

# THE PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABILITY BY SIMON DRESNER

SECOND  
EDITION

Simon Dresner



## The Principles of Sustainability



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## Review

'A concise overview of the past, present and future of sustainability.' *Future Survey*

'Clear [and] readable.' *Oxfam*

Praise for the first edition: 'A great refresher course ... It's very thorough, describing the crucial events, introducing the necessary jargon, summarizing the various points of view.' *Clean Slate*

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At a time of increasingly rapid environmental deterioration and climate change, sustainability is one of the most important issues facing the world. Can we create a sustainable society? What would that mean? How should we set about doing it? How can we bring about such a profound change in the way things are organized? This text tackles these questions directly. It covers: historical development of the concept of sustainability; contemporary debates about how to achieve it; and obstacles and the prospects for overcoming them. This new fully revised edition covers the latest on the climate change front, particularly the advances in scientific understanding and political awareness of climate change. Other updates include more recent economic analyses, particularly the Stern Report, and the global shift away from faith in markets over the past five years.

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#### Most helpful customer reviews

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

Heavy reading

By Green girl

This book will especially appeal to people with a lot of knowledge in economic theory. It is very heavy reading and as an educated reader, but not a PhD economist, I had a hard time to push my way through. I had planned to use the book as a text to a community college general interest course in Sustainability, but it would be way over the heads of all but the most advanced economics students.

After these warnings, I am happy to have forced myself to keep going. This books shows how the whole question of sustainability is very complex and call into question the very basis of our economic systems. Mostly people use "sustainability" in a way to make everyone feel good about what they are doing. Look at the number of college courses that have had to add "sustainable" in their title. It ends up not meaning much at all. This books brings us face to face with hard questions we don't like to face. I'm not sure what we can do about it, but it is good to have to at least think about these questions and to learn what some deep thinking economists have proposed.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Perfect for Referencing

By Frank Roettgers

With "The Principles of Sustainability" Dresner wrote a great resource for everyone who wants to know what sustainability is, where as well as when it emerged, and where it might go. Especially for researchers this book offers plenty of well researched facts about the history of sustainability and how it became the concept that it is today.

After reading many guides on how to become sustainable I found it quite refreshing to read this book. Especially the first chapter about the history of sustainability made me think about how the evolution of sustainability still influences today's business practices and how we seem to diverge from the original idea. Reading Dresner's work reminds you of the basics of sustainability and causes you to re-think about the big sustainability manifestos out there such as "The Ecology of Commerce". Although I think that chapter three about the future of sustainability is a bit brief and better outlined in other books, I enjoyed the read and would recommend it to everyone who likes to take a step back before taking two steps ahead.

- Frank Roettgers, author of Going Green Together - How to Align Employees with Green Strategies

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

What we always need to know about Sustainability

By Denison Van Uye

This book is a must for anyone that is interested in Sustainability. It takes the reader through all the history and tries to give as much necessary background information as possible to get the big picture on each historical event and milestone. Although the author sometimes becomes a bit too subjective, he doesn't

impose a view and tries more to inform. Definitely a book worth having for references on Sustainability events.

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