

**(2023 March 29) Economy is a subset of the ecosphere - the Steady-State Ecological Economics of Herman Daly - An Economist for Our Time (Naked Capitalism)**

<https://www.nakedcapitalism.com/2023/03/herman-daly-1938-2022-the-economist-for-our-time.html>

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herman\\_Daly](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herman_Daly)

"agriculture accounts for only 3% of GDP but it is precisely the specific 3% on which the other 97% is based" - Herman Daly

A great deal of the arguments for environmental protection I advanced during my activist years on the international front were backed by the writing of ecological economists, chief of whom was Herman Daly. (For a sampling of these arguments see the "For What It's Worth" chapter, pages 324-467 of my Looking the Planet papers on my website --[www.michaelgregoryaz.net](http://www.michaelgregoryaz.net) -- the introduction to which chapter is in the pdf attached below).

Daly's *For the Common Good: Redirecting the Economy Toward Community, the Environment, and a Sustainable Future*, co-authored with John B. Cobb and published in 1989 (rvsd ed, 1994