Special Issue

Innovative Alignments of Economic Incentives with the Environment

Message from the Guest Editors

Good institutions align self-interest with social interest. For sustainability, individual economic interests must be aligned with social-environmental interests. As more incentives for stakeholders can be met, environmental criteria will more likely be met and at a lower cost. With the right alignment of incentives, the tradeoff between the environment and economy may be minimal or nonexistent. Incentive-based policy solutions (i.e., emissions taxes, tradeable allowances) internalize the external costs of certain economic activities. This simultaneously provides entrepreneurs incentives to find less resource-intensive and environmentally damaging production methods. With bad incentives, there is no tradeoff, as both the economy and environment are damaged. Centrally planned economies, lacking the protection of individual property rights, have a plethora of poor cases of environmental degradation as well as poor records of economic arowth.

Guest Editors

Dr. Daniel Hall

Phillips School of Business, High Point University

Dr. Kingsley Bonsu

Mathematics, Bennett College

Mr. Eric Howard

Bryan School of Business, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

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Sustainability
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
sustainability@mdpi.com

mdpi.com/journal/ sustainability





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I encourage you to contribute a research or comprehensive review article for consideration for publication in *Sustainability*, an international Open Access journal which provides an advanced forum for research findings in areas related to sustainability and sustainable development. *Sustainability* publishes original research articles, review articles and communications. I am confident you will find the journal contributes to enhancing understanding of sustainability and fostering initiatives and applications of sustainability-based measures and activities.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Marc A. Rosen

Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, University of Ontario Institute of Technology, Oshawa, ON L1G OC5, Canada

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