

Environmental Sustainability and the New Governance

Daniel J. Fiorino

Reform in Paradise Conference


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Quote of the Day

(W.H Auden)

We are here on earth to do good.
What the others are here for, I
don't know.



From Robert Burns:

O would some power the giftie gie
us to see ourselves as others see
us.





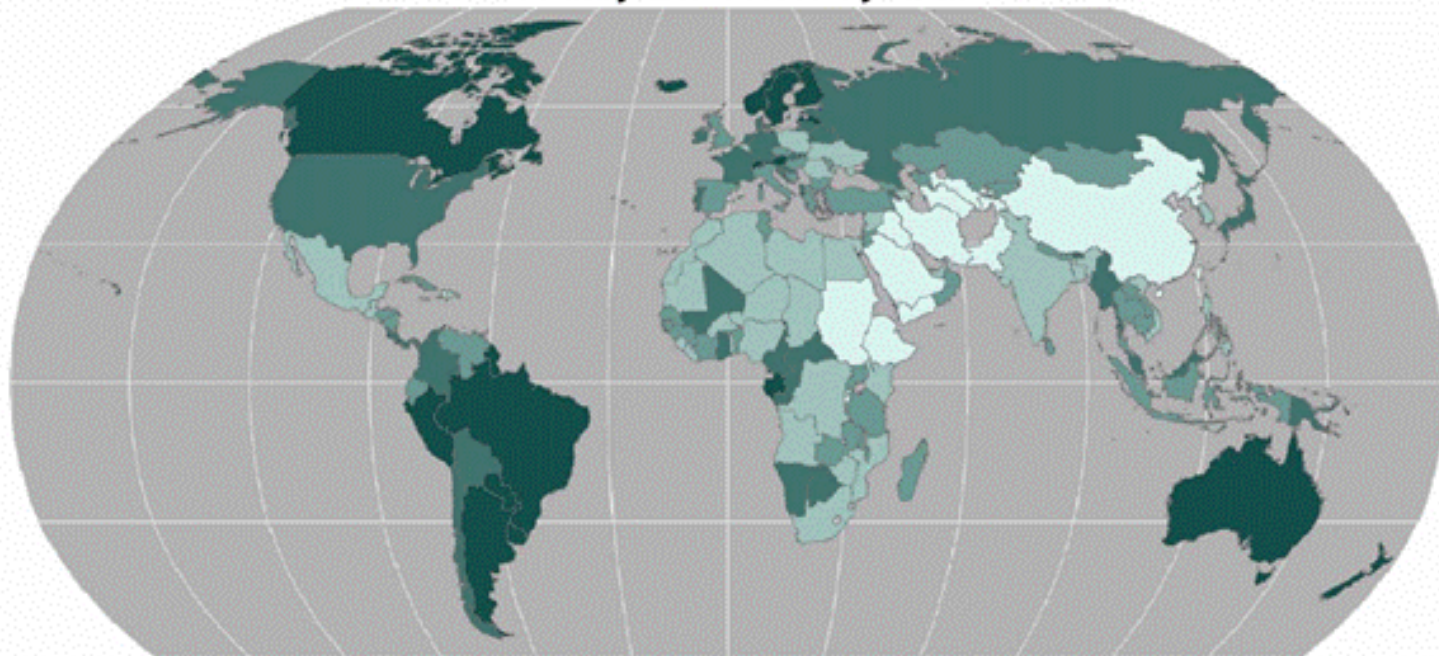
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New Zealand: Starting in a Good Place

- Top rankings in ESI and EPI
 - 14th in 2005 Environmental Sustainability Index
 - 1st in 2006 Environmental Performance Index
 - 7th in 2008 Environmental Performance Index
- 1st in Corruption Perceptions Index (last 5 years)
- 24th in Global Competitiveness Index (2008)
- Among highest scores in Governance VII

