



Environmental Policy

- Discussion Questions -

Does Sustainability Have a Role in Environmental Policy?

Thomas Fellmann
E-mail: fellmann@uni-hohenheim.de

Solow, R. M. (1991): *Sustainability: An Economist's Perspective*.

In: R. N. Stavins (Ed.) (2005): *Economics of the Environment: Selected Readings*.
W.W. Norton & Company, New York, pp.505-513.

The Economist (2002): *The Great Race*. The Economist, 7/6/2002, Vol. 364, Issue 8280,
pp.3-5

1. Why does Solow think that UNESCO's definition of sustainability is the wrong way to think about sustainability? What definition does he prefer?
2. Why does he believe that sustainability is an inherently vague concept? What should determine protection or conservation of specific resources?
3. Does Solow think the market will take care of the problem of sustainability? Why or why not? Does he think government will? Why or why not?
4. Under what conditions does current environmental protection contribute to sustainability? Why?
5. In the Economist article, what are the pressing environmental problems facing the world?