



ESEE News

Newsletter of the European Society for Ecological Economics

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ESEE News is published by the European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE). Its purpose is to inform ESEE members of developments both within the society and in other areas that are of potential interest. It is published four times a year and is sent free to ESEE members. The views expressed are those of the individual contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Society as a whole.

The European Society for Ecological Economics is a not-for-profit organisation devoted to the development of theory and practice in ecological economics in Europe. Membership is open to all interested individuals working in Europe or in other areas on request. New members are always welcome – for membership details please contact the Secretariat (see back page).

Canberra conference raises a host of issues

The ISEE Conference met in Canberra during a rather wet week of the Australian winter. Besides business there were field trips the day before the conference started, one of which provided the opportunity to see some local wildlife and an ecologically designed and built wildlife centre. Canberra itself seems less environmentally aware, having been designed for the car with wide avenues and little provision for pedestrians.

Presentations at the conference included a reasonable representation from Europe, though less than at Santiago in 1998. Amongst the plenaries were Mick Common on the role of the media, Manfred Max-Neef discussed consumerism, John Proops the research agenda, Martin O'Connor on discourses and Stephen Lea argued the need for social psychology. The EC concerted action on environmental valuation in Europe was presented by Clive Spash and Claudia Carter, and other papers by ESEE members included Jorg Kohn on sustainable business, Irmi Seidl & Sigrid Stagl on sustainable food production, Michael Getzner on species protection, Inge Ropke on domestic technologies, Paula Antunes & Rio Santos on biodiversity, and Paul Safonov on

transport. There were, however, still a range of unprogressive papers reiterating narrow valuation perspectives (both economic and energy based) which seem to have failed to catch up with the concepts of plurality and incommensurability.

ISEE and ESEE Board meetings were held and future co-operation productively discussed. Amongst the ISEE business was the future development of the society's journal *Ecological Economics*. Inge Ropke chaired two meetings of those editorial Board members interested in the issues. The debate centred around alternative management structures which might be implemented when the current editor steps down. A small working group is to draft a report on the options, and guidance as to the running of the journal which was also requested by Board members.

The highlight event was the conference dinner held in the grandly designed parliament building, where delegates were treated to a very entertaining and interesting after dinner speech. Clive Hamilton discussed the dangers of space exploration in creating pollution of our atmosphere and space debris, finishing with the traditional call for research.

Landmark changes in ISEE/ESEE membership structure

Four changes in membership are going ahead in the new calendar year. First, all subscriptions to the various regional Ecological Economics Societies will be done through the ISEE secretariat. This should be more efficient in administrative terms and a more straightforward procedure for new members. Current members will receive mailing from the ISEE secretariat to this effect, providing all the necessary information for renewing subscription. Some good news: subscription fees will be lower next year. Second, all ISEE members

will also automatically be members of their regional society (if one exists) since the ISEE Board felt that regional societies play a critical role and should be supported by all members. This means that all ISEE members in Europe will now also become ESEE members. Third, up to three years of free membership will be offered to all students (for more information see back page of this newsletter). Fourth, members of regional societies in non-OECD countries (plus Turkey and Mexico) will automatically become members of ISEE.

Welcome from the President

Clive Spash

The format of the newsletter has been updated with the efforts of Ben Davies. The idea is for the membership to contribute to the regular features such as country news, events, new books and so on. I hope the changes to the newsletter will help you to find ways of contributing items and I know Ben would appreciate your feedback on the design and content, as well as participation in filling the pages.

We also have a new committee structure for the ESEE Board, as announced in the last newsletter. Over these pages there will be a regular feature containing reports from each of the committee Chairs. If you have specific questions or contributions to make, then please contact the relevant Chair directly. The Board has instigated e-mail conferencing which is proving successful as a means of our keeping regular contact. As Board members get to know each other and their new jobs I look forward to some good discussions and new ideas for advancing the ESEE and ecological economics.

Committees

A word on the Newsletter

Welcome to the tenth issue of the ESEE Newsletter. I hope that you find it both useful and stimulating, a source of ideas as well as a source of information. There are some new features as well as some traditional ones, and over time I hope it will continue to develop so as to reflect the best aspects of ESEE's work and expertise across the continent.

There is a blend to be struck between information, opinion and advertisement in the Newsletter. Some members may want to see more opinions and arguments, others more reviews and listings. All I will say is that if what you see does not reflect your interests, the solution is straightforward: please send in items that do! There are a range of items I would like to develop over time, and I am always keen to hear of work in these and other areas:

- * profiles of research and teaching institutes
- * descriptions of EE courses
- * new Web pages and links
- * short reports from conferences
- * calls for research collaboration
- * new publications by members
- * summaries of published research
- * job vacancies
- * forthcoming events
- * related associations and societies

A few dozen words on any of these topics would be greatly appreciated. As a primarily academic society, spreading knowledge and ideas must surely be our strength!

Finally, I would like to conclude with thanks to Julia Haake and Houda Allal for carrying the Newsletter through its early years as Editors. Their work has been vital to that critical phase, and I look forward to continuing down the path they have established.

Ben Davies

Committee report: Conferences and Meetings

Claudia Carter

Planning for the next three ESEE conferences is already underway. The next large conference will be a joined **ISEE/ESEE Biennial Meeting** in 2002 (probably May) to be held in Northern Africa. A planning team to work with Sylvie Faucheux, the ISEE Conference Committee Chair, is being formed. The local host will be the Faculte de Droit et des Economiques et Politiques at Sousse, Tunisia. Themes will be on environment and development issues with a focus on the Mediterranean basin and arid land amongst others. So, once again the ISEE and ESEE will have their conferences in the same year, but this time in the same place at the same time.

For the longer term, we have taken the request on board to have the ESEE and ISEE bi-

ennial conference in alternate years with the next large ESEE conference in 2005 after the ISEE one in 2004. In order to bridge the gap between these big events, funding has been approved by the EC in support of two four-day 'mini' conferences (100 participants each) which will provide a forum for interactive and focused working on ecological economics issues.

