



# The Sustainability Revolution: Portrait of a Paradigm Shift

*Andres R. Edwards, David W. Orr*

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Sustainability has become a buzzword in the last decade, but its full meaning is complex, emerging from a range of different sectors. In practice, it has become the springboard for millions of individuals throughout the world who are forging the fastest and most profound social transformation of our time—the sustainability revolution.

*The Sustainability Revolution* paints a picture of this largely unrecognized phenomenon from the point of view of five major sectors of society:

Community (government and international institutions)  
Commerce (business)  
Resource extraction (forestry, farming, fisheries etc.)  
Ecological design (architecture, technology)  
Biosphere (conservation, biodiversity etc.)

The book analyzes sustainability as defined by each of these sectors in terms of the principles, declarations and intentions that have emerged from conferences and publications, and which serve as guidelines for policy decisions and future activities. Common themes are then explored, including:

An emphasis on stewardship  
The need for economic restructuring promoting no waste and equitable distribution  
An understanding and respect for the principles of nature  
The restoration of life forms  
An intergenerational perspective on solutions

Concluding that these themes in turn represent a new set of values that define this paradigm shift, *The Sustainability Revolution* describes innovative sustainable projects and policies in Colombia, Brazil, India and the Netherlands and examines future trends. Complete with a useful resources list, this is the first book of its kind and will appeal to business and government policymakers, academics and all interested in sustainability.

**Andrés R. Edwards** is an educator, author, media designer and environmental systems consultant who has specialized in sustainability topics for the past 15 years. The founder and president of EduTracks, an exhibit design and fabrication firm specializing in green building and sustainable education programs for parks, towns and companies, he lives in northern California.

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