

Online Resources on Environment - various disciplines

I. Environmental Science

See US EPA website on climate change and other scientific issues

<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/science/>

Scientific and other Reports

A number of international scientific reports have documented the nature and extent of global environmental problems in a detailed manner over the past ten years:

- The *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Reports* (Island Press, Washington DC, 2005): a synthesis of these very detailed reports is available at <http://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/Synthesis.aspx>
- The *UNEP GEO 5 Report* (UNEP, Nairobi, 2012): Available at <http://www.unep.org/geo/geo5.asp>
This report provides an excellent, and succinct, overview of global environmental challenges. For a summary of the challenges identified by the GEO 5 Report specifically within the Asia-Pacific region, see http://www.unep.org/geo/pdfs/geo5/RS_AsiaPacific_en.pdf
For details re the preliminary planning for the production of the UNEP GEO 6 Report, see <http://www.unep.org/geo/nomination.asp>
- *Vital Signs Online*, produced by the US-based Worldwatch Institute, provides useful information on global environmental trends; it is an interactive, subscription-based tool that provides hard data and research-based insights on sustainability trends that are shaping the future. Subscriptions may be pursued at: <http://vitalsigns.worldwatch.org/>
- for an excellent, and more hopeful perspective, see also Lester R. Brown, *World on the Edge: How to Prevent Environmental and Economic Collapse*, Earth Policy Institute, 2011, available online at www.earth-policy.org

For much of the world's population who are living in developing countries, the immediate priority is alleviation of poverty through the promotion of economic development. The United Nations sought to respond to this challenge by adopting the Millennium Development Goals, which include four specific targets with respect to environmental sustainability: these are available at:

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/envIRON.shtml> .

Following the Rio +20 Conference in 2012, the United Nations has been pursuing the development of a new set of Sustainable Development Goals in place of the MDGs; for

details of the progress with these new goals (“SDGs”) and the UN post-2015 Development Agenda, see:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.html>

Many other international reports address specific environmental issues of global significance, for example, the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), available at:

<http://www.ipcc.ch/>

See also the website of the World Resources Institute, which contains useful information on Climate, Energy, Food, Forests, Water, Cities and Transport; and perspectives from Business, Economics, Finance and Governance

<http://www.wri.org/>

II. Environmental Economics

World Resources Institute: <http://www.wri.org/our-work/topics/economics>

US EPA’s National Centre for Env Economics:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/ee/epa/eed.nsf/webpages/homepage>

EU / EC:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/enveco/>,

<http://reep.oxfordjournals.org/>

Harvard Environmental Economics program: <http://heep.hks.harvard.edu/>

Resources for the Future: http://www.rff.org/Research_Topics/Pages/International.aspx

NEF UK Think Tank: <http://www.neweconomics.org/our-work>

Robert Stavins (Harvard) - "An Economic View of the Environment"

<http://www.robertstavinsblog.org/author/rstavins/>

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - Environmental Rule of Law:
<http://www.unep.org/delc/worldcongress/Home/tabid/55710/Default.aspx>

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Environmental Governance:
<http://www.unep.org/environmentalgovernance/>

III. Ethics, Religion and the Environment

The Earth Charter (2000)

<http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/content/>

The World Charter for Nature (1982)

<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/37/a37r007.htm>

Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim, "Overview of World Religions and Ecology", *Yale University* 2009

<http://fore.yale.edu/about-us/overview-of-world-religions-and-ecology/>

Forum on Religion and Ecology website

www.yale.edu/religionandecology

World Wildlife Fund's Sacred Earth site

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/initiatives/sacred-earth-faiths-for-conservation>