The first mini-conference will be held 4-7 July 2001 focussing on **Fundamental Issues of Ecological Economics**. Sessions planned include Value Conflicts in Environmental Management and Policy, Institutional and Social Changes for Long-Term Environmental Management, Defining New Paradigms, and Research and Teaching Methods.

The second will be on the topic of **European Applications of Ecological Economics** and take place in the Canary Islands, 12-15 February 2003. Involvement of young researchers is particularly encouraged and financially supported. The intention is to have about two thirds senior and one third junior participants. In this way both junior and senior researchers will benefit most from the event. More details in the next Newsletter.

Committee report: Membership and Fundraising

Jorg Kohn

ESEE membership is expected to increase in the New Year following the ISEE decision that all members should join their relevant regional chapters. In addition, the offer of free membership for up to three years for students should attract new 'junior' members. Several activities are planned to publicise the society in Europe including: new membership forms which list the many benefits of joining ESEE; an online subscription form (on the ISEE website); publicity related to the two FRONTIERS conferences; ESEE literature and newsletter displays in universities; and a large ESEE poster for display at conferences and workshops. Fundraising activities in coming months will focus on raising money and support in kind for the first FRONTIERS conference in July 2001.

Committee report: *Education*

Paul Safonov

ESEE's Education Committee strategy, as it was stated at the Business meeting during the ESEE 2000 Conference in Vienna this May, is to develop a European network for ecological economics (EE) education and professional orientation. The idea is to build upon the experience of ecological economics teaching and courses available today: the Undergraduate Program in Ecological Economics at Mälardalen University, Sweden; the Masters Program in Ecological Economics, University of Edinburgh; the International Master and Doctoral Program in Ecological Economics and Environmental Management, Barcelona; the MA Programs at Keele University; the European Ecological Economics and Sustainable Development Programme, C3ED, Versailles University, and others. Forms of education, besides regular courses at undergraduate, graduate, master, and doctorate levels, can include advanced (summer) schools and seminars (for both researchers and teachers); student exchanges within international ecological economic programs; and distant learning and Internet courses. The ISEE and ESEE web sites should play a key role in integration of these forms and assist also in curriculum development, and the search for appropriate textbooks and other education materials and tools. The educational network should help build links to other environmental courses and networks, such as the European Master in Environmental Management (based at Brussels,

Luxembourg, Lausanne, Genève, Kaiserslautern, Trier, Nancy, Athens, Torino, Parma, Bologna, Rotterdam, Tilburg, and London), and ESSENCE - Network of Environmental Sciences (building links between numerous European academic partners). The role of ESEE in this educational network would also be to help teachers and experts by providing job information, as well assisting in promotion of the programmes and in searching for funding from European and other institutions.

At the ISEE 2000 Meeting in Canberra a special session was devoted to educational issues in ecological economics. Jeroen van den Bergh moderated the debate. He mentioned the idea of financial support for development of a website for educational purposes, and proposed also the creation of an electronic hypertext Encyclopaedia on ecological economics. The session also discussed definitions of ecological economics (what should be taught in this discipline?), the role of multidisciplinary in ecological-economic education (both within social science, and between social and natural sciences); and what teaching materials and courses are available around the world. Participants also suggested arranging a questionnaire to find out more about this last issue, thus allowing for an update of the catalogue of EE programs and institutes at the ISEE website. The discussion also tackled the issue of EE education perhaps being needed at basic and high school levels, since once someone is specialised at university level, it is very difficult to broaden his/her perspective afterwards.

The ESEE Education Committee invites all teachers, professors and researchers, interested to help development of such an educational network on ecological economics within Europe and world-wide to contact us by e-mail. We would also be glad to locate information on the ESEE and ISEE websites about relevant courses and new ideas which might help us in this goal.

Committee report: *Publications*

Caroline Sullivan

One of the objectives of the publications committee is to promote the publication of literature of interest to the members of the society, and it is the intention of the committee to do this as far as possible. While the current agreements with publishers of journals and books will remain in place, it is hoped that we will be able to get other publishers interested in the outputs of our work.

There is no doubt that the relationship we have built up over the years with Edward Elgar has been mutually beneficial, and we hope to be able to continue to foster this. We would like also to promote the more widespread dissemination of our ideas, and therefore we hope to explore low-cost paperback volumes which are more likely to be taken up by younger members in particular.

At least one edited volume will appear from the ESEE Vienna Conference. This will most probably be published by Edward Elgar, as in the past. Please note that such volumes are available to ESEE members at 50 per cent off the retail price.

Please also note that ESEE members are now also eligible for a 10 per cent discount on all Environment and Planning Journals, which are published by Pion.

Finally, the new society webpage is close to completion and should be up and running within a matter of weeks. The address is: <http://www.euroecolecon.org>

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Committee members are always keen to hear from members interested in developing ideas within their areas of responsibility.

Research Notes

Work In Progress

'Implementing strong sustainability: the socio-cultural dimension of Critical Natural Capital'

Research Project developed by PhD student Anna Chiesura, funded by EU Marie Curie Research Grant, 4th Framework of the 'Environment and Climate' Program, theme 4: 'Human dimension of environmental change'.

The aim of this research project is to contribute to the sustainability debate, and to the problématique of nature valuation in particular, by re-considering the strong sustainability criterion and the Critical Natural Capital rule in relation to socio-cultural factors.

Comments and suggestions are warmly welcomed. For further detail please contact: Anna.chiesura@algemeen.cmkw.wau.nl

WEBWATCH

NEW SERI WEBPAGES: GLOBALISATION

The homepage of the Sustainable Europe Research Institute (SERI) has currently been expanded by a section covering the institute's research activities in the field of globalisation.

