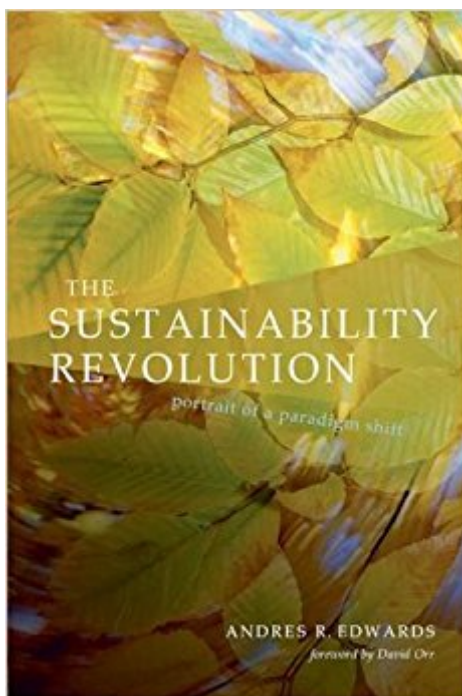


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The Sustainability Revolution: Portrait Of A Paradigm Shift



Synopsis

Sustainability has become a buzzword in the last decade, but its full meaning is complex, emerging from a range of different sectors. In practice, it has become the springboard for millions of individuals throughout the world who are forging the fastest and most profound social transformation of our time—the sustainability revolution. The Sustainability Revolution paints a picture of this largely unrecognized phenomenon from the point of view of five major sectors of society: Community (government and international institutions) Commerce (business) Resource extraction (forestry, farming, fisheries etc.) Ecological design (architecture, technology) Biosphere (conservation, biodiversity etc.) The book analyzes sustainability as defined by each of these sectors in terms of the principles, declarations and intentions that have emerged from conferences and publications, and which serve as guidelines for policy decisions and future activities. Common themes are then explored, including: An emphasis on stewardship The need for economic restructuring promoting no waste and equitable distribution An understanding and respect for the principles of nature The restoration of life forms An intergenerational perspective on solutions Concluding that these themes in turn represent a new set of values that define this paradigm shift, The Sustainability Revolution describes innovative sustainable projects and policies in Colombia, Brazil, India and the Netherlands and examines future trends. Complete with a useful resources list, this is the first book of its kind and will appeal to business and government policymakers, academics and all interested in sustainability.
Andrés R. Edwards is an educator, author, media designer and environmental systems consultant who has specialized in sustainability topics for the past 15 years. The founder and president of EduTracks, an exhibit design and fabrication firm specializing in green building and sustainable education programs for parks, towns and companies, he lives in northern California.

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Customer Reviews

null (2005-06-21)Sustainability has become a buzzword in the last decade, but its full meaning is complex, emerging from a range of different sectors. In practice, it has become the springboard for millions of individuals throughout the world who are forging the fastest and most profound social transformation of our time-the Sustainability Revolution.The Sustainability Revolution paints a picture of this largely unrecognized phenomenon from the point of view of five major sectors of society:Community (government and international institutions)Commerce (business)Natural Resources (forestry, farming, fisheries, etc.)Ecological Design (architecture, technology)Biosphere (conservation, biodiversity, etc.).The book analyses sustainability as defined by each of these sectors in terms of the principles, declarations and intentions that have emerged from conferences and publications, and which serve as guidelines for policy decisions and future activities. Common themes are then explored, including: an emphasis on stewardshipthe need for economic restructuring promoting no waste and equitable distributionan understanding and respect for the principles of nature the restoration of life forms, and an intergenerational perspective on solutions.Concluding that these themes in turn represent a new set of values that define this paradigm shift, The Sustainability Revolution describes innovative sustainable projects and policies in Colombia, Brazil, India and the Netherlands and examines future trends. Complete with a useful resources list, this is the first book of its kind and will appeal to business and government policy makers, academics, and all interested in sustainability. (2004-12-01)

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If you are wondering what the Sustainability fad is all about, then this is a good starting point. Sustainability seems to be all around us, and shouted by every business and group (making me doubt the paradigm shift aspects), and this book explains why. One of the best features is his inclusion of a large number of examples of sustainability statements.Whether you want to call this a

primer, a survey, or a basic introduction, I found it to be an excellent starting point. It is a quick read, I am a fast reader and it took me around an hour, but there is a lot of information packed in the book, especially at the price point offered by the publisher. It is a real value. My three criticisms. The author tries to avoid controversies. For example, for some reason, he seems to try very hard to avoid any discussion of over population, which may be the biggest problem of all in trying to achieve sustainability. Second, again avoiding controversies, the author praises Netherlands, justifiably, but also points out that most of their land is recaptured. He never seems to address this obvious contradiction. Third, the author emphasized education and indicates that it will be integrated throughout the book. However, I never saw any real discussion of education or psychological change. Although I enjoyed the book and would recommend it, I was never convinced this was a real paradigm shift, not in the classic meaning of a paradigm shift. If it is, the author fails to deal with how we will change the minds and motivations of people.

I appreciated both what was presented about sustainability and how carefully Edwards compares the environmentalism and sustainability movements. He doesn't "diss" environmentalism, but illuminates a lot of general principles of the sustainability movement that show it to be significantly more sustainable as a movement. I found each chapter to be complete, but there is a lot of parallel structure in the book so I limited myself to a chapter a day so I wouldn't confuse things between chapters. Next edition: I could have used more explanation for why social equity is the third E (Ecology, Economy, Equity) of sustainability. I can deduce it on my own, but I just could have used some help understanding this at a fundamental level. Overall, I loved this book and read just about every word of the text. I have marked up and flagged the extensive reference sections and have already chased down a few follow-up topics.

Very nice overview of how "Sustainable" became the buzzword that it is, the roots of the movement, current Sustainable Methods, legislation thus far, etc. This book is a good starting point in understanding "Sustainability" and a very valuable reference.

This author is so long winded. I had to read it for a class and it took everything I had to stay on task. BORING.

....with a wide range of cultural, technical, and historical information as context. "Paradigm shift" in the subtitle refers to the fact that techno-fixes cannot repair our relationship to nature and planet: for

that new values, forms of culture, and even psychologies will be necessary. Fortunately, many experiments around the world in sustainable living offer successful examples of this. I'm using this book as part of the Certificate in Ecotherapy I'm designing for JFK University.

The sustainable revolution was very interesting and would highly recommend this book for anyone to read it.

I had to purchase this book for class and quickly realized it would stay on my bookshelf well after the term had ended. It isn't a ton of reading, rather a set of principles recommended to different governmental agencies that promote sustainability. It is interesting and I hope to recommend it to others to create their own personalized set of guidelines to live by.

Good seller. Works great, thank you.

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