



ECO-PSYCHOLOGY



SUSTAINABILITY



EARTHEARTS



ANNOUNCEMENTS



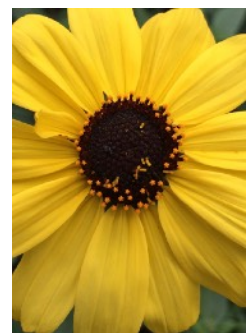
Heartwood Path Newsletter



ECO-PSYCHOLOGY

The Importance Of Perspective

If you are what you eat then for most of my life I'm a corn-fattened old bull. But now, having learned of the importance of protecting the environment, I have been cutting down on my beef consumption and my automobile use.



I have adopted the worthy perspective that, since cows and cars are two of the biggest causes of the global ecological dilemma, going to a “drive-thru” is a march of shame. So no more Gag-In-Bag or Barely Clean for me. As a result, my pocket change is up and my sense of guilt is down.

Now, admittedly fueled by my natural appetite for meat, I wonder if I could return to the “drive-thru” if my vehicle was powered by solar energy and the beef it put between the buns was produced not with a fast-fattening-of-the-cows perspective (that results in the poisoning and loss of soil) but instead with a more ecologically-sensitive perspective. To answer this question, let’s take a look at what one’s perspective can do when making important decisions.

If the perspective is to produce and purchase beef at the lowest cost, then growing millions of tons of genetically modified corn, sprayed with pesticides and fed to cows that have never stood on anything resembling a native prairie is not surprising. Such a perspective is now dominant and it is killing the planet.

What if individuals and society decided to both follow its primary perspective the most and had a dominant perspective that included the health of the planet? How would that change the beef production and beef sales activities?

If the perspective was shifted truly to following the view that soil health is primary and beef sales are secondary then a number of important and helpful changes would occur:

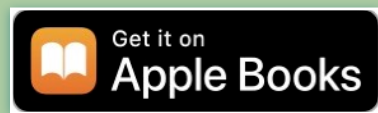
1. More beef would be sold but consumed in lesser portions.

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2. More cows would be produced in an integrative fashion that puts a premium on building up, enriching, and saving the soil—the placenta of the earth.
3. Besides being good for all living things, healthier soils are better at capturing and retaining carbon, thus dramatically cutting down on the the presence of the greenhouse gas and aiding the effort to make corrections for climate change.
4. The consumption of smaller (deck of cards-sized) healthier portions of grass-fed beef grown on “prairies” (polycultures of perennials) rather than on “fields” (monocultures) that are nutrient poor and encourage the use of “feedlots” (where cows are fed genetically-modified and poisoned corn (an annual)) will solve the problem of what to do with the extra boy cows not used for dairy production (at least until the natural predators—bears, wolves, and cougars in North America can resume their historic role in culling the herd of bison or cows).

By changing the perspective from producing and selling low-cost cows to producing beef ecologically, the beef industry is protected from becoming obsolete as it becomes a way to improve the environment. The benefits from allowing cows to fertilize the soil include protecting the soil so that it can become a global climate change-correcting carbon sink. This change makes sense only when the perspective includes changing from the mono/cultures of annuals (corn fields) to poly-cultures of perennials (prairie-like environments) where cow poop can serve to build up the soil so that it can be a major tool in the effort to reduce climate-changing greenhouse gases. There is scientific evidence to show that benefits of building up the carbon sink of soil exceed the detriments of producing more methane-producing cows.

To make the necessary changes in how to best correct for global climate change may require a change in perspective. But we cannot just put on different colored glasses and expect that the resulting benefits will magically just fall into place. We will need to have the discipline to work most towards our primary goals (using cows to build up the soil so that the soil can sequester more climate changing gas (carbon) more than towards our secondary goal (a cheap burger at Junk-In-A-Box).

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So, in answer to the question left hanging from above: There will be no electric-powered car for me until the electricity it uses comes from a renewable source (like the sun). And if the beef industry wants me to buy it's fast food burgers, they will have to be grass-fed and certified to be both organic and from a ranch that has soil-building as it's primary goal.

How to pick what is primary and what is secondary is easy. The health of the earth is always primary. —Don Pierce



SUSTAINABILITY

From The Sierra Club

Stop Coal-fired Power Plants!

Sierra Club Action Alert: “Trump’s EPA is proposing to make it easier to build more coal-fired power plants, but we have a chance to stop them. Under the Obama administration, millions of people just like you demanded EPA set limits on how much carbon pollution new coal plants could dump into the atmosphere. Because of efforts like this — as well as the poor economics and strong grassroots opposition to new coal plants — there are almost no proposed coal-fired power plants in the U.S. right now.”

<http://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/dont-let-trumps-epa-allow-more-dirty-climate-disrupting-coal-plants?promoid=7010Z000002799xQAA>

From Natural Resources Defenses Council

Tell Trump and His EPA That You Won’t Let Them Undermine Clean Car Standards!

President Trump and his EPA are desperately trying to roll back life-saving clean car standards, which would nearly double the fuel efficiency of automobiles and drastically reduce climate-busting carbon pollution.

And as part of this assault, the Trump administration is attempting to revoke the ability of California and 13 other states to set their own, stronger emissions standards. But Congress gave these states the right to clean up their air.

Tell President Trump and his EPA that you won’t let them derail our climate progress and put the future of our planet at risk by rolling back critical clean car standards.

<https://act.nrdc.org/letter/clean-car-ca-rollback-190919?>

EARTHEARTS

Join The Course

Don continues to write for this newsletter and is recruiting students for his Heartwood Path course online. Participants can receive either college credit or Continuing Education Units. Text Don for rapid information (618) 632-5600.

Begin *Kosmos* Now So You Are Ready For *Ecos*

Courtney has been busy preparing the third Heartwood Path course — *Ecos* for iBooks, Kindle, and a printed version of the course.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Open-Enrollment Extended to December 1st

We decided to extend the deadline to sign up for *Kosmos*. Starting December 1st, the course enrollment will cost \$9.95. Go to heartwoodpath.com and register today to receive free access to the first online course.

Reduced Group Rate on Credit-free Course

During the next month, if you sign up 8 or more people to take a Heartwood Path course without expecting to receive college credit, the cost would only be \$79 for the entire group. (Limit 15). Talk to Don for details (618) 632-5600.

