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Trends. Environmental Issues: Struggles To Think Globally

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Usually, individuals labeled as "anti-environment" are labeled as not thinking globally. As supporting data for the "anti-environment" label, allusions are made to these individuals' fears of hurting domestic economies and compulsions to ensure that all political entities must significantly sacrifice for the environmental cause. Even if the fear and compulsion are satisfactorily resolved, new rationales may then crop up as "symptom substitution" phenomena generated by an "anti-environment" syndrome characterized by the dysfunction of "not thinking globally."

However, many individuals labeled as "pro-environment" may also be labeled as not thinking globally. As supporting data for this label, allusions can be made to an aversion for pollution credit trading and for crediting political entities for their natural pollution sinks. Even if the benign global consequences of the former and the science of the latter can be adequately supported, many "pro-environment" individuals reject them for they may not lead to significant sacrifice among First World governments and multinational corporations. The same applies for the aversion of many pro-environment individuals for technological fixes of pollution that are not accompanied by a sacrifice in level of material consumption.

Thinking globally may continue to be a challenge for participants and non-participants alike in the public discourse on global environmental Issues. While these Issues bear on physical laws, principles of the applied and lay social sciences will largely determine success or failure. (See Lim, L., & Renshaw, P. (2001). The relevance of sociocultural theory to culturally diverse partnerships and communities. Journal of Child and Family Studies, 10, 9-21; Okongwu, A. F., & Mencher, J. P. (2000). The anthropology of public policy: Shifting terrains. Annual Review of Anthropology, 29, 107-124; Oskamp, S. (2000). A sustainable future for humanity? How can psychology help? American Psychologist, 55, 496-508; Revkin, A.C. (February 10, 2001). Report to endorse expanding forests to fight warming. The New York Times, p. A1, A5; Schaal, M. G.; Rose, M. A., Doherty, A., & Vilan, A. (2000). Global connections in a changing world: Romanian and U.S. nurses unite. Journal of Community Health Nursing, 17, 201-209; Vlek, C. (2000). Essential psychology for environmental policy making. International Journal of Psychology, 35M, 153-167.) (Keywords: Environmental Economics, Environmental Policy, Environmentalism, Globalism.)