Environmental Sustainability Index (ESI) 2005

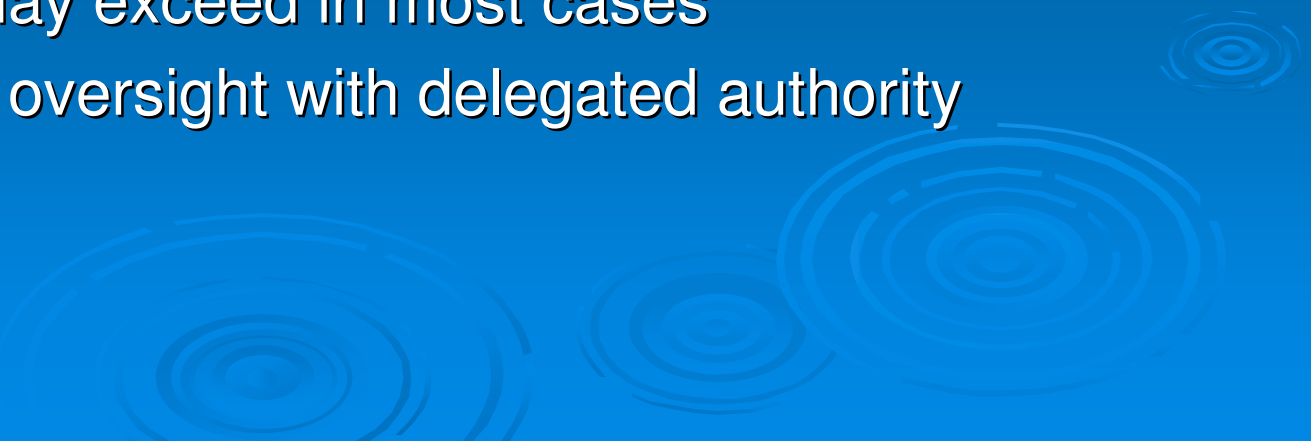
Country ESI Scores by Quin-



Robinson Projection



Environmental Governance in the U.S.

- Regulatory, technology interventions
 - National EPA with enforcement presence
 - Federal; strong national-state power sharing
 - Mixed model, with:
 - National core standards (air, water, chemicals)
 - State-local lead (land use, waste, groundwater)
 - States may exceed in most cases
 - National oversight with delegated authority
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Environmental Epochs

- **Regulating for Protection**
 - End of pipe, rules and deterrence
 - Adversarial & zero-sum
- **Reform & Flexibility**
 - More market-based & collaborative
 - Pollution prevention, information, ECR
- **Creeping toward Sustainability**
 - Search for more holism, less legalism
 - Constrained by historical factors

Where Are We Now?

➤ Bush Years (2001-2008):

- Inaction on climate & energy
- Lost progress on air issues
- Active development of resources
- Regulatory system largely intact

➤ Start of the Obama Years


- Commitment on climate & energy
- Environmental sheriff is back in town
- U.S. struggling with the sustainability concept

Challenges for the U.S.

- Diffuse, non-point sources
- Development, sprawl, & congestion
- Habitat and biodiversity
- Resource use (energy, water)
- Climate change
- Effects of new technologies
- Bio-accumulative & persistent pollutants

Apply More Dynamic Strategies

(It's not 1970 any more)

- More complex, diverse problems
 - Fluid & global economic relationships
 - Changing political-social landscape
 - A more information-intensive world
 - Changing attitudes from business
- 

Use the Environmental Toolbox

➤ Regulation

- Ambient, emission, & product standards

➤ Information

- Disclosure & risk communication

➤ Incentives

- Trading, green taxes/fees, product refund

➤ Partnerships

- Government business, NGO-business

Collaborate within Strict Goals

- Set stringent goals we can measure
 - Where do we want to be?
 - Draw upon data-based reference points
 - Make goals public and track progress
- Allow flexibility in achieving them
 - Stress *good over bad* regulation
 - Apply market and information tools
 - Focus sanctions on laggards
 - Technology standards/deterrence as fallback

Bad versus Good Regulation

(Porter & van der Linde, 1995)

- Characteristics of *bad* regulation:
 - Stresses clean up over prevention
 - Mandates specific technologies
 - Sets unrealistic compliance deadlines
 - Creates high levels of uncertainty

