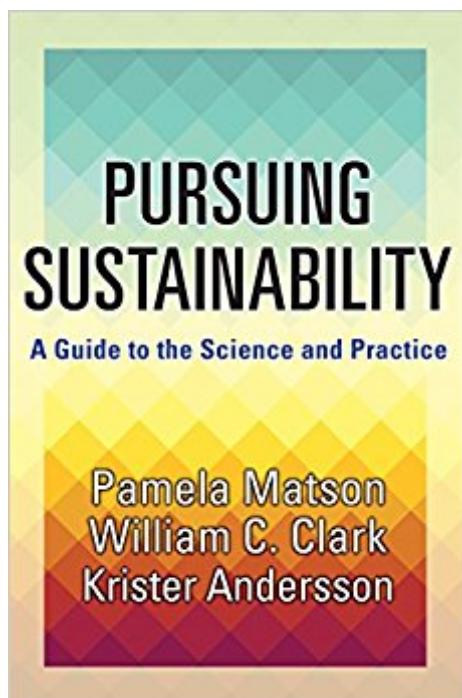


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Pursuing Sustainability: A Guide To The Science And Practice



Synopsis

Sustainability is a global imperative and a scientific challenge like no other. This concise guide provides students and practitioners with a strategic framework for linking knowledge with action in the pursuit of sustainable development, and serves as an invaluable companion to more narrowly focused courses dealing with sustainability in particular sectors such as energy, food, water, and housing, or in particular regions of the world. Written by leading experts, *Pursuing Sustainability* shows how more inclusive and interdisciplinary approaches and systems perspectives can help you achieve your sustainability objectives. It stresses the need for understanding how capital assets are linked to sustainability goals through the complex adaptive dynamics of social-environmental systems, how committed people can use governance processes to alter those dynamics, and how successful interventions can be shaped through collaborations among researchers and practitioners on the ground. The ideal textbook for undergraduate and graduate students and an invaluable resource for anyone working in this fast-growing field, *Pursuing Sustainability* also features case studies, a glossary, and suggestions for further reading. Provides a strategic framework for linking knowledge with actionDraws on the latest cutting-edge science and practicesServes as the ideal companion text to more narrowly focused coursesUtilizes interdisciplinary approaches and systems perspectivesIllustrates concepts with a core set of case studies used throughout the bookWritten by world authorities on sustainabilityAn online illustration package is available to professors

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Customer Reviews

I almost didn't buy this book when I saw it described as a textbook, but I had heard Prof. Matson speak several times on different subjects and knew that she had a way of making complex topics accessible and understandable to a general audience. This book helps bridge the gap between scientific research and practical application by using case studies to show how even the best ideas and the best intentions can fail to achieve results if the implementation does not learn from and adapt to the social, political, and economic context of the problem. There are no easy answers, which is why the book is about "pursuing" rather than attaining sustainability: "sustainability is not something to be achieved but is instead something to be worked toward!"

I found reading this text incredibly useful in looking at sustainability efforts in a different light. I enjoyed reading the authors ideas of tackling issues in a multi-disciplinary and multi-leveled way. The book also provided useful insight into the many reasons why sustainable initiatives fail and why we struggle to adapt and learn from the previous mistakes of others. Some chapters were a bit cumbersome but the majority of the book was an easy read. Bolded terminology followed by clear definitions made the text understandable for those with or without prior knowledge in the subject. Good text for class or those interested in learning more about effective means to adapt sustainable policies.

This book is a major landmark in the quest to make the study of sustainability a foundational science. By allowing researchers to frame many of the world's most complicated and contentious environmental policy debates in a comprehensive and systematic way for the first time, it should transform those debates from being simply differences in opinion about what to do into science based discussions of what is best, why, and for whom.

This book was assigned for a sustainable development discussion course. I found it hard to read at times, but I loved the real world examples it gave of problems that arise as population grows and development must happen. It supplemented discussion and aided in my understanding of some of

the harder topics we went over.

Nice intro!!!

I was assigned this textbook for a class and I enjoyed reading it. The authors took a very practical approach in the sense that they laid out their arguments in applicable situations. Every problem they pointed out had a time in history that could be looked at to get a better grasp of the solution. Another thing the authors did very well was giving the reader a sense that there isn't a right or wrong answer, and sometimes the correct answer to a problem today may have disastrous consequences for tomorrow. It did have a slow start and the authors have a habit of dragging on their arguments a little longer than necessary. Other than that it is a great tool for understanding sustainability and I recommend reading it.

A slow start, this book does well at breaking down different aspects of the problems approached in each chapter. The book also does well at compartmentalizing different aspects of sustainability and the challenges faced in achieving it in a linear fashion. My only complaint is that some of the sections seem to be dragged out more than is necessary, though to the same end the most affective sections of this book were those that gave real world examples of an issue and how it was resolved or what matters are being taken to resolve it. While this means the book will naturally fade into obsolescence, in present day, it is an effective tool for understanding environmental sustainability.

This book was a good read. The author did a great job on simplifying some of the most complex aspects of sustainability. It makes it easier to get into the topic of sustainability, and may even inspire someone to research the topic more.

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