At www.seri.at/globalisation you can get detailed information on:

- SERI's scientific approach to the globalisation issue
- SERI's current and planned projects on globalisation including short descriptions
- A collection of interesting links to international organisations and other scientific institutions, concerned with global development issues

OTHER USEFUL WEBSITES

— Calendar of CLIVAR-related meetings and conferences:

<http://clivar-search.cms.udel.edu/calendar/default.htm>

— European Geophysical Society: <http://www.copernicus.org/EGS/EGS.html>

— European Ozone Research Co-ordinating Unit:

<http://www.ozone-sec.ch.cam.ac.uk/announce/announce.html>

— European Foundation database of sustainable development conferences:

<http://susdev.eurofound.ie/>

— WIP (Renewable Energy): <http://www.wip.tnet.de/>

Call for Papers

Papers requested for a Special Issue of the *Journal of Economic Psychology* on 'Social Psychology & Economics in Environmental Research (SPEER)'

Special Issue Editors
Anders Biel & Clive L. Spash

The topic has originated from the 18-month SPEER project funded by the European Science Foundation and co-ordinated by Dr Spash. The central objective of SPEER was to create a European network of active researchers interested in combining economics and social psychology with philosophical/ethical considerations to improve understanding of environmental problems and policy responses. Two SPEER workshops were organised to facilitate communication between these disciplines, to advance the interpretation of existing work on environmental problems and methods for mitigation, and to identify new areas for co-operation (for more information see the website <http://www.landecon.cam.ac.uk/speer/>). The project to date has involved 45 (mainly European) researchers and the aim is now to extend the arena world-wide by inviting contributions in this area from interested researchers outside of the current SPEER network.

Papers presenting original, unpublished, work are requested covering the following themes which have been identified and explored by the workshops:

1: Environmental Behaviour, Attitude, Preferences e.g. attitude formation, preference changes, value activation, context dependency

2: Social Identity, Institutions, Social Norms e.g. theory and applications of social identity, institutions context, theory and applications of social norms

3: Society / Community Decisions e.g. applications of community decisions, societal movements

4: Regulation of Environmental Resources e.g. common access resources, applications

5: Social Dilemmas theory and applications

Submission of papers to:

Clive Spash (SPEER Special Issue), Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge, 19 Silver Street, Cambridge CB3 9EP, UK.

Deadline: 30 November 2000

For instructions to authors for the journal see: <http://www.elsevier.nl:80/inca/publications/store/5/0/5/5/8/9/>

Report Summary

APPRAISING EXTERNALITIES OF SWISS AGRICULTURE: A COMPREHENSIVE VIEW

Gonzague Pillet, Nicole Zingg, and David Maradan
Ecosys® SA *Applied Economics & Environmental Economics*, Geneva

Original study in French by Ecosys®: *Appréciation quantitative des externalités de l'agriculture suisse*, final report, Swiss Federal Office of Agriculture, Berne, Switzerland, 2000, 227 pp.

The purpose of the study is to quantitatively evaluate externalities of the Swiss agriculture.

From the perspective of economic accounting, the size of agriculture is conceptually defined to include only goods (food and fibre) and services ("agri-tourism") that are bought and sold in market transactions (with few exceptions). Economic accounts generally 'record and measure activities that pass through the marketplace, while most of the activities that raise environmental concerns—from air pollution to appreciation of pristine wildernesses—take place outside the market'. This is also true of societal concerns. As a consequence, an important part of the very picture of agriculture is missing if natural inputs to agriculture and effects of agriculture on society and the environment are omitted in retaining conventional market-based accounts for agriculture—and, more generally, for our national accounts.

These omissions impact on policies in as much as by underestimating valuable nonmarket components in decision making processes, they overstate the role of market goods and services in economic welfare, providing misleading measures with respect to the overall performance of agriculture, especially in relation to sustainability concerns. Expanding conventional accounts by expanding their boundaries to include measures of these "missing residuals" would provide a better estimate of the size, functions, and growth of agriculture in relation to society and the environment.

This work on assessing externalities of the Swiss agriculture is motivated by the idea that appraising the missing residuals in the latter would provide better estimates as a guiding principle in setting further policy, regulatory, and business decisions at the interface of agriculture with society and the environment.

News from the Community Research and Development Service

Commission News

Commission adopts White Paper on environmental liability

The European Commission has adopted a White Paper on environmental liability in order to explore how the 'polluter pays' principle can best be applied to assist the Community's policy for environmental protection. The White Paper responds to a request from the European Parliament for proposals for legislation in this field and it explores how a community regime on environmental liability can best be shaped.

The Commission believes a Community Framework Directive on environmental liability will provide the best route of Community action in this field.

Copies of the White Paper on environmental liability are available on-line from:
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/liability/index.html>

Food quality and safety pushed up European agenda

Measures to protect the interests of consumers lie at the heart of a new phase in the development of EU agricultural policy announced at an informal meeting of agriculture ministers in Biarritz.

Ministers unanimously agreed to support an initiative of the French presidency aimed at introducing policies geared less towards the traditional concerns of supporting the interests of farmers and more towards improving food quality and safety.

France hopes to extend the concept of labelling products with their certificate of origin, currently used for fruit and vegetables, wine, beef products and honey, to other product categories.

Agriculture Minister Franz Fischler said that the Commission had no immediate plans to extend the labelling requirements but there was scope for individual Member States to develop their own initiatives.

Speaking at a press conference, Franz Fischler also outlined Commission policy on the introduction of foods from genetically modified crops. GMOs are now an established part of modern agriculture and their potential value should not be neglected. But the central goal of Commission policy must be to protect the environment and public health and to take into account the rights of consumers to exhaustive information about their food, he said.

French Minister Jean Glavany acknowledged that some countries including Germany, the UK and Spain believed that French policy on plant biotechnology was too cautious.

However, these differences in national policy could be ironed out with two initiatives expected to be finalised in the coming months. The Commission is due to present a legal base framework during the autumn concerning the labelling and traceability of GMOs in seed and animal feedstuffs. Meanwhile the current moratorium on commercial releases of GMOs is due to end this year and be replaced by a horizontal Directive on their use, currently subject to a conciliation procedure between the Council and Parliament.

Bio-collaboration options analysed in Brussels

A panel of 20 independent experts from a broad range of disciplines met in Brussels on 12 September to advise the European Commission and US Government on the benefits and risks of modern biotechnology.

The establishment of the EU-US biotechnology consultative forum was announced by EC President Romano Prodi and US President Bill Clinton following a summit on 31 May.

The forum will be discussing the health, safety, economic, food security and environmental impacts of the biotechnology industry. They will also be tackling the social and ethical issues arising from developments. The role of science in society, the ethics of using biotechnological products in medicine and agriculture, public perceptions of the new technology, how best to keep consumers informed, methods of risk analysis and the importance of intellectual property rights will be among the items on the agenda. The next EU-US summit is on 18 December, when the forum will deliver its report.

