

Geoethics: Will I leave the planet in better condition than when I arrived?

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Sustainable development implies that the next generation will live well and this is an ultimate test of geoethics. Through the vast developments of science and technologies we have changed the planet. We have a new biosphere and less biodiversity. We have a new atmosphere and have changed the climate. In a host of nations there is a huge shortage of water and in many water is not safe to drink. We have changed the flow of almost all the world's rivers. Loss of topsoil and pollution of soil is catastrophic as is salinization of soils. The surface of our planet is precious. We have been careless and wasteful in the use of resources as with the waste of carbon fuels in the USA, mines which pollute water systems, careless urban development as with places like Mexico City where it is not safe to breath.

The time has come to accept limits of human population and it is impressive that this has arrived in most of Europe which will decrease in population next century. It is also clear that the state of nations is related to the quality of education for all, males and females. We can solve the problems but we must integrate knowledge from all the sciences, engineering, sociology, and particularly economics. All resources must be used with wisdom. Often we do one thing at home and another in their country. We need new codes of ethics on the global scale.