



UK's Guardian: Are Capitalism and a Habitable Planet Mutually Exclusive?

Posted by [Prof. Goose](#) on February 3, 2006 - 7:05pm

Topic: [Environment/Sustainability](#)

Tags: [capitalism](#), [climate change](#), [peak oil](#), [social change](#), [socialism](#) [[list all tags](#)]

(hat tip: [Energy Bulletin](#))

[Robert Newman writes in UK's Guardian:](#)

Our economic system is unsustainable by its very nature. The only response to climate chaos and peak oil is major social change.

There is no meaningful response to climate change without massive social change. A cap on this and a quota on the other won't do it. Tinker at the edges as we may, we cannot sustain earth's life-support systems within the present economic system.

There's much more of an argument in the article, but this was rather my point a long time ago about the [governance of the commons](#): with scarce resources, a society either needs to find another scarce resource to compensate, a way of creating/enforcing/reinforcing tribal/cultural norms that encourage people do not hoard more than their "share" of resources, or you need a central government/public sector that controls resource allocation.



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