Ruud Lubbers, professor of globalisation at Tilburg University and former Prime Minister of The Netherlands, heads the ten-person EU team. His co-chair and head of the US delegation is Cutberto Garza, chairman of the US National Academies Institute of Medicine's food and nutrition board.

Contaminated sites, landfills and sediments

Precise definitions of 'contaminated land, landfills and sediments' are needed to avoid

different interpretations and misunderstandings, agreed delegates to the joint ETCA/EniChem workshop on the protection of European water resources held in Venice in June.

The proceedings of the workshop are due to be published in October 2000 and will be available on the ECTA Web page. The next annual progress review workshop is scheduled for the end of May 2001, University of Leeds, UK.

ETCA Website: <http://www.etcenet.org>

Recent developments in the use of environmental taxes in the EU

The latest developments in the use of environmental taxes in the European Union, as discussed by the EU's Environment Council at its informal meeting, are described in the summary of a draft report recently published by the European Environment Agency (EEA).

According to the Commission, environmental taxes are major tools 'to get the prices right and to create market-based incentives for environmentally-friendly economic behaviour'. The report covers:

- * recent developments in the use of green taxes;
- * effectiveness of environmental tasks;
- * taxes and integration of environment into sector policies;
- * how barriers to the introduction of environmental taxes can be overcome.

A summary of the draft report is available from <http://themes.eea.eu.int/toc.php/improvement/policy>.

Forestry forum explores future

The Commission sponsored forum on 6 September focussed on the future of forest-based industries, including all downstream users of wood-based products as well as the traditional forestry and wood processing industries. The three main goals of the meeting were:

- * help make Europe the most competitive and dynamic economy in the world
- * identify how industries in the field can make best use of the business opportunities provided by the Internet and e-commerce
- * ensure that the forest-based sector makes its full contribution to tackling climate change through the sequestration of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere into wood and its products.

In Brief

New United Nations Sustainable Development Commission listserver

The Secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) announced the creation of an electronic listserver, which is open to all interested parties to become a key resource for those interested in the work of the Commission including the upcoming ten-year review of sustainable development (or Rio+10).

To sign up visit the following web page: www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csdlserver.html, or contact olvida@un.org to be included in the listserver.

Fulbright Scholarships offered for studies in the environment

The Fulbright Scholar Program for faculty and professionals is offering more than 61 awards in Environmental Science for lecturing and/or doing research abroad during the 2001-2002 academic year throughout many parts of the world. U.S. citizenship is required. Non-U.S. citizens should contact the Fulbright agency or U.S. embassy in their home countries.

The award listings and application materials are downloadable from the website at: <http://www.iie.org/cies/>.

Free journal available on transport issues

World Transport Policy & Practice is a quarterly-published journal edited by John Whitelegg. The target group of the journal is a wide readership, encompassing advocates and activists as well as academics and advisers. It is available free of charge as Adobe Acrobat PDF file on the internet at: <http://www.ecoplan.org/wtpp/general/current.htm>.

Web-based campaign launched on global warming

A coalition of leading environmental organisations has launched the first international web-based initiative to give citizens around the world a voice in demanding a halt to global warming.

www.climatevoice.org aims to send 10 million messages from the public to political leaders demanding that they use November's climate summit in The Hague to reduce pollution causing global warming.

Visitors to the site can e-mail world leaders with their concerns.

LOOK ROUND

Each issue we invite an ESEE member to reflect on what kind of environmental light turns on Norway and the UK. Next issue we take a look at Spain and the M

NORWAY

Arild Vatn, ESEE Vice-President and Professor at the Agricultural University of Norway, reviews the year in the media

Maybe the most characteristic feature of the environmental debate in Norway is that it rarely makes the big headlines. This summer the first pictures of an ice free North Pole reached the newspapers. Just a few years ago this would, I believe, have boosted a debate about consequences and what to do. Now, it almost passed by without a comment... Instead gasoline sellers and truck drivers have dominated the ground in Norway with the message that gasoline prices are far too high.

Still, some issues are debated and make headlines. Further development of hydroelectric power plants is a very contested issue in Norway. Much of the potential is already utilised, and few new projects are easily welcomed. After some years without any (larger) proposed projects, we had a large debate last year over a plan for a river in Southern Norway. The compromise was a limited development, potentially not profitable for the developer. This year a project in Northern Norway was stopped, largely because of conflicts with Sami interests. After the great conflicts in the early 1980s (i.e. Alta) the fronts have shifted considerably.

Being in the element of water, the protection of wild salmon is also an important issue. A public committee has proposed rather tight restrictions both concerning the flow of water in some rivers in the summer (conflict with hydroelectric power) and the development of the salmon farming business in the nearby fjords. Incidentally, high precipitation in the summer of 2000, has resulted in very high salmon catches in rivers, which may influence the final position by the government.

The reintroduction of large predators has been a great issue for several years now – the

summer of 2000 being no exception. The conflicts are mainly with the Sami reindeer industry and sheep farming. Observations of wolves near municipalities have also been increasingly common, somewhat shifting the line of conflict. In the case of Sami interests it is now observed that reintroducing large predators in these areas is against the intent of the ILO convention on indigenous peoples (from 1992). This may result in increased conflicts in other parts of the country, as it is also very difficult to establish zones with and without these different species.

For several years the situation concerning radioactive waste, especially in the Barents region, has been highly focussed. The accident with the Russian submarine Kursk recently, brought this concern to the front again. The mix of an environmental issue with the defence interests of Russia makes this a very delicate topic. There are very meager developments in the field, despite the fact that Norway offers both economic and professional support.

Pollution problems reach the headlines less frequently than just a few years ago. Dioxin in fresh (drinking) water and some fjords has recently become an issue though. Furthermore, the problem of polluted sediments in many fjords is making its way into the debate. This problem is mainly a result of older 'sins' and illustrates that previously many pollution problems were 'solved' just by moving matter in time and space. The situation is so bad that trying to remove the sediments may be the only solution, as it may itself be a major contributor to the problems.

