

ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

Description

Ecological Economics acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere—our common home. It refers to the production and consumption of goods/food/services without destruction of the environment or exploitation of workers and meeting the needs of the present without sacrificing the needs of future generations.



Scripture

The land must not be sold permanently, forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations. Leviticus 25:23

Be sure you know the conditions of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds; for riches do not endure because the land is mine and you reside in my land as foreigners and strangers. Proverbs 27:23-24



Laudato Si'

I would point to the intimate relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet, the conviction that everything in the world is connected...the call to seek other ways of understanding the economy and progress, the value proper to each creature...the throwaway culture and the proposal of a new lifestyle. LS #16

We have not yet managed to adopt a circular model of production capable of preserving resources for present and future generations, while limiting as much as possible the use of non-renewable resources, moderating their consumption, maximizing their efficient use, reusing and recycling them. LS #22

The earth's resources are also being plundered because of short-sighted approaches to the economy, commerce and production. #32 This suggests the need for an "economic ecology" capable of appealing to a broader vision of reality. The protection of the environment is in fact an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it.

LS #141

...the idea of infinite or unlimited growth... proves so attractive to economists, financiers and experts in technology. It is based on the lie that there is an infinite supply of the earth's goods, and this leads



to the planet being squeezed dry beyond every limit. It is the false notion that ‘an infinite quantity of energy and resources are available, that it is possible to renew them quickly, and that the negative effects of the exploitation of the natural order can be easily absorbed.’ LS #106

...environmental protection cannot be assured solely on the basis of financial calculations of costs and benefits. The environment is one of those goods that cannot be adequately safeguarded or promoted by market forces. LS #190

The principle of the maximization of profits, frequently isolated from other considerations, reflects a misunderstanding of the very concept of the economy. LS #195

Our Bishops

In “A Catholic Framework for Economic Life” the U.S. Catholic Bishops write “As followers of Jesus Christ and participants in a powerful economy, Catholics in the United States are called to work for greater economic justice in the face of persistent poverty, growing income-gaps, and increasing discussion of economic issues in the United States and around the world.”

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/catholic-framework-economic-life-0>



Reflection

Does your family/community mindfully purchase items that are produced in ways that provide a living wage to the people who make them and that are sustainable for your biosphere?

Do the ways that you invest and spend money demonstrate your concern for the environment, a commitment to workers, and to the people most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change that are already happening?

How can you support circular economies and try your best to practice ethical consumption?

How are you already encouraging ecological economics? What additional ideas do you have to promote ecological economics in your family/community?



Prayer

God of all, may we be moved to tap into the countless ways that human ingenuity, animated by your Spirit, has allowed us to collectively live more sustainably on the Earth, protecting the dignity of people and planet. We pray that we always prioritize the dignity and rights of workers as we make purchasing decisions in our community, and that we



consider how our financial investments impact the health of the planet. *Ignatian Solidarity Network*

Media

What exactly is the Common Good?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x6oSJg6wuBg>

What is a circular economy?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCRKvDyyHml>



Actions

Source and support local and responsible businesses such as farmers' markets <https://nfmd.org/>

Support companies which model a business ethic that is sustainable.

www.betterworldshopper.org

Visit [Catholic Climate Covenant](#); get on their email list; do action alerts.

Eliminate/reduce the use of plastic, a product of fossil fuels (e.g., plastic straws, bottled water). Visit [The Facts — Plastic Pollution Coalition](#) to learn more and take action and [Take Action](#)

Use the app [Buycott | Vote with Your Wallet - UPC Lookup Database, Find Barcode Scanner](#)

Purchase goods from local retailers. **Purchase** recycled and sustainable materials.

Divest of fossil fuels

Invest in socially responsible enterprises

