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WEEK 7 – ENERGY AND LIVABILITY II

Ecological footprint

“The ecological footprint is a measure of human demand on the Earth's ecosystems. It is a standardized measure of demand for natural capital that may be contrasted with the planet's ecological capacity to regenerate. It represents the amount of biologically productive land and sea area necessary to supply the resources a human population consumes, and to assimilate associated waste. Using this assessment, it is possible to estimate how much of the Earth (or how many planet Earths) it would take to support humanity if everybody followed a given lifestyle. For 2007, humanity's total ecological footprint was estimated at 1.5 planet Earths; that is, humanity uses ecological services 1.5 times as quickly as Earth can renew them. Every year, this number is recalculated to incorporate the three-year lag due to the time it takes for the UN to collect and publish statistics and relevant research.”

“The world-average ecological footprint in 2012 was 1.8 global hectares per person. The average per country ranges from over 10 to under 1 hectares per person. There is also a high variation within countries, based on individual lifestyle and economic situation.”

Wikipedia. *Ecological Footprint*. [online] <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecological_footprint> [accessed at 4 June 2015]

Livability

A livable city is one where people like to- and can afford to live. Criteria for livability include: safety, income possibilities, living options, climate, culture, private and public transportation, equality and inclusion, medical care, and city governance. Persons of different age and different background place varying weighting factors on each of those criteria. In the related surveys Cities in Europe, Canada and Oceania have occupied top positions for many years. More information about Livability can also be found in the following source:

Giap, T. K., Woo, W. T., Tan, K. Y., Low, L. and Ee, L. G. A., 2012. *Ranking the Livability of the World's Major Cities*. Singapore: World Scientific Pub.

Wikipedia. *World's most livable cities*. [online] <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World's_most_livable_cities> [accessed at 5 June 2015]

Sustainability

“Sustainable development is a process for meeting human development goals while sustaining the ability of natural systems to continue to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services upon which the economy and society depend. While the modern concept of sustainable development is derived most strongly from the 1987 Brundtland Report, it is rooted in earlier ideas about sustainable forest management and twentieth century environmental concerns.

Sustainable development is the organizing principle for sustaining finite resources necessary to provide for the needs of future generations of life on the planet. It is a process that envisions a desirable future state for human societies in which living conditions and resource-use continue to meet human needs without undermining the "integrity, stability and beauty" of natural biotic systems.”

Wikipedia. *Sustainable development*. [online]

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainable_development> [accessed at 5 June 2015]

The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

The Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union is a part of the Treaties of the European Union. These are a set of international treaties between European Union (EU) member states. “They establish the various EU institutions together with their remit, procedures and objectives. The EU can only act within the competences granted to it through these treaties and amendment to the treaties requires the agreement and ratification (according to their national procedures) of every single signatory.”

The *Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union* (originally signed in Rome in 1958 as the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community) lays out how the EU operates. The treaty has been repeatedly amended by other treaties over the 65 years since they were first signed.

Wikipedia. *Treaties of the European Union*. [online]

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaties_of_the_European_Union> [accessed at 3 July 2015]