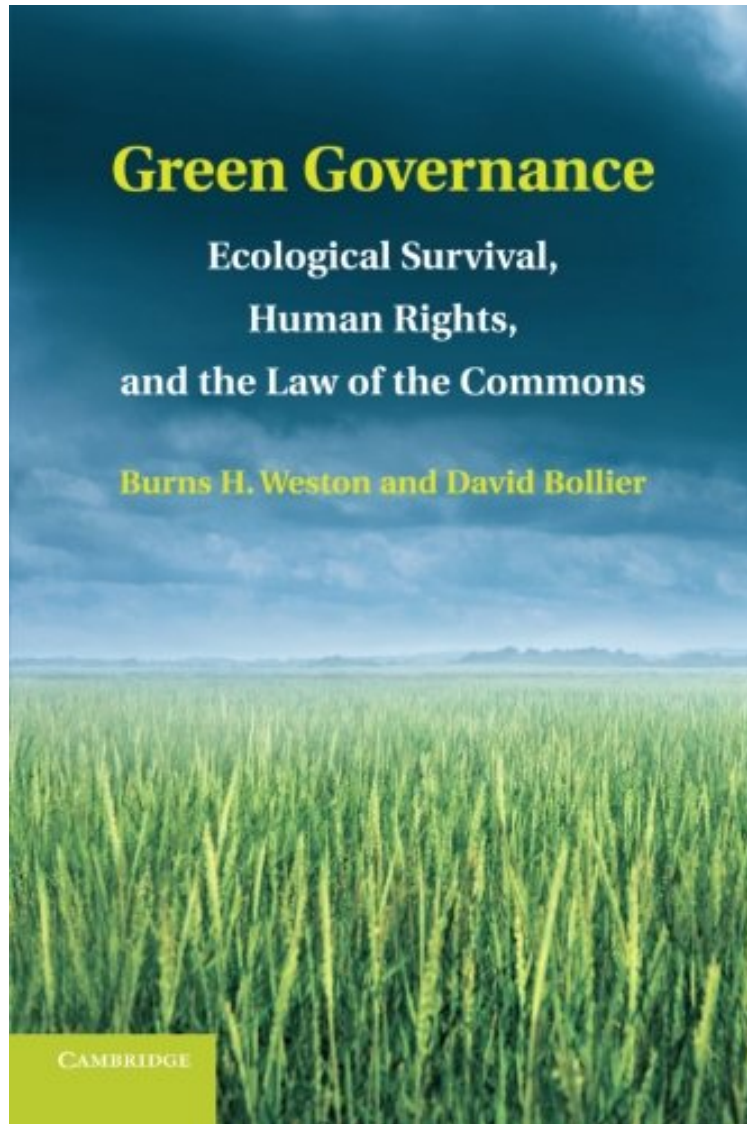


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Green Governance: Ecological Survival, Human Rights, and the Law of the Commons

Burns H. Weston, David Bollier
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Burns H. Weston, David Bollier : Green Governance: Ecological Survival, Human Rights, and the Law of the Commons before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Green Governance: Ecological Survival, Human Rights, and the Law of the Commons:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A generic milestone in "environmental law" broadly conveyed.By

BenH This book is a pathbreaking, comprehensive, deeply researched study of the contemporary global "ecology"--the collective (human) decision-making process that answers the question "how shall we interact with our surroundings and each other" on this blue-green planet that is so abundant with life--for now at least. I hope it will inspire other multidisciplinary social scientists to follow up with detailed model-building and empirical analysis--a somewhat more rigorous scientific approach that could be enormously valuable to serious thinkers, strategists, and policymakers even though it is not likely to make a best-seller. *Green Governance*, aptly titled, is a great book by two diligent, talented, life-loving observer-thinkers. It leads us persuasively in the direction we must go if our "civilization" is to survive, and deserve the label. 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Groundbreaking, Creative and Revolutionary By Terrence Paupp This book is not only academically the best on the market in terms of "green governance"--- it is also the most innovative. It provides both perspectives that are truthful AND solutions that are viable. It reflects a great deal of the innovative approach and wisdom that has characterized the work of Burns Weston and Richard Falk since they worked together in the 1970s on the World Order Models Project (WOMP). This is an updated version of their approach and is much needed to solve the problems of the 21st century.

