible not just to track who said what in terms of the specific challenges and accomplishments of that person's company; a flaw he acknowledges on page 186; but also impossible to follow up with any interviewee beyond the book (seeking a mentor, interviewing for a book, etc.), the lack of an index, and repetition of several interviewee quotes in such a short text. One nice thing is the inclusion of a questionnaire that future researchers can use in expanding the dialog. Another is his reminder of Buckminster Fuller's observation that any of us can be a "human trim tab" (the part of a large ship that makes it easier to turn the rudder, p. 167); any one of us can be an agent of real change.

During the last decade, the sustainability position in multinational corporations has grown in influence. Much literature has explored how corporations can play an important role in solving the environmental challenges facing the planet. However, until now, there has been little research on sustainability leadership at the individual level. In this book, Schein explores the deeper psychological motivations of sustainability leaders. He shows how these motivations relate to overall effectiveness and capacity to lead transformational change and he explores the ways in which the complexity of sustainability is driving new approaches to leadership. Drawing on interviews with over 75 leaders from multinational corporations, NGOs, and academia, Schein explores how ecological worldviews and conscious mindsets are developed and expressed in the context of global sustainability practice. By empirically grounding key theories from developmental psychology in sustainability leadership practice, the author encourages us to think about leadership in a different way. A New Psychology for Sustainability Leadership will be of interest to an interdisciplinary audience of social scientists, educators, corporate executives, and social entrepreneurs. The insights from this book can be usefully integrated into leadership curriculum and development programs to help the next generation of sustainability leaders respond to global challenges.

Through riveting examples and comprehensive research, Schein provides a logical framework for business leaders, academics, and students to lead transformational change. -- Laura Asiala, *The New Global Citizen*

<http://goo.gl/fWmk5F> For practitioners, educators and academics, this book provides a clear starting point for discussion and research about the role of eco-centric philosophy in successful sustainability management practice. As such it is a useful and timely contribution to the literature. -- Environmental Values

About the Author

Steve Schein is a sustainability leadership educator, researcher, and executive coach. After 25 years in the corporate world and 10 in

academia, he sees the evolution of business leadership and education towards ecological sustainability a global imperative. To that end, his research focuses on the development of ecological and post-conventional worldviews in the setting of multinational corporate leadership. He has been a member of the faculty at Southern Oregon University since 2005, where he founded the certificate program in sustainability leadership. Prior to joining the faculty at SOU, he was a certified public accountant (CPA) and former CEO with senior management experience in several companies. Dr. Schein's research has been published in *The Journal of Corporate Citizenship*, *The Journal of Management of Global Sustainability*, and presented at numerous conferences on corporate social and environmental responsibility. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for Net Impact (<https://netimpact.org>) and the GEOS Institute (<http://www.geosinstitute.org>). He can be reached through his website at [www.steveschein.net](http://www.steveschein.net).