Finally, my list contains the issue of food quality, GMOs, genetic pollution, the spread of diseases etc. Here we observe a steadily increased interest over time. The 'mad cow disease' became one of the main issues in radio and television in the middle of August, after the belief arose that the first observation of the disease had been made in Norway. It ended up being a false alarm – this time....

D EUROPE

Issues have been making the news in their own country. This week the spotlight is on the Netherlands.

UNITED KINGDOM

Ben Davies, Newsletter Editor and postgraduate student at the University of Cambridge, takes a look through headlines in the UK

Genetically modified crops continue to be a major focal point of environmental interest in the UK. In the spring 28 Greenpeace activists who had been charged with theft and criminal damage for tearing up experimental crops of GM maize were acquitted of theft by a jury. They had mounted a defence that they acted to prevent a pressing danger of environmental contamination as the crop was coming into seed. Just recently the group made the headlines again when they were acquitted by another jury of all further charges. Farmers and biotech companies were outraged and the protestors, who included Greenpeace UK's director Peter Melchett, were obviously delighted. Challenges to the legality of field trials of GM crops continue to be mounted.

More farming-related issues were also raised by reports that BSE might be contracted by other farm animals beside cattle. Meanwhile classical swine fever broke out for the first time in 14 years on two pig farms in the east of the country. Several further outbreaks were reported afterwards despite strict movement controls but the disease now seems to have been effectively contained. It was yet another unwelcome foray into the headlines for the farming industry.

There have now been two major accidents on the rail network causing several fatalities, both near London, one right at the turn of the year and a second just this week. The first raised concerns over the level of investment in the national network, as more advanced safety equipment which might have prevented the crash had not been installed on the line. The

recent accident also happened on a stretch of track where the rails were known to be in poor condition. Lack of investment in the system has been a constant complaint of railway workers since the whole network was broken up into a number of privatised companies in 1997.

The nuclear industry, the only element of UK energy supply retained in government hands, took a pasting in the press earlier in the year when the main nuclear re-processing plant at Sellafield in the northwest of England was accused of falsifying safety test records on shipments of fuel sent to Japan. Over the years the Sellafield site has become almost synonymous with environmental protest against the nuclear industry. The planned part-privatisation of British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) has now been shelved until after the next general election due in 2002.

The issue of banning the sport of fox-hunting, a quaint country pastime involving chasing foxes on horseback with packs of dogs, has been a political hot potato for the country's Labour government for the last two years. Opinion polls show a majority favour the banning of the practice but reactions to the government's suggestion of a ban has seen unprecedented levels of protest from rural areas, including huge (but very peaceful!) demonstrations in London. A report into the economic effects of a ban in the summer was largely inconclusive. The issue was given another airing when the newly-elected first mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, re-stated his commitment to a ban. Pro-hunt campaigners accuse the government of ignoring rural concerns.

Recently fuel blockades have dominated the headlines, with fuel pumps running dry across many parts of the country within days of the blockade action by lorry drivers. Environmental aspects of the debate were conspicuously absent amid claims that the UK was competitively disadvantaged by its high fuel prices and road taxes, the main targets of the protestors.

Finally, flooding in the Southeast of the country is back in the headlines with several villages swamped. And yet - this August came close to being the driest for decades.

In Brief

Teaching materials available for Eastern Europe

For those teaching in Eastern Europe, two introductory textbooks are available in English and Russian versions, bringing together case studies on Eastern European topics. The titles are:

Hens, L., Melnik, L. and Boon, E., 1998. *Environmental Economics*. Kiev, ISBN 966-00-0465-6 (in Russian *Ekonomia ekologii*); and

Hens, L., Melnik, L. and Boon, E., 1998. *Environment and Health*. Kiev, ISBN 966-00-0468-0.

Further details can be found at www.spider-business.de. Prices are approximately 25 USD.

Worldwide decline in amphibian numbers

Research published in *Nature* in the summer indicates that worldwide populations of amphibians have declined by 15 per cent between 1990 and 1996, and continued to decline at a rate of 2 per cent throughout 1997. The research was the largest global study of the topic ever undertaken, and indicates that the decline in numbers started well before the alarm was sounded in the 1980s. There is uncertainty surrounding the cause of the decline, but scientists suspect a mixture of factors including the widespread use of pesticides and fertilisers, loss of wetlands to development, the introduction of exotic predators, and increased ultra-violet radiation due to the thinning of the ozone layer.

Global review of forest fires

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the International Union for Nature Conservation (IUCN) have launched a major new review of government action on forest fires since 1998, when forests in Indonesia, Brasil, Russia, China and the Mediterranean were devastated. Over the summer fires raging in Greece hit many of the country's important wildlife habitats. These included the Pindus Mountains that are home to Brown Bears, Wolves, Wild Cat and Lynx, and the island of Samos, one of the last refuges for Brutia Pine.

More News in Brief items are always welcome.

NEW BOOKS

Ecological Economics. A Political Economics Approach to Environment and Development

Peter Soderbaum

Earthscan, London. 2000. 160 pp. (paperback 1 85383 6850, 14.95 UKP hardcover 185383 686 9; 40 UKP).

Economics is often presented as the study of the impersonal forces of supply and demand and the laws relating to them, with Rational Economic Man as the agent generating these forces. *Ecological Economics* takes quite a different approach, presenting the individual as a political being and a responsible actor.

The book proposes the Political Economic Person as the central actor and the Political Economic Organisation, rather than firms exclusively driven by profit maximisation, as the basis for understanding corporate behaviour. Ideologies, worldviews, beliefs and scientific perspectives have all to be taken into account if economics is to deal successfully with the social and environmental problems we face.

Ecological Economics is a critical text, presenting an economics that is interdisciplinary and pluralistic. Taking account of the viewpoints of the key players, it offers an approach to achieving a socially and ecologically sustainable society.

Contents

1. Environmental and other problems 2. Ecological economics 3. The political economic person and the political economic organisation 4. Economics, efficiency and ideological orientation 5. Political ideologies, democracy and decision-making 6. Environmental management and decision-making: a political economics approach 7. A policy for ecological sustainability.