The vast majority of the world's scientists agree: we have reached a point in history where we are in grave danger of destroying Earth's life-sustaining capacity. But our attempts to protect natural ecosystems are increasingly ineffective because our very conception of the problem is limited; we treat "the environment" as its own separate realm, taking for granted prevailing but outmoded conceptions of economics, national sovereignty, and international law. *Green Governance* is a direct response to the mounting calls for a paradigm shift in the way humans relate to the natural environment. It opens the door to a new set of solutions by proposing a compelling new synthesis of environmental protection based on broader notions of economics and human rights and on commons-based governance. Going beyond speculative abstractions, the book proposes a new architecture of environmental law and public policy that is as practical as it is theoretically sound.

"This book will stimulate wide interest, far larger than the average law work. Academics in the legal profession, particularly those focusing on human rights, the environment, or governance, will find this a welcome addition. Similarly, scholars in other fields, such as political science, environmental studies, or geography will find this book useful ... An absence of jargon makes this book accessible to a wide audience, by clearly explaining complex concepts such as commons governance. [*Green Governance*] is not only a new tactic for legal and political scholars. [It] is an engaging work that suggests a broader way of thinking about and governing the natural environment. The author's combination of human rights, vernacular law, and commons governance are a stark contrast to the traditional state and market-based approaches that dominate traditional discussions ... these suggestions ... represent new ideas at a time when there is a desperate need for change." Scott McKenzie, *Global Policy* "This book undertakes an ambitious project: redesigning the way the world should be governed and providing a strategy for achieving it. [B]oth the redesign and the strategy are innovative [and] well supported. [T]he authors have succeeded in providing a convincing case that their proposals are achievable. This book is an excellent contribution to the debate about future human governance of the natural environment and should be read by anyone interested in the survival of humanity on earth ... [T]he authors argue for locally based, participatory, self-organized governance structures ... nested within a global governance architecture that can successfully govern the global commons. While this is intensely challenging, Weston and Bollier argue that only a fundamental change in the way that we think and act, for example in relation to governance, can address the fundamental threats to our existence." Catherine Iorns Magallanes, *Journal of Human Rights and the Environment* "The idea that our current trajectory may lead to environmental disaster has become part of popular culture, but it has yet to convince us to change course. No alternative to our growth-oriented economic system has achieved widespread support, perhaps because none has seemed both environmentally satisfactory and politically viable. With their new book, Burns Weston and David Bollier aim to change that. They put forward a proposal - ['green governance'] - they hope will lead to a revolution in environmental governance ... Their proposal ... has two interwoven strands: (1) an enlarged understanding of human rights, and (2) a systematic encouragement of a commons approach to environmental management of common-pool resources (CPRs), which would supplement and offset the State and Market approaches ... Whatever the fate of the commons as an organizing principle, it seems evident that human rights are fast becoming an integral part of environmental governance." John H. Knox, *American Journal of International Law* "The authors offer us a truly grand vision of world governance without world government, which is at once global and local, cohesive yet decentralized, radically new yet rooted in history, and based on a conception of human rights which emphasizes the collective over the individual. It is not just different, it is revolutionary. The essential proposition is that humanity can and must replace the 'State/Market' system which it has devised over time, based on its 'unthinking, unaware avarice', with a new and more responsible system of collective governance built on humanity's more noble and truly communitarian values ... This book is essential reading for all those - lawyers or not - working in the field. It succeeds admirably in forcing us to reconsider the overall environmental crisis and to contemplate possible solutions from a new and challenging perspective." David P. Stewart,

