

Box 1. Are you deep green? [From the article: <http://www.ecologicalcitizen.net/article.php?t=ecocentrism-what-means-what-implies>]

A plain-language definition of the term 'ecocentric'

You are **deep green** (or, in more technical terms, 'ecocentric') if you feel that it is wrong for humans to have an unreasonably large, negative impact on the biological and geological natural world (e.g. causing other species to go extinct) AND you believe that it is a *deeper* wrong than just affecting the quality of life of other humans in some way. That is, it also does wrong to the Earth and to the rest of life.

Questions to help establish if you are deep green

Below is a tentative trio of questions (with answers rotated 180° in the bottom-right corner of this box) intended for use in helping establish if an individual sees the world in a deep green way. The authors would welcome comments to enhance these questions (via <http://ecologicalcitizen.net/contact.html>).

- 1 If a group of humans causes the extinction of a species that is unknown to us, and we never find out that it has gone extinct, have these humans done wrong in causing the extinction?
A Yes
B No
C Not sure
- 2 There is one human left on Earth. For amusement, this person uses a toxic substance to kill all of the living things in a pond. They wanted to act this way, and there is no other human left on the planet to be negatively affected by their actions. Do you consider what the person has done to be wrong? [continues above right...]

- D Yes
E No
F Not sure

- 3 If the top of a mountain was blown off using explosives for the purpose of mining, but no living thing was harmed by this act, which one of the following statements would best describe your thoughts on this?
G It is not wrong
H I am not sure if it is wrong
I It is wrong, but only because the mountain would be more ugly to look at for humans
J It is wrong, whether or not anyone happens to see it, because the mountain as a whole has been violated

Note – Question 2 is inspired by Richard Sylvan's 'Last Man' argument. See: Sylvan R (1973) Is there a need for a new, an environmental ethic? In: *Proceedings of the XII World Congress of Philosophy* (no. 1). Varna, Bulgaria: 205–10.

Further reading – For fuller, academically grounded scales of environmental attitudes, see:

- Dunlap RE, Van Liere KD, Mertig AG and Jones RE (2000) New trends in measuring environmental attitudes: Measuring endorsement of the New Ecological Paradigm – a revised NEP Scale. *Journal of Social Issues* **56**: 425–42.
- Kopnina H (2013) Evaluating education for sustainable development (ESD): using Ecocentric and Anthropocentric Attitudes toward the Sustainable Development (EAATSD) scale. *Environment, Development and Sustainability* **15**: 607–23.

Answers – You are seeing the world in a deep green way if you answered A, D and J