Bad versus Good Regulation

(continued)

- Characteristics of *good* regulation:
 - Focus on outcomes, not technologies
 - Enact strict, not lax innovation
 - Encourage up-stream solutions
 - Use market incentives
 - Make rules more stable & predictable
 - Reduce transaction costs

New Directions for Governance

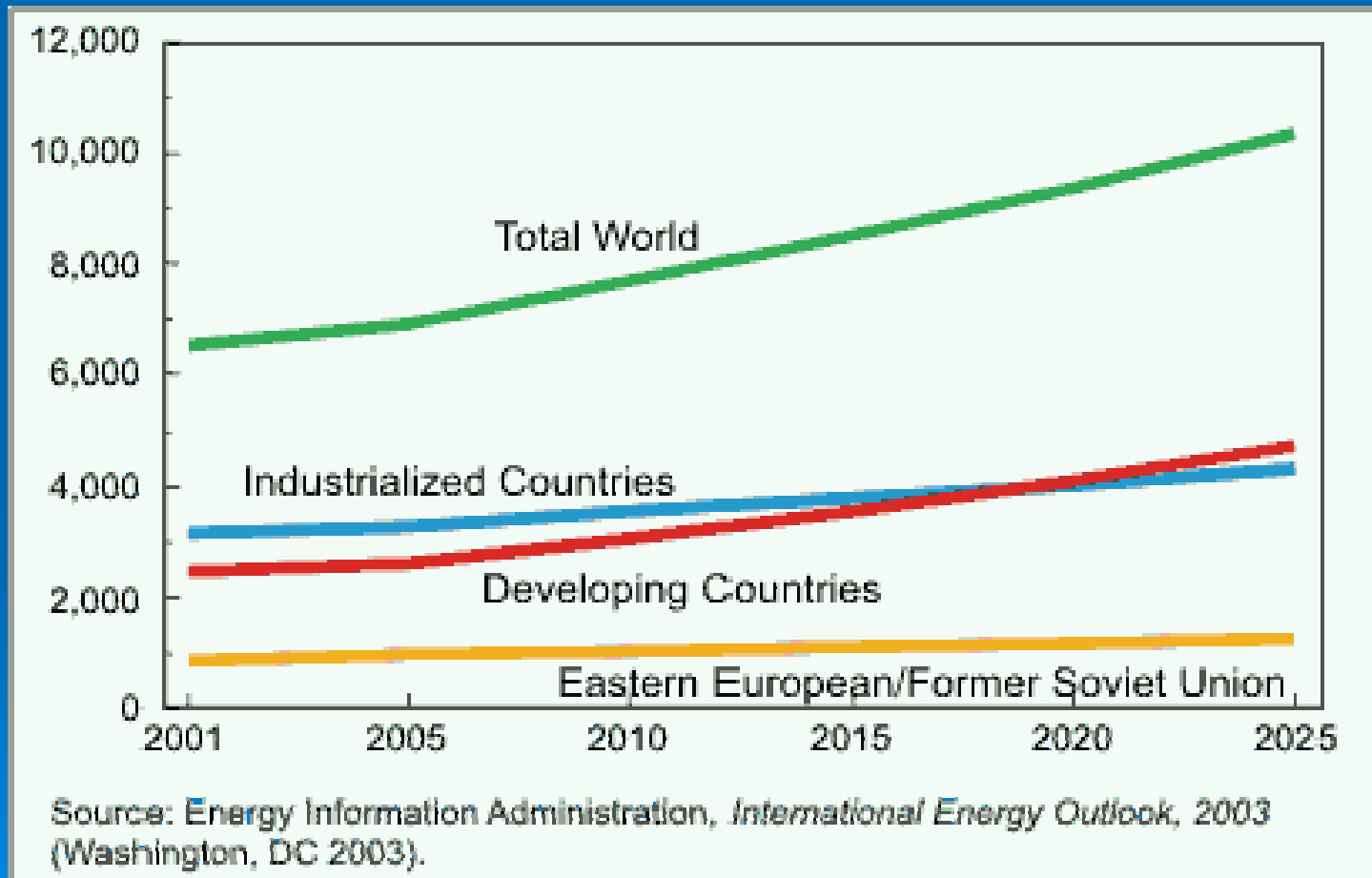
(points on a continuum)