Economic Growth and Environmental Sustainability: The Prospects for Green Growth

Paul Ekins

Routledge, 1999, London/New York. 392 pp (Hardback 0415173329; 70 UKP Softback 0415173337; 20.99 UKP).

This comprehensive new text provides rigorous expositions of:

- * the concept of sustainability
- * integrated environmental and economic accounting
- * the Environmental Kuznets Curve
- * the economics of climate change
- * environmental taxation

Individual chapters are organised to be as self-contained, state of the art expositions of the core issues of environmental economics, with extensive cross-referencing from one chapter to another.

Ambivalent Joint Production and the Natural Environment: An Economic and Thermodynamic Analysis

Stefan Baumgärtner

Physica-Verlag, Heidelberg. 2000. 325 pp. (Softcover 3-7908-1290-0; DM 98).

Much environmental damage is caused by substances which come into existence as undesired joint outputs in the production of desired goods. Whether an output is desired or not, however, is not an inherent property of the substance itself but depends on the context of production. This book studies the role of a potential ambivalence of joint outputs for the description and analysis of dynamic economy-environment interactions and for the design of efficient environmental policy.

Methods and insights from thermodynamics, engineering sciences, economics and the methodology of economics are combined in order to develop an encompassing view on the complex and multifarious phenomenon of ambivalent joint production. By using the concept of joint production as a unifying framework for describing and analyzing the relations between human economic activity and the surrounding natural environment this book contributes to a critical and constructive assessment of the traditional environmental economic approach.

Contents

1. Introduction Part I. The phenomenon of joint production 2. Joint production and the natural environment 3. Thermodynamics 4. All production is joint production Part II. The

analysis of joint production in the history of economic thought 5. The classical position and its early critics 6. The abandonment of classical theory 7. Neoclassical theory from partial to general equilibrium analysis 8. The role of joint production for the construction of economic theory Part III. The economics of ambivalent joint production 9. The concept of joint production 10. Ambivalence of joint products 11. Joint products and irreversibility 12. Non-convexity of the production set 13. Ambivalent joint production: Putting the issues in perspective.

For inspection copies e-mail: orders@springer.de

Toward Sustainable Development: An Ecological Economics Approach

Philip Lawn

CRC Press, 2000. (ISBN: 1566704111; 59.95 AUSD). See www.crcpress.com for details.

By now, most people in the ecological and developmental fields have heard of sustainable development, but how many know how we go about getting there and if we are achieving it? By synthesising the many disparate elements of the field of ecological economics, *Toward Sustainable Development: An Ecological Economics Approach* combines analysis, theory, and empiricism to answer the whats, whys, and hows of moving toward sustainable development.

Since ecological economics is still a relatively new paradigm, its long-term success rests heavily on the formalised establishment of its most basic and fundamental principles. This volume discusses the formation of these principles and their implementation in the real world. Lawn establishes the ground-rules by showing that development need not be achieved at the expense of ecological sustainability. He presents the tools, guidelines, and conceptual framework necessary to move toward sustainable development.

Toward Sustainable Development: An Ecological Economics Approach systematically develops a conceptual framework from which to design workable policies. The author shows that development and ecological sustainability do not have to be trade-offs but can be complementary and outlines a range of economic and non-economic indicators to measure a nation's sustainable development performance (or lack of it).

Please send details of new books to the editor, Ben Davies, at the Secretariat or by e-mail to bbd20@cam.ac.uk.

Of the Value of Variety - Diversity in Economics and Ecology

German-speaking group of Ecological Economics and the Lutheran-Protestant Academy of Tutzing

April 30 – May 2, 2001
Tutzing, Bavaria, Germany
(language: German)

Persons are invited to submit proposals for presentations or posters related to one of the five planned workshops:

1. Regional diversity, Federalism
2. Biodiversity and valuation of diversity
3. Cultural diversity
4. Diversity through market and competition
5. Homogeneity and diversity in economics.

Please send the abstracts of 1–1.5 pages (3000 characters) by **1 December 2000** to:

Dr. Wilfried Wittenberg, Institut für Regionalwissenschaft, Universität Karlsruhe, Ernst-Gaber-Str., D-76128 Karlsruhe. E-mail: Wilfried.Wittenberg@ifr.uni-karlsruhe.de

For further information see:

<http://www.voecoe.de> or <http://www.uni-trier.de/spehl>.

Workshop on the politics of 'New Environmental Policy Instruments'

The European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR)

April 6 – 11, 2001
Grenoble, France

The purpose of this workshop is to gain a better understanding of what motivates actors to adopt new environmental policy instruments (NEPIs) (e.g. eco-taxes, tradable permits, eco-labels). For details about the focus and aims see:

<http://www.essex.ac.uk/ecpr/jointsessions/grenoble/details/list.htm#1>

Topics:

1. Explain why policy makers are increasingly willing to utilise NEPIs.
2. Identify the factors (institutional, cultural, legal) which facilitate or obstruct the adoption of particular NEPIs.
3. Examine how well NEPIs are actually performing in particular sectors.

Please send an abstract of your proposed paper by **December 1, 2000** to Andrew Jordan (A.Jordan@uea.ac.uk), explaining how it fits within the project.

CONFERENCES

Ecological Sustainability in a Global Market Economy

Fourth Biennial Conference of the Canadian Society for Ecological Economics (CANSEE)

August 23 – 25, 2001
McGill University, McGill School of Environment, Montreal, Quebec

Papers are invited on various topics including the following areas:

Sessions:

- * Ecological and economic consequences of a global market economy
- * Global ecological governance and international environmental law
- * World's economic infrastructure: trade, debt and the environment
- * International trade in nature: ethical and environmental implications
- * The greening of corporate boardrooms: reality or greenwash?
- * Nutrient cycles, mass balance exchange and industrial metabolism
- * Biological diversity, bio-business and biotechnology
- * International economic diplomacy and the search for ecological sustainability at the global level
- * Building blocks for reshaping the global economy toward ecological sustainability

Plenaries:

- * Ecological economics: axioms, concepts and theory
- * Ethics, economics and ecological values

Authors are invited to submit abstracts of not more than 300 words (including key words), preferably by e-mail, along with their name, affiliation, mailing address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail **no later than April 15, 2001** to:

The Conference Secretariat
Outreach Coordinator, MSE
3534 University Street, Montreal, Que., H3A 2A7
Tel: (514) 398 5331, Fax: (514) 398 1643
E-mail: secretary@mse.mcgill.ca

Ms Word 97 and Wordperfect 7 versions of the registration form can be downloaded from:

<http://www.McGill.Ca/MSE/CANSEE>

The Ecological Modernisation of Society

Fifth Nordic Environmental Research Conference

June 14 – 16, 2001
Aarhus, Denmark

Contributions are sought from the international research community at large.

