

Reviews

Moving with the times: a university case study

Protecting the Future showcases tangible examples of the practical implementation of sustainability and the triple bottom-line plus one (comprising environmental, social and cultural economic and governance dimensions) in the scholarship and operations of Melbourne's RMIT University.

Over 13 chapters, the stories of individuals involved in projects or scenarios that address sustainability thinking, change and progress at the University are told. Through these, the book gives examples of practi-

cal initiatives, applications and methodologies that will provide information and inspiration for individuals or organisations wanting to implement global sustainability principles in their planning and operations.

Hunter Lovins, the international sustainability pioneer who recently visited RMIT, remarked 'The inspiring initiatives presented in this book show how you can integrate the principles of sustainability into your personal and professional life. With a little imagination and commitment, you can

move beyond debating definitions of sustainability to take innovative, practical steps to incorporate more sustainable measures into your work and home. Across traditional disciplines the authors show how to address complex global and local sustainability challenges.'

Protecting the Future shows how large and diverse organisations can cut across traditional boundaries and gives case studies for those who practise, teach, research, consult, report and operationalise aspects of sustainability.



Protecting the Future
Stories of Sustainability from RMIT University

Editors: S. Holdsworth & T. Caswell
CSIRO PUBLISHING, 2004,
Paperback; ISBN: 0643090657
RRP \$29.95
Available from CSIRO PUBLISHING

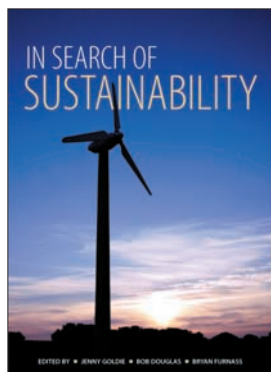
The major steps to sustainability

There are now a range of titles published which provide important perspective on aspects of sustainability in Australia, but *In Search of Sustainability* is set apart by its combined contributions to a thorough overview by some of the country's most qualified commentators.

These include Peter Cullen, Tony McMichael, John Williams, Denis Saunders, Graeme Pearman, Andrew Blakers, Clive Hamilton, Richard Denniss, Colin Butler, Julia Connell, John Burgess, Peter Newman and Ian Lowe.

The result is a holistic and valuable discussion by chapter of the major concerns and challenges to be addressed across the areas of human health, water resources, land use and natural ecosystems, energy, equity and peace, economic systems, climate change, labour forces and work, transportation and urban design, and population planning.

Perhaps most pertinently, each contributor sets out their view of the major changes required in our current approaches, and charts a path forward in their particular area of expertise.



In Search of Sustainability
Edited by Jenny Goldie, Bob Douglas and Bryan Furnass

CSIRO PUBLISHING, 2004,
Paperback
ISBN: 0643090622
RRP \$29.95

Available from CSIRO PUBLISHING
www.publish.csiro.au/pid/4790

In Search of Sustainability provides any reader with a solid, engaging, and accessible introduction to the range of environmental, social and economic issues at the heart the current sustainable development discussion in Australia. It will be relevant to environmentalists; policy makers; academics and students in sustainability and environment courses; and those interested in environmental, economic and social issues.

Empowering the energy challenge

In *Clean Energy*, David Rand of CSIRO Energy Technology and co-author Ron Dell present a welcome survey of the energy problems facing society over the coming decades and the prospects for their solution.

The authors emphasise the importance of developing a strategy for the world's future energy supply, one that must take into account the finite supplies of natural gas and petroleum; the increased consumption of fuel by developing economies; the concern over greenhouse gas emissions; the pollution caused by burning coal (especially coal with a high sulphur content); the difficulties and costs of extracting unconventional fossil fuels; and the technical, sociological and cost barriers that restrict the use of renewable forms of energy.

Clean Energy sets the various renewable energies (wind, waves, solar, etc.) in the context of present and projected world energy usage until 2020, and then looks speculatively beyond that. It considers the possibilities for reducing pollution from fossil fuels and tackles the growing problem of how to store energy,



Clean Energy
By D.A.J. Rand and R.M. Dell
Royal Society of Chemistry, 2004,
Hardback
ISBN 0854045465
RRP (approx) \$242.00
Available from DA Books
www.dadirect.com/books/

The authors emphasize the importance of developing a strategy for the world's future energy supply ...

in order to smooth out fluctuations in supply and demand.

The book will appeal to anyone with a serious interest in environmental matters and in particular the white-hot interaction between energy usage and the environment.