

## **P130. ECOLOGICAL ETHICS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

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Ecological ethics are moral principles governing the human attitude towards the environment, and rules of conduct for environmental care and preservation. The term ecological ethics means more than the application of ethical principles to environmental issues. Based on an awareness of the interdependence of life on earth, the term also implies an ethical consideration of all biodiversity (biospherical egalitarianism), respecting the rights of future generations (intergenerational equity), and accepting responsibility for remote, long-term environmental impacts in a way that tests the limits of our knowledge about the consequences of our actions (the precautionary principle). Today we think of ethics and economics as two distinct fields. But when the steam engines of the industrial revolution first howled into life in 18th century Europe, ethics and economics were both elements of moral philosophy, a subject that also included natural theology and jurisprudence. Since that time ethics and economics have developed along different paths, but they remain linked by their common concern with the nature of value in society. Meanwhile, ecology has challenged both ethical and economic theories with information about the interconnectedness of the physical, biological and social worlds. During the last half of the twentieth century, both ethics and economics were challenged to address the problems associated with environmental degradation. Issues ranging from deforestation and crashing fish catches to global warming and ozone depletion demanded a response, and academics and professionals joined activists and politicians in search of solutions. Ecology presents a paradigm for understanding the world based on the unity and interdependence of nature and human society. As a conclusion, due to all these developments, the fusion of ecological thinking with ethics and economics encouraged both those disciplines to rethink their fundamental principles in line with this new understanding for environmental sustainability.