

Ethics and Ecological Economics¹ Forum

David L. Carlson, Ph.D., Founder and Convener²

Purpose: To study and reflect together on the interrelationships among ethics, economics, and ecology (in its social, as well as its nature-based, sense) as they illuminate compelling public policy issues and their implementation. The group seeks a balance between striving for greater conceptual clarity on such matters and networking to share reliable information and opportunities for action to enhance the common good.³

Structure: A monthly gathering of approximately two hours for collegial sharing and discussion of relevant readings, presentations, and other resources. For the most part, regular participants will take turns in selecting and distributing materials, making presentations, and leading discussions.

The EEE Forum usually meets on the third Monday or Tuesday of each month from 1:30pm to 3:00pm during the academic year at the Iliff School of Theology; occasionally, sessions are held on the DU campus. However, there is no formal affiliation of the Forum with Iliff or with DU. There are no academic prerequisites; the only requirements for participation are a genuine interest in these matters and a commitment to participate in ways that respect the viewpoints of others.

History: The group began meeting in January 2014. During its first four months, the group studied such classic papers as “The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis” by Lynn White (1967), “The Tragedy of the Commons” by Garrett Hardin (1968), and “The Environmental Cost of Economic Growth” by Barry Commoner (1971). During the summer of 2014, our sessions focused on Rebecca Todd Peters’ book, *In Search of the Good Life: The Ethics of Globalization* (2004).

Since September 2014, our sessions have focused primarily on the science, psychology, and ethics of climate change and prospects for effective responses that respect the integrity of ecosystems and foster human well-being.

For more information, to send comments, or to receive email notices of monthly meetings, please contact davidcarlson824@gmail.com.

December 2017

¹ “Ecological economics [a.k.a. steady-state economics] is the union of economics and ecology, with the economy conceived as a subsystem of the earth ecosystem that is sustained by metabolic flow or ‘throughput’ from and back to the larger system. . . . Ecological economics seeks to ground economic thinking in the dual realities and constraints of our biophysical and moral environments.” Herman E. Daly and Joshua Farley, *Ecological Economics: Principles and Applications* (Washington, D.C.: Island, 2004), 431, xxi.

For a shorter explication of the principles of ecological economics, see “Economics for a Full World,” Herman Daly’s acceptance speech, with his own revisions, upon receiving the prestigious Blue Planet Prize in Tokyo in November of 2014. Available online: <http://www.pandopopulus.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Herman-Daly-ECONOMICS-FOR-A-FULL-WORLD.pdf>. 23 pages.

² David Carlson graduated in 2013 from the Joint Ph.D. Program in Religious and Theological Studies at the University of Denver and the Iliff School of Theology. His dissertation focuses on the interrelationships among religion, science, and theology. During 1976-2003, he served as the natural resource policy analyst for the Colorado Department of Agriculture. Recently, he served as an adjunct faculty member at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at DU in the field of ecological economics and human well-being. He received his first Ph.D. (mathematics) from the University of Colorado Boulder in 1971.

³ For a comprehensive examination of ecological economics in relation to the common good, see Herman E. Daly and John B. Cobb, Jr., *For the Common Good: Redirecting the Economy toward Community, the Environment, and a Sustainable Future*, 2nd ed. (Boston: Beacon, 1994).