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Introduction

The resources in this module explore what environmental quality is and how it affects sustainability.



Required Resources

Reading: *Sustainability: What Everyone Needs to Know*

Read the following sections of [Chapter 3](https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/snhu-ebooks/detail.action?docID=6449718)  (<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/snhu-ebooks/detail.action?docID=6449718>):

- What is an Ecosystem?
- What is Resilience?
- How Does the Sustainability of Ecosystems Become Threatened?

These sections, which you will use to help you complete this week's discussion and project draft, explore components of environmental quality. As you read, consider the following:

- Why is resilience important to sustainability?
- How do human actions threaten resilience, and therefore sustainability?

Reading: *Sustainability: What Everyone Needs to Know*, [Chapter 4](#) 

(<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/snhu-ebooks/detail.action?docID=6449718>)

This chapter, which you will use to help you complete this week's discussion and project draft, provides an overview of sustainability and environmental quality. As you read, consider the following:

- What are environmental indicators, and why do they matter?
- Why is life-cycle assessment "one of the most powerful tools for sustainability managers"?

Reading: [The Environmental Justice Movement](https://www.nrdc.org/stories/environmental-justice-movement)  (<https://www.nrdc.org/stories/environmental-justice-movement>)

This website for the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) presents how the organization engages scientists, lawyers, and activists to address environmental issues and "ensure the rights of all people to clean air, clean water, and healthy communities." This resource will help you complete this week's discussion and project draft. As you read, consider the following:

- Why is it important to practice environmental justice?
- How can practicing environmental justice make a noticeable difference in "communities of color"?

Reading: Environmental Justice and Environmental Racism

(<https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=0543da6c-da29-36bc-92bb-508fb2344fcf>)

This resource defines these concepts and describes how environmental racism came to be recognized within the broader environmental movement. This resource will help you complete this week's discussion and project draft. As you read, consider the following:

- How is “disparate impact” fundamental to environmental justice?
- What environmental factors impact overall health for people living in neighborhoods of color?

Video: Climate Justice Can't Happen Without Racial Justice

(https://www.ted.com/talks/david_lammy_climate_justice_can_t_happen_without_racial_justice) (9:23)

This resource, which you will use to help you complete this week's discussion and project draft, explores the connection between environmental justice and social justice. As you watch, listen, or read, consider the following:

- How does social justice contribute to environmental justice, and vice versa?
- Why should the people who are most affected by the climate crisis be involved in a coalition to address the crisis?

Video: The Global Opportunity to Accelerate Africa's Sustainable Future

(https://www.ted.com/talks/vanessa_nakate_and_mary_robinson_the_global_opportunity_to_accelerate_africa_s_sustainable_future) (25:18)

This resource, which you will use to help you complete this week's discussion and project draft, discusses the responsibilities and opportunities of the global community. As you watch, listen, or read, consider the following:

- How does climate change involve more than the weather?
- What roles can governments and nations play in improving sustainability?

Reading: What Is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch?

(<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/garbagepatch.html>)

This resource, which you will use to help you complete this week's discussion and project draft, explains what the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is and why it matters. As you read, consider the following:

- Why is it challenging to estimate the size of “garbage patches”?
- How does marine debris affect ocean life?



Additional Support (Optional)

Library Resource: CQ Researcher Database  (<https://go.openathens.net/redirector/snhu.edu?url=https%3A%2F%2Flibrary.cqpress.com%2Fcqresearcher%2Findex.php>)

This Shapiro Library database, which you may use to help you complete this week's discussion, allows you to browse topics or search for key words. CQ Researcher provides "in-depth, unbiased coverage of health, social trends, criminal justice, international affairs, education, the environment, technology and the economy."

Reading: The Paris Agreement  (<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/paris-agreement>)

This resource, which you may use to help you complete this week's discussion and project draft, explains the Paris Agreement, which addresses global climate change. As you read, consider the following:

- Why is the Paris Agreement considered "a legally binding international treaty"?
- How does the Paris Agreement address a country's responsibility to other countries?

Reading: International Actions - The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer  (<https://www.epa.gov/ozone-layer-protection/international-actions-montreal-protocol-substances-deplete-ozone-layer>)

This resource, which you may use to help you complete this week's discussion and project draft, provides an overview of an international treaty related to the protection of the ozone layer. As you read, consider the following:

- Why is this treaty generally considered "the most successful environmental global action"?
- Why are "flexible, innovative, and effective approaches" needed to protect and heal the ozone layer?

Reading: Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) 

(<https://www.southernenvironment.org/topic/what-is-environmental-injustice/>)

This website highlights the work of the SELC, a nonpartisan environmental legal advocacy organization. The "About Us" page states, "SELC seeks to reflect greater racial and cultural diversity and embed equity and inclusiveness throughout our organization and the work we do." This resource will help you complete this week's discussion and project draft. As you read, consider the following:

- How are the main issues of environmental justice linked to human rights?
- Why is acknowledging cultural diversity significant to the organization's work within Southern communities?



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