The conference language is English.

Working groups:

- (1) Sustainable consumption: Trends and strategies.
- (2) New approaches to implementation of and compliance with environmental law.
- (3) Ecological transformation and green industrial strategies.
- (4) National and international perspectives on agro-environmental policy and law.
- (5) New approaches to ecological and environmental economics.
- (6) Global environmental policy and law.
- (7) Sustainability, green political thought and environmental ethics.

Deadlines for papers:

1. December 2000: deadline for submitting abstract
15. January 2001: invitation to submit a full paper (selected)
15. May 2001: deadline for submitting papers in electronic format

Registration:

Details can be obtained from:
Annette Hein Bengtsson
CESAM (Centre for Social Science Research on the Environment)
Forskerparken
Gustav Wiedsvej 10
DK-8000 Århus C

From November 2000 information will also be available at the conference website:

<http://www.au.dk/cesam>

CALENDAR EVENTS

October

October 31- November 2

The Fourth International Conference on EcoBalance. Methodologies for decision making in a sustainable 21st Century. *Tsukuba, Japan.*
Explores applications of Life Cycle Analysis. Details on: <http://www.sntt.or.jp/ecobalance/>

November

November 8-22

World Congress on Environmental Design for the New Millennium. *Seoul, South Korea.*

The congress involves three distinctive but related conferences: the World Conference on Universal Design, the World Conference on Green Design; and the World Conference on Cultural Design. A Students Conference will be held in conjunction with the Congress. E-mail: seoul2000@millenniumed.org
<http://www.millenniumed.org>

November 13-15

Symposium – Making Sustainable Regional Development Visible. Evaluation methods and Indicators in the Regional Context. Association for the Coordination of Research on Sustainability. *Schloss Seggau, Leibnitz, Austria.*
For details see: <http://scc.co.at/sustain/conference20001113.html>

November 16

11th Symposium on the Environment: Sustainability, Globalization, and Institution Capacity Building. *University of Mainz, Germany.*
Speakers: U.E. Simonis (WZB Berlin), R. Steppacher (Genf), M.E. Kulesa (Mainz), M. Windfuhr (Heidelberg)
Admission: free
Conference language: German
Contact: Jan A. Schwaab, Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, Welderweg 4, 55099 Mainz, Germany
Tel: +49-6131-3924425
Fax: +49-6131-3923827
Email: schwaab@mail.uni-mainz.de

For more information about the symposium please visit the website: <http://wiwi.uni-mainz.de/vwl/bartmann/btus.htm>

November 25-27

Infrastructures of Consumption and the Environment. *Wageningen University, Wageningen, The Netherlands.*
Conference investigating changing aspects of utility provision and implications for ordinary consumption practices.
For details see: <http://www.iwoe.unisg.ch/News/index-e.htm>

December

December 1-3

POSTI-conference: Policy Agendas for Sustainable Technological Innovation. *University of East London, London.*
The conference will focus on the policy implications of research on socially, economically and environmentally acceptable technological innovation.
For details see: <http://www.esst.uio.no/posti/cfp.html>

December 5-9

Global Conference on Economic Geography. *Singapore.*
For details see: <http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/geog/news2.htm>

December 12-14

MEDIT-WASTE 2000. Mediterranean Workshop on the Treatment and Utilization of Municipal Solid Waste. *Haiffa, Israel.*
For details see: <http://www.technion.ac.il/technion/agr/medit2k.html>

December 13-14

EMAN's Fourth Annual Conference: Environmental Management Accounting and Organizational Changes. *Erasmus University, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.*
For details see: <http://www.eur.nl/fsw/eman/>

January

January 21-25

The Ninth International Greening of Industry Network Conference. Sustainability at the Millenium: Globalization, Competitiveness, and the Public Trust. The Greening of Industry Network, Asia. *Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand.*
For details see: <http://www.eric.chula.ac.th/GIN-Asia>

February

February 25-27

Taking Nature Seriously: Citizens, Science and Environment. *University of Oregon, Oregon, USA.*
This conference is devoted to establishing dialogue between the interdisciplinary fields of science studies (history, philosophy, sociology) and environmental studies.
<http://www.darkwing.uoregon.edu/~tns>

March

April

April 5-7

Bridging Minds and Markets
Emerging Issues in Environmental Education and Employment in Europe. *Venice, Italy.*
Organised by the Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Venice, and the Association of University Departments of Environmental Sciences (ESSENCE) Network.
For details see: <http://helios.unive.it/~audes6/home.html>

April 5-6

International Sustainable Development Research Conference. ERP Environment. *University of Manchester, UK.*
For details see: <http://erpenvironment.org/cfrence/2000-1%20dates>

April 6-11

Workshop on the politics of 'New Environmental Policy Instruments'.
Grenoble, France.

The European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR).

For details about the focus and aims see:
<http://www.essex.ac.uk/ecpr/jointsessions/grenoble/details/list.htm#1>

April 30 - May 2

On the Value of Variety – Diversity in economics and ecology.

Tutzing, Bavaria, Germany.

German-speaking group of Ecological Economics and the Lutheran Protestant Academy of Tutzing. For details see:

<http://www.voee.de> OR <http://www.uni-trier.de/spehl>

May

May 6-9

Baltic Meeting Point II – Sustainable Community Development.

Uppsala, Sweden.

The conference will focus on issues related to sustainable cities in the Baltic Sea Region.

For details email: conference@slu.se OR see:
<http://www.balticuniv.uadm.uu.se/BMP2/general.html>

May 14-16

Seventh International Conference on Urban Transport and the Environment for the 21st Century.