The Georgetown International Environmental Law "When a vital body of existing policy and law has run its course, the need for reinvention becomes urgent. So it is with environmental law and policy. It is therefore [exciting] that two enormously well-informed and creative thinkers, Burns Weston and David Bollier, have joined forces to produce this breakthrough in environmental governance. Their book is a landmark in our thinking about rights-based environmentalism and the law of the commons and how these fields can combine in a powerful synthesis. We must take these ideas very seriously indeed. Highly recommended." James Gustave Speth, Vermont Law School, and former Dean, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies "This indispensable book, written with passion and a sense of urgency, responds creatively and convincingly to the greatest ecological threat that has ever faced the human species. Relying on their profound knowledge of environmental issues, law, and human rights, Burns Weston and David Bollier brilliantly depict and propose a drastically new paradigm of governance that has the potential to save the peoples of the world from a catastrophic future. Their proposal is a major scholarly addition to the climate change literature that deserves the widest possible readership." Richard Falk, Albert G. Milbank Professor of International Law Emeritus, Princeton University "Burns Weston and David Bollier have written a bold, imaginative and ambitious book. The planet is in peril and its capacity to sustain life under threat. Market economics, international law and state sovereignty have all failed us. A new approach is needed and that lies in a twin approach: a rights-based governance system for the Earth's resources and development of an ecological commons template for environmental management. The book is well researched and closely argued. It deserves our rapt attention in the struggle to find a way through." Sir Geoffrey Palmer, former Prime Minister and Minister for the Environment, New Zealand "This important new work by Burns Weston and David Bollier transcends any narrow categorization with the wide range of disciplines and knowledge it reflects. The authors creatively rethink how to understand and respond to the critical challenge of halting destruction of the Earth's rapidly degrading ecosystems, a threat to the very survival of humankind. Combining economics, emergence of the Internet, international law, and human rights into a new approach of commons-based green governance, the book is at the same time a profound and practical framework for how everyone in the present can help to preserve the future." Dinah Shelton, Manatt/Ahn Professor of Law, George Washington University Law School "This book is a tour de force. Bold and visionary, yet intensely practical, this book transforms the 'tragedy of the commons' to the promise of the commons. At a time when leading voices call for a paradigm shift in how humans live and organize their economic behavior, this book actually tells us what that shift could look like, and how to begin it. It is a game-changer, a must-read for anyone concerned with the future of the planet." Mary Christina Wood, Philip H. Knight Professor, Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program, University of Oregon School of Law "The ecological crisis is first and foremost a problem of governance and Green Governance is by far the best summary of the issues and solutions that I've read. It is a brilliant and visionary book that is also practical. Its message is that we must learn to wisely manage in common what we have in common: our Earth, our future, and each other." David W. Orr, Paul Sears Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies and Politics and Executive Director of The Oberlin Project, Oberlin College "Our well-oiled coal-fired governments have failed to protect the rights of young people and future generations. The best hope for young people, and other life on the planet, may be the judiciary, presumably less influenced by fossil fuel money. Weston and Bollier provide a valuable perspective on how that may be possible." James Hansen, Director, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, and Columbia University About the Author Burns H. Weston is the Bessie Dutton Murray Distinguished Professor of Law Emeritus and Senior Scholar of the Center for Human Rights at the University of Iowa. A long-time - now honorary - member of the Board of Editors of the American Journal of International Law and a fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science, he has authored and co-authored many books and articles, especially in international human rights and related international law fields. He is known as an 'engaged scholar' and for his activism and scholarship bridging human rights and environmental law, he was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) by Vermont Law School in 2009. David Bollier is an author, activist and independent scholar of the commons. He is co-founder of the Commons Strategies Group; co-founder of Public Knowledge, a Washington DC advocacy group for the public's stake in copyright and Internet policies; and Senior Fellow at the Norman Lear Center. Bollier won the Bosch Prize for Public Policy at the American Academy in Berlin in 2012.