

volume 1

# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY MAGAZINE

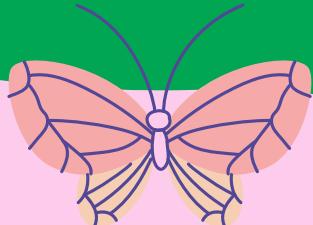
By Sumedh Singh

*all the hot gossip about  
environmental  
sustainability!!*



***climate change has  
detrimental impacts on  
society. It must be dealt  
with urgently!***

***Exclusive interview with  
Britney Spears revealing  
her tips and tricks for  
ethical consumerism***



## What is environmental sustainability?

Environmental sustainability refers to responsible interaction with the environment to avoid depletion of natural resources, with the aim of long-term environmental preservation. When concerning economics, environmental sustainability revolves around balancing natural resources to meet long-term economic and social needs. This means that as economists, we must understand that in order for our economies to be viable/continue to exist for a long time, we must not waste natural resources and instead create policies or pursue mechanisms that have beneficial environmental impacts.

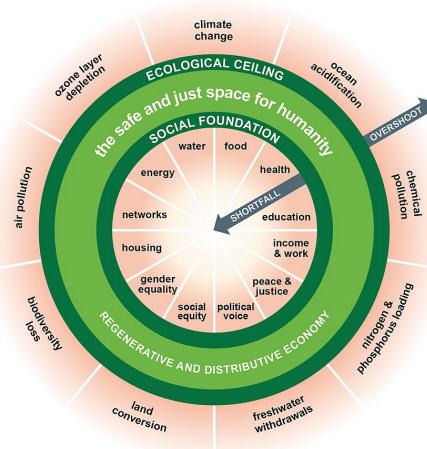
## What are long-term economic and social needs?

Economics is about the allocation of scarce resources to large populations. At its core, this allocation of resources must be equitable, so everyone fulfills their needs. The needs of individuals can be pinpointed down to food, water, housing, access to health, education, income, and work. These needs can only be fulfilled if the environment is protected. For example, we cannot access clean water if our waterways are polluted. We cannot access food if air pollution poisons our crops. We cannot access housing, health, and education facilities if we do not have the natural resources to build such institutions. Therefore, for every individual to attain these needs, we must have a sustainable environment that can preserve itself for a long time.

## How do we balance the economy and environmental sustainability?

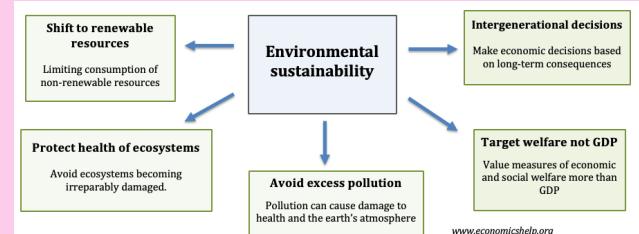
There is a whole branch of economics dedicated to this issue and that is doughnut economics, which is essentially a framework for sustainable development. The aim of doughnut economics is to balance the environmental ceiling of 9 planetary boundaries, and the twelve dimensions of social foundations, which have been identified by the world's governments in the

Sustainable Development Goals in 2015. In between both boundaries are an environmentally/socially safe area for humanity to thrive, and it's in our best interest to be within this green area, as going past it results in environmental degradation. In order for doughnut economics to be successful, we must understand that instead of viewing the economy as an entity that needs to continuously grow, we must instead view economic success as something that can thrive and survive, through meeting social and planetary needs.



**the principle of doughnut economics**

# An introduction to environmental sustainability



**the different facets of environmental sustainability**



## Why should individuals care about environmental sustainability?

We are living

in a world where material wealth is valued over ethical consumption. Under the status quo we have an ever-increasing population demanding commodities like fuel and electricity, meaning that planetary resources are not sustainable. We obtain our natural resources through the farming and burning fossil fuels like coal, which contribute to plethoric CO<sub>2</sub> and greenhouse gas emissions that lead to global warming. The controversial issue of climate change needs to be dealt with, as scientific reports from NASA and the United Nations in 2019 have stated that there is only 11 more years to prevent irreversible damage from climate change.