Lemnos, Greece.

Organised by the Wessex Institute of Technology, Southampton, UK.

For details contact: gossutta@wessex.ac.uk

May 14-17

'From Eco-Efficiency to Overall Sustainability in Enterprises.

Second International Conference organised by the Wuppertal Institute and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

Düsseldorf, Germany.

The conference will give an outlook over technologies and concepts that go beyond pollution control, oriented on the topics of ENVITEC – energy, water and resources. For the first time, one session will deal with social aspects of eco-efficiency, with the corporate social responsibility of enterprises.

For details see: <http://www.eco-efficiency.de>

June

June 6-8

Third International Conference on Ecosystems and Sustainable Development (ECOSUD 2001).

Alicante, Spain.

Organised by the Wessex Institute of Technology, Ashurst Lodge, Ashurst, Southampton SO40 7AA, UK. For details e-mail Susan Hanley: shasley@wessex.ac.uk; or see:

<http://wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2001/ecosud01/>

June 12-16

Is Globalisation Overpowering Democracy? The Challenge for Ecology, Economy and Culture.

Institute of Landscape Ecology, Academy of Sciences of Czech Republic and Czech Association for Landscape Ecology.

Prague, Czech Republic.

For details e-mail GlobDem@uek.cas.cz; or see:

<http://www.uek.cas.cz/GlobDem/>

June 14-16

The Ecological Modernisation of Society Fifth Nordic Environmental Research Conference.

Aarhus, Denmark.

Contributions are sought from the international research community at large.

The conference language is English.

For details see:

<http://www.au.dk/cesam> (after October).

July

July 2-4

Seventh International Interdisciplinary Conference on the Environment.

San Francisco, USA.

Organised by the Interdisciplinary Environmental Association (IEA).

For details e-mail Kevin Hickey:

khickey@assumption.edu; or see:
<http://www.desu.edu/mreiter/iea.htm>

July 9-11

12th Biennial Conference of the Society for Philosophy and Technology.

'Nature and Technology'

University of Aberdeen, Scotland.

Topics include: Moral and Conceptual Implications of Genetic Modification; and Environment, Technology and Development.

For details e-mail Andrew Light, International Center for Advanced Studies, New York University: alight@binghamton.edu

July 16-20

Detecting Environmental Change. Science and Society.

London, UK.

For details contact Dr. Catherine Stickley, Environmental Research Centre, Dept. of Geography, University College, London, 26 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AP; E-mail: c.stickley@ucl.ac.uk; or see:

<http://www.nmw.ac.uk/change2001/dec2001/>

Sender:

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Address: _____

Please affix postage

To: Claudia Carter
ESEE Secretary
Dept. of Land Economy
University of Cambridge
19 Silver Street
Cambridge CB3 9EP
United Kingdom

Take Note

Past Greats: Henry Thoreau (1817-1862)

Free student membership

From 2001 students will have free membership to the Society. (Post-)graduate students will not have to pay ISEE/ESEE dues for the first three years of their studies but will be required to submit material for the ISEE student group webpages describing their work and interests. This will expand student membership and provide an excellent opportunity for better networking amongst each other. Information on current activities for (post-)graduate students of ecological economics can be found on the website of the The International Network for Graduate Education in Ecological Economics (INGrEEn) which is currently hosted at <http://iee.umces.edu/ingreen/index.html>.

Failure to receive journal

Journal subscriptions are administered by Elsevier via the ISEE secretariat (Burk & Associates). Unfortunately, there have been problems with the regular mailing of the journal to many ESEE subscribers over the past year or so. The ESEE secretary is hence asking all those having problems with receiving the journal (either irregularly or not at all) to send in the complaint form below.

Education in EE – call for interest in meeting

The ESEE Educational Committee would like to organise a meeting of possible partners who would be interested in joining the European educational network on ecological economics (to meet the ESEE Board and the leaders of already active courses around Europe). This meeting will aim towards the coordination of future activities and should help us to better evaluate needs and possibilities, discuss the curriculum, as well as financial and other issues. Contact: PSafanov@ulb.ac.be.

Special Issue of *Ecological Economics*

The August 2000 issue of *Ecological Economics* was a special issue on 'Social Processes of Environmental Valuation', edited by Martin O'Connor of CE3D. It reported work undertaken within the European Commission sponsored VASLE project (VALuation for Sustainable Environments), which involved case studies in the UK, France, Spain and Italy. Further details of the project can be obtained from the VALSE Project Website, where a 40-page colour report summary is also available. <http://alba.jrc.it/valse.html>

'When I go out of my house for a walk, uncertain as yet whither I will bend my steps, and submit myself to my instinct to decide for me, I find, strange and whimsical as it may seem, that I finally and inevitable settle southwest, toward some particular wood or meadow or deserted pasture or hill in that direction... Eastwards I go only by force; but westward I go free. Thither no business leads me. It is hard for me to believe I shall find fair landscapes or sufficient wilderness and freedom behind the eastern horizon. I am not excited by the prospect of a walk thither; but I believe the forest which I see in the western horizon stretches uninterruptedly into the setting sun, and there are no towns or cities of enough consequence to disturb me. Let me live where I will, on this side is the city, on that the wilderness, and I am ever leaving the city more and more, and withdrawing into the wilderness. I should not like to lay so much stress on this fact, if I did not believe that something like this is the prevailing tendency of my countrymen. I must walk towards Oregon, not toward Europe. The west of which I speak is but another name for the Wild; and what I have been preparing to say is, that in Wildness is the preservation of the World.'

from Henry David Thoreau, 'Walking', in 'Excursions, The Writings of Henry David Thoreau', IX, Riverside edition, 11 vols

Journal of *Ecological Economics* Complaints Survey

Please tick all boxes applicable

I am a subscriber to the Journal and

- receive single issues irregularly
- get several issues together irregularly
- have received no issues
-

I have already complained about this to the

- old ESEE secretariat (Univ. of Versailles); date:
- current ESEE secretariat; date:
- ISEE secretariat; date:
- Elsevier; date:
- other:

Other complaint(s): _____

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