- Commands to Collaboration
- Compliance to Performance
- Hierarchy to Networks
- Zero-Sums to Goal Synergies
- Piecemeal to Integrated/Comprehensive

From Commands to Collaboration



From Compliance to Performance



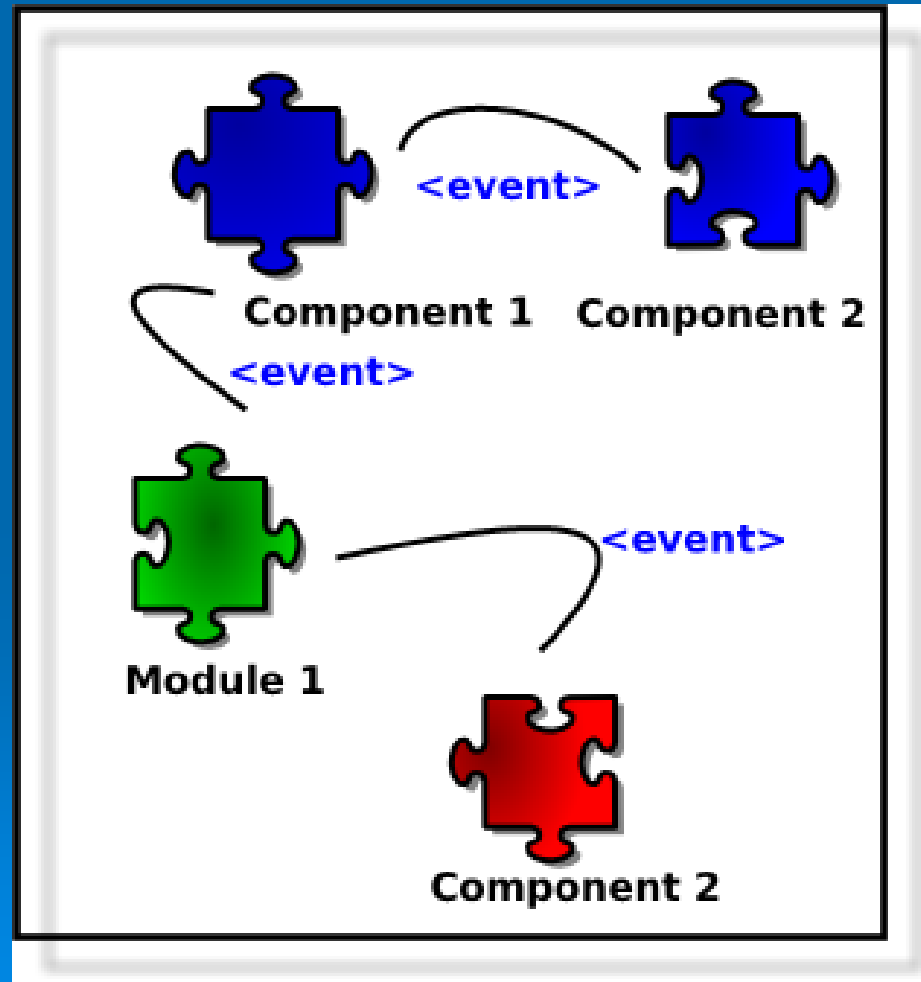
From Hierarchy to Networks



From Zero-Sum to Synergies



From Piecemeal to Integrated



Examples of Good Ideas

- Environmental Results Program
- Integrated Permitting (UK)
- Smart Growth Practices & Partnerships
- Brownfield Redevelopment
- Watershed-Based Approaches

A Final Thought on Sustainability

(Adapted from Walt Whitman)

It is a great word, whose history I
suppose, remains to be written,
because that history has yet to be
enacted.