### Environmental degradation

is an issue that will affect every single person on this Earth, despite geographical location. Us today, and our future generations will suffer the consequences of a destructive environment if we do not develop environmental sustainability. The ubiquitous nature of an issue like climate change is the reason why we should all care about the issue. Climate change, biodiversity loss and damage to the ocean will impact health, agriculture, infrastructure, transportation, air, water quality and more, making all of these commodities less accessible. Our basic needs for survival will slowly become more limited due to extreme heat, and therefore it is vital that we begin taking the issue of climate change and environmental sustainability seriously. It's important to know about environmental sustainability in order to, firstly, practise ethical consumption of goods and services and secondly, vote for a government that understands the severity of climate change.

## 1. What are some environmental policies in place to help achieve a sustainable environment?

### Environmental policy

refers to regulations dealing with environmental issues. National environmental policies have stemmed from The Paris Agreement, which is an agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that's deals with mitigating climate change and greenhouse-gas-emissions, signed in 2016. The agreement has three main goals:

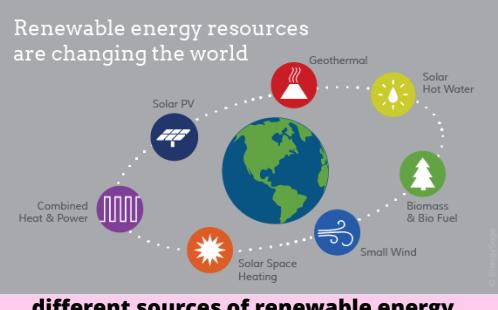
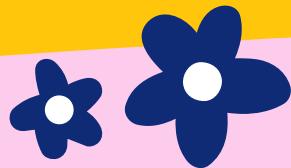
- (a) Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;
- (b) Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster **climate resilience** and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production;
- (c) Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

### The agreement

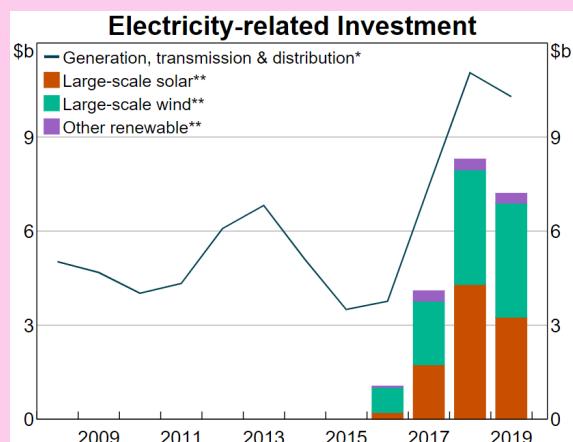
also encourages governments to pursue renewable energy sources, which have been proven to be environmentally friendly and economically successful. There are several sources of renewable energy, as listed below, and in 2019, Australia was able to meet its target of 23.5% energy usage created from renewable energy. Large scale renewable projects have been encouraged through government policy incentives (i.e Australia's energy policy), declining technology cost and improved accessibility. The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) states that "doubling renewable energy's share of global energy by 2030 would create 24 million jobs and benefit the global economy by A\$1.9 trillion". This growth includes Australia's economy, which could rise

by 1.7% above business as usual. This proves that the switch to renewable energy has beneficial economic and environmental impacts

## Questions from readers:



**different sources of renewable energy**



This graph from the RBA shows how much money renewable energy has produced in the last 10 years

### In Summary:

- Environmental

sustainability is a very important issue that we should continue to discuss. It's about balancing social needs of humans with the limits of the environment

- You should care about this issue because environmental sustainability aims to minimize issues like climate change, which are extremely pervasive
- The government has policies in place that help environmental sustainability. The main goals of environmental sustainability are listed in the Paris Agreement.
- If you can, you should try reducing your carbon footprint as it's more environmentally friendly 😊

**irreversible climate change damage caused by systematic capitalism is killing me**

