

# Understanding Sustainable Development

*John Blewitt*

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This new and expanded edition builds upon the first edition's powerful multi-perspective approach and breath of coverage. A truly comprehensive introduction to sustainable development, it is designed specifically to allow access to the topic from a wide range of educational and professional backgrounds and to develop understanding of a diversity of approaches and traditions at different levels. This second edition includes: a complete update of the text, with increased coverage of major topics including ecosystems; production and consumption; business; urban sustainability; governance; new media technologies; conservation; leadership; globalization and global crises; sustainability literacy and learning; more examples from the Global South and North America, while retaining its unique coverage of first world countries; chapter aims at the start and summaries at the end of each chapter; glossary of key terms; a new chapter on Conservation with a focus on behaviour change and values; a brand new website which includes discussion of how projects are done on the ground, additional exercises and online cases, test questions and recommended readings and films. Offering boxed examples from the local to the global, Understanding Sustainable Development is the most

complete guide to the subject for course leaders, undergraduates and postgraduates.

"Synthesizing the broad array of ideas, debates and approaches to 'Sustainable Development' is no easy task. This book does an excellent job of covering the critical issues, and in a very readable form. It moves deftly from theory to practice, touching down in different parts of the world, from China to South America, from the U.S. to the U.K. The inclusion of up-to-date topics like the role of the internet, computers, television and film in sustainable development is most welcome, indeed." ndash;Lawrence Herzog, San Diego State University, USA "John Blewitt's revised and updated edition is truly a bridge ndash; elegantly and comprehensively connecting theory with practice, socio-economic and political understanding with environmental performance, and the reader to a vast solar system of ideas, solutions and real world examples of sustainability." ndash;Jeff Loux, University of California, Davis, USA "A very comprehensive, resourceful and user-friendly book for developing an understanding of sustainable development and of its interpretation in different policy areas, contexts and sectors; this textbook is essential for both students and teachers." ndash;Paola Gazzola, Newcastle University, UK "This is a comprehensive, authoritative and accessible contribution to sustainable development which can only come from an author who has decades of experience in the field. John Blewitt combines meticulously researched chapters with deeply reflective questions and a clarity of argument that makes this book essential reading for all" ndash;Daniella Tilbury, University of Gloucestershire, UK and Chair of the UN Global Monitoring and Evaluation Expert Group on Education for Sustainable Development "Understanding Sustainable Development introduces students and professionals to the basic concepts of sustainability and leads them - step by step - to explore inherent paradoxes and complexity of social, economic and environmental issues. 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The new edition continues to reflect the interdisciplinary nature of sustainability, embracing many different perspectives, and its many dimensions, providing a great supporting text for those new and old to the field of sustainability teaching, research and in their professional and personal lives." ndash; Zoe Robinson, Keele University, UK "Sustainable development presents students with a confusing interdisciplinary kaleidoscope of technical issues, research problems and policy arenas. The Second Edition of John Blewitt's text achieves the holy grail of scholarly exposition. Succinct but comprehensive and combining clarity with technical accuracy, students are gifted a comprehensive overview that is easy to read. I have used 'Understanding Sustainable Development' with students from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds. The text has always worked well and has become a primary teaching resource." ndash;Stephen Quilley, University of Waterloo, Canada Praise for the 1st edition A significant achievement in addressing a complex contemporary issue in such a clear and optimistic way. Will it make a difference to our understanding? I think it will. ndash;Stephen Martin, Visiting Professor, Center for Complexity and Change, The Open University This is an immensely important book that brings into a cohesive and dialogic whole, the multiple strands that do - or should - feed into understandings of sustainable development. It draws upon worldviews and perspectives often marginalized or ignored in the adrenaline rush to make sustainability a living reality. A 'must read' for both those new to and those steeped in the field. ndash;David Selby, Director, Centre for Sustainable Futures, University of Plymouth Presents a comprehensive account of the sustainability territory, successfully integrating ideas from science, philosophy, sociology and cultural studies in its explication of key topics within this field. It will prove invaluable for those of us from a range of disciplines and perspectives who are trying to make sense of what 'sustainability' means, and what actions we might take to realize it within our communities, organizations and homes. ndash;Donna Ladkin, Senior Lecturer in Organizational Learning and Leadership at Cranfield University School of Management Understanding Sustainable Development is a major work and it largely achieves a very difficult task. It comes closer than most to that elusive ideal: the comprehensive book on a broadly based interpretation of sustainable development! ndash;Julian Agyeman, Associate Professor and Chair, Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning, Tufts University Scientists, engineers, technologists, mathematicians, and economists will find the text useful to see how their efforts have been interpreted by others.' ndash;Experimental Agriculture 'I found it an excellent refresher and reminder of basic concepts, issues and historical background..I enjoyed this book and I continue to dip into it' ndash;AJH, Eagle Bulletin, 2009 "The second edition of Understanding Sustainable Development is one of the most comprehensive and synthesizing works published on the theme recently." ndash; Luc Hens, Environment, Development and Sustainability About the Author John Blewitt is the Director of the MSc Social Responsibility and Sustainability, Aston Business School, Aston University, UK.