Environment & Society Portal

Multimedia Library Collection: Environmental Values (journal)

"Plural Values and Environmental Valuation"

Beckerman, Wilfred and Joanna Pasek

Beckerman, Wilfred and Joanna Pasek. "Plural Values and Environmental Valuation." *Environmental Values* 6, no. 1 (1997): 65–86. doi:10.3197/096327197776679202 .

The paper discusses some of the criticisms of contingent valuation (CV) and allied techniques for estimating the intensity of peoples' preferences for the environment. The weakness of orthodox utilitarian assumptions in economics concerning the commensurability of all items entering into peoples' choices is discussed. The concept of commensurability is explored as is the problem of rational choice between incommensurate alternatives. While the frequent claim that the environment has some unique moral intrinsic value is unsustainable, its preservation often raises ethical and other motivations that are not commensurate with the values that people place on ordinary marketable goods. Nevertheless, CV is also claimed to have some advantages and it is concluded that little progress will be made in this area until both sides in the debate recognise what is valid in their opponents' arguments.

— Text from The White Horse Press website

All rights reserved. © 1997 The White Horse Press

Download:
PDF: https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/ev6_1_beckerman.pdf

Related links:

- Article on the official website
  http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/EV/EV604.html
- The White Horse Press
  http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/

Websites linked in this text:

Environmental Values (journal) Collection, Multimedia Library, Environment & Society Portal
"Plural Values and Environmental Valuation"
Source URL: http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/5715
Print date: 30 October 2026 19:40:13

- http://dx.doi.org/10.3197/096327197776679202
- http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/EV/EV604.html

Environmental Values (journal) Collection, Multimedia Library, Environment & Society Portal
"Plural Values and Environmental Valuation"
Source URL: http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/5715
Print date: 30 October 2026 19:40:13