

NEW BOOKS

Reality Check: The Nature and Performance of Voluntary Environmental Programs in the United States, Europe, and Japan

Edited by Richard D. Morgenstern and William A. Pizer
RFF Press/Resources for the Future, 2007
1616 P St. NW, Washington, DC 20036
(202) 328-5086. www.rffpress.org.
ISBN 1-933115-37-8. 184 pp. \$38.95 paper.

Since the early 1990s, voluntary programs have played a growing role in environmental management in the United States and other industrialized countries. These programs target problems ranging from climate change and energy efficiency to toxics. But do they produce genuine environmental benefits?

Reality Check, a new innovative book, seeks to clarify what is known about the effectiveness of voluntary programs by looking at a range of program types in different nations. Seven case studies are presented, including the U.S. Climate Wise program, the U.S. EPA's 30/50 program on toxic chemicals, the U.K. Climate Change Agreements, and the Keidanren Voluntary Action Plan in Japan. Publication of this volume comes at a time of increasing pressure on the U.S. federal government to re-evaluate its focus on voluntary rather than mandatory efforts to curb greenhouse gases and other regulatory initiatives. The book's contributors include well-known research and policy analysts.

Christoph Böhringer has supervised a research group at the Institute of Energy Economics, University of Stuttgart, Germany. He has been head of the Environmental and Resource Economics, Environmental Management Department at the Centre for European Economic Research, Mannheim. He holds the chair in economic policy at the University of Oldenburg.

Gildas de Muizon is CEO of Microeconomix, a consulting company in economics applied to legal disputes and environmental issues.

Manuel Frondel is research coordinator and head of the Environment and Resources Department, Rheinisch-Westfaelisches Institut fuer Wirtschaftsforschung, Essen, Germany. He previously was a research fellow at the Centre for European Economic Research, Mannheim, and part-time professor at the University of Applied Sciences, Heilbronn, Germany.

Matthieu Glachant is a research fellow in environmental economics at the Ecole des Mines de Paris. His research focuses on the political economy of voluntary instruments and the economics of waste.

Madhu Khanna is a professor in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her recent research analyzes corporate environmental behavior and the implications of environmental-management systems and information-disclosure policies for environmental protection. She is a University of Illinois scholar and a teaching fellow of the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture.

Signe Krarup is a senior research fellow at AKF, Institute of Local Government Studies, Denmark. Her main fields of research are in environmental economics, monitoring and enforcement strategies, and the demand for organic foods.

Katrin Millock is a senior research fellow at Centre d'Economie de la Sorbonne (CNRS-University of Paris) specializing in environmental and resource economics, and agriculture policy.

Richard D. Morgenstern is a senior fellow at Resources for the Future (RFF) whose research focuses on the design of environmental policies. Previously, he directed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Policy Analysis, and he has acted as the EPA's assistant administrator. He also served as a senior economic counselor to the Under Secretary for Global Affairs at the U.S. State Department.

William A. Pizer is a senior fellow at RFF, where his research seeks to quantify how the design of environmental policy affects costs and effectiveness. Pizer works part-time as a senior economist at the National Commission on Energy Policy. He also has

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served as a senior economist on the President's Council of Economic Advisors.

Alan H. Sanstad is a staff scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and a research affiliate of the Energy and Resources Group, University of California at Berkeley. He serves as an advisor to the California Energy Commission.

Jih-Shang Shih is a fellow at RFF who specializes in environmental management and policy analysis. His research focuses on voluntary programs, renewable energy, cost and benefit of air pollution control, recycling, and community water systems.

Taishi Sugiyama is the leader of the Climate Policy Project at the Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry, Japan. He serves as a lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report, a member of the Future Framework Committee that made recommendations to the Japanese government on a post-2012 framework, and as a member of the Market Mechanisms Committee of the Japanese government. He served on the Small Scale Clean Development Mechanism Panel of the CDM Executive Board and the Scientific Steering Committee of the International Human Dimension Program/Institutional Dimensions of Global Environmental Change.

Masayo Wakabayashi is a researcher at the Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry, Japan. Her recent research focuses on case studies of environmental policy measures as represented by regulatory policy and industrial responses.

Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change

By Elizabeth Kolbert

Bloomsbury Publishing, March 2006

175 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10010

www.bloomsbury.com

ISBN 9781596911253. 184 pp. \$22.95 hard.

Known for her insightful and thought-provoking journalism, *New Yorker* writer Elizabeth Kolbert now tackles the controversial subject of global warming. Americans have been warned

since the late 1970s that the buildup of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere threatens to melt the polar ice sheets and irreversibly change the earth's climate. By the end of the century, the world will likely be hotter than it's been in the past 2 million years, and the sweeping consequences of this change will determine the future of life on earth for generations to come.

In writing that is both clear and unbiased, Kolbert approaches this monumental problem from every angle. She travels to the Arctic, interviews researchers and environmentalists, explains the science and the studies, draws frightening parallels to lost ancient civilizations, unpacks the politics, and presents the personal tales of those who are being affected most—the people who make their homes near the poles and, in an eerie foreshadowing, are watching their worlds disappear. Growing out of a groundbreaking three-part series for the *New Yorker*, *Field Notes from a Catastrophe* brings the environment into the consciousness of the American people and asks what, if anything, can be done, and how we can save our planet. The book has been compared for its potential influence to Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*.

Kolbert was a reporter for the *New York Times* for fourteen years before becoming a staff writer covering politics for the *New Yorker*.

Arizona Water Policy Management Innovations in an Urbanizing, Arid Region

Edited by Bonnie G. Colby and Katharine L. Jacobs
RFF Press/Resources for the Future, October 2006
1616 P St. NW, Washington, DC 20036
(202) 328-5086. www.rffpress.org.
ISBN 1-933115-34-3. 270 pp. \$65 cloth.

The central challenge for Arizona and many arid and semi-arid regions in the world is ensuring a sustainable water supply in the face of competing demands and rapid population growth. *Arizona Water Policy* highlights the innovative approaches that the State has developed for managing its water needs.

Arizona has burgeoning urban areas, large agricultural regions, water-dependent habitats for endangered fish and wildlife,

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and a growing demand for water-based recreation. As one of the seven states in the Colorado River Basin, Arizona must cooperate, and sometimes compete, with other state, tribal, and federal governments in securing its water needs—a process that is complicated by a multi-year drought and climate-related variability in water supply. *Arizona Water Policy* addresses these issues from academic and policy perspectives that include economics, climatology, law, and hydrology. The book explores Arizona's water management and extracts lessons that are important worldwide.

Bonnie G. Colby is a Professor in the Department of Agriculture and Resources Economics at the University of Arizona, specializing in the economics of water-right negotiations and transactions, dry-year reliability, and water policy.

Katharine L. Jacobs is the Executive Director of the Arizona Water Institute, a consortium of Arizona's three universities. She is also Deputy Director of the SAHRA NSF Center at the University of Arizona and has more than twenty years of experience in water management with the Arizona Department of Water Resources. Her recent research includes the use of scientific information in policy and decision-making.

The Role of Customary Law in Sustainable Development

By Peter Ørebech, Fred Bosselman, Jes Bjarup, David Callies,
Martin Chanock, and Hanne Petersen

Cambridge University Press, 2005

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge, CB2 2RU, UK

www.cambridge.org

ISBN-13: 9780521859259. 521 pp. \$65 cloth.

For many nations, a key challenge is how to achieve sustainable development without a return to centralized planning. Using case studies from Greenland, Hawaii, and Northern Norway, this book examines whether “bottom-up” systems such as customary law can play a critical role in achieving viable systems for managing natural resources. Customary law consists of underlying social norms that may become the acknowledged law of the land. The key to determining whether a custom constitutes customary

law is whether the public acts as if the observance of the custom is legally obligated. While the use of customary law does not always produce sustainability, the study of customary methods of resource management can produce valuable insights into methods of managing resources in a sustainable way.

Peter Ørebech is a research scholar at the European Law Research Center, Harvard Law School. Fred Bosselman is a Professor Emeritus at the Chicago-Kent College of Law. Jes Bjarup is Professor Emeritus at the University of Stockholm. David Callies is Benjamin A. Kudo Professor of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Martin Chanock is Professor of Law at La Trobe University, Melbourne. Hanne Petersen is Professor of Greenlandic Sociology of Law at the University of Copenhagen.