

Environmental Accounting: Emergy and Environmental Decision Making

By Howard T. Odum

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In this important new work, Howard T. Odum, widely acknowledged as the father of systems ecology, lucidly explains his concept of emergy, a measure of real wealth that provides a rational, science-based method of evaluating commodities, services, and environmental goods. Using specific real-world examples, Dr. Odum clearly demonstrates the revolutionary role of emergy in environmental management and policy making.

Environmental Accounting: Emergy and Environmental Decision Making offers environmental professionals--policymakers, managers, ecologists, planners, developers, and activists--a systematic approach to environmental and economic valuation that will eliminate much of the rancor and adversarial decision making that often plagues environmental issues. Specifically, this book:

- * Describes the theoretical basis, calculation procedures, and applications of emergy
- * Introduces the concept of "transformity," the ratio of emergy (work put into a product) and energy (value received from the product)
- * Provides formulas for emergy calculations, procedures for making an emergy evaluation table, and parameters for updating evaluations
- * Demonstrates the use of emergy to evaluate environments, minerals, waters, primary energy sources, economic developments, and international trade
- * Compares the emergy approach to environmental evaluation with others

Environmental Accounting: Emergy and Environmental Decision Making will help environmental decision makers and the society they serve maximize economic vitality with less trial and error, innovate with fewer failures, and adapt to change more rapidly. It provides the tools they need to arrive at the best policies in resource management, economics, and the environment.

Balancing the economy and the environment-- from the father of systems ecology


Increasing economic dependence on diminishing natural resources has sparked a


highly charged debate over the use and fate of the world environment. Environmental Accounting: Emergy and Environmental Decision Making presents a unique method of environmental management based on maximizing real wealth, the whole economy, and the public benefit.

Renowned ecologist Howard T. Odum introduces the concept of emergy to provide a rational alternative to the tug-of-war over the world's most vital assets. Emergy measures the energy put into making a product and is the cornerstone of Odum's revolutionary text. This timely and important book offers key insights into:

- * Determining the real value of a product or service
- * Transformity, or the relationship between emergy (input) and energy (output)
- * Stored wealth, available energy, and the final product
- * Balancing economic and environmental needs

Environmental Accounting: Emergy and Environmental Decision Making will help economists, ecologists, policymakers, and planners make more responsible, informed decisions to sustain economic and environmental development.

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Bibliography**

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Editorial Review

From the Publisher

A renowned expert in systems ecology presents methods of environmental management based on maximizing the actual wealth produced. Odum describes, in layman terms, the concept of emergy as a means of placing the value of commodities, services and environmental goods of various types on a common basis. He outlines the procedure for making an emergy evaluation table to assess environments, minerals, waters, primary energy sources, economic developments, nations and international trade.

From the Inside Flap

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From the Back Cover

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Lisa Bates:

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