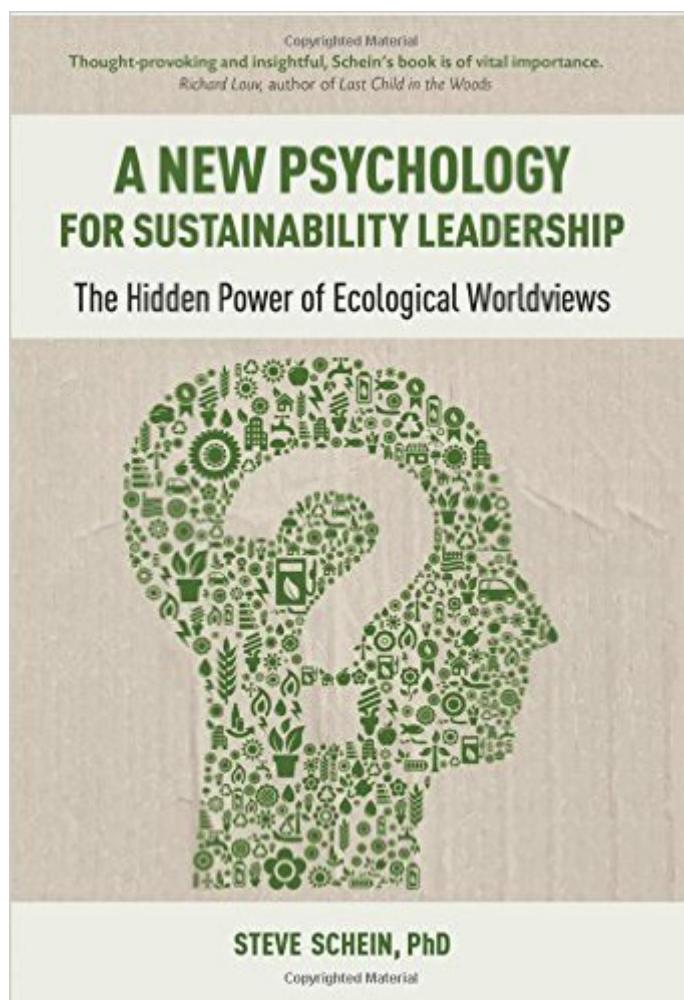


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# A New Psychology For Sustainability Leadership: The Hidden Power Of Ecological Worldviews



## **Synopsis**

During the last decade, the sustainability position in multinational corporations has grown in influence. Much literature has explored how corporations can play an important role in solving the environmental challenges facing the planet. However, until now, there has been little research on sustainability leadership at the individual level. In this book, Schein explores the deeper psychological motivations of sustainability leaders. He shows how these motivations relate to overall effectiveness and capacity to lead transformational change and he explores the ways in which the complexity of sustainability is driving new approaches to leadership. Drawing on interviews with 75 leaders in more than 40 multinational organizations, NGOs, and academia, Schein explores how ecological worldviews and conscious mindsets are developed and expressed in the context of global sustainability practice. By empirically grounding key theories from developmental psychology in sustainability leadership practice, the author encourages us to think about leadership in a different way. A New Psychology for Sustainability Leadership will be of interest to an interdisciplinary audience of social scientists, educators, corporate executives, and social entrepreneurs. The insights from this book can be usefully integrated into leadership curriculum and development programs to help the next generation of sustainability leaders respond to global challenges.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This is a really interesting and novel take on sustainability leadership, namely how do leaders think about sustainability and what makes them "tick", i.e. what experiences contributed to their view of

the world. While it is always difficult to generalize (even from the 70+ interviews Steve conducted) there is enough evidence here to suggest that certain experiences (such as viewing degradation in other parts of the world) and certain personal qualities (such as emotional intelligence) are key to defining how sustainability leaders operate. The key point is one that Steve makes early on in the book, that we can take these lessons and apply them to make the education of the next generation of leaders that much more effective and impactful. I see that happening already in U.S. business school curricula and it makes me very hopeful about the future. Students today "get it" in a way that many in the workforce don't and it will make future sustainability initiatives so much easier and faster to implement. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in sustainability, but also to anyone interested in what experiences help create leaders.

The movement for businesses to be primary driving forces in sustainability efforts is in force, but it is one that needs more attention and guidance. Companies need to develop a vision for how they can make a difference and this mindset generally starts at the top -- in the C suite. Stein's focus on the psychology of sustainability leadership rather than the a basic roadmap of corporate sustainable actions is what sets this book apart from others on the topic. The valuable lessons learned from the interviews conducted by the author should be used in helping to engrain sustainability as a key point of interest for the up and coming generation of leaders. Stein's contribution to "saving our planet" is a noble one and this book can make a difference.

This is an original, insightful, and enjoyable text. As a pro-policy guy, this book has led me to understand the power that executives of multinational corporations wield to propagate positive changes without so much regulation. Dr. Schein interviews a great number and wide variety of big time executives that are leading the way in the push for corporate sustainability by sourcing sustainable and environmentally sound products in their supply chains, creating their products with 100% renewable energy, and reducing consumption. There is an understanding that sets them apart from the others, and that understanding has the power to reshape the unsustainable path that our society is STILL going down. Thank you Dr. Schein!

An outstanding collection of well-researched stories and inspiration from many experts in the field of Sustainability. This is a touchstone book which is going to receive great attention. Steve Schein has provided us with blueprints for a truly global vision of how it can all be different, this path we are hurtling down towards extremes. These ecological worldviews and their contrast with the present

anthropocentric mindset inform us in clear and compelling ways. We should all be grateful to him for this new and important approach to those "wicked problems" that truly vex us and threaten our survival as a species. A must read!!

This is an amazingly well thought out and well written book that explains in stark simplicity how many of the ecological problems we are facing as a culture can and should be addressed at the corporate level and how doing so will affect each of us for the better. This is a must read for anyone at any level who cares about our planets future. Through rigorous analysis presented in a story telling narrative that utilizes interviews with the worlds top thinkers, Dr. Schein is able to explain why we are where we are and what can be done to ensure our planets healthy future.

This book should be read and acted on by corporate CEOs while there is still time to save the planet. Steve Schein is a leader in how to best approach major corporations that otherwise are part of the problem but can be part of the solution and the race to save the planet from over consumption and pollution. Sustainability needs to happen yesterday and on all levels - corporations are major players and Schein knows how to reach them where it matters most.

What is unique about this book is that Dr. Schein factors in how sustainability officers history and experiences result in their worldview which ultimately leads them to their career in the field. As corporations have a major impact on how well we will be able to steward the environment, it is an essential read for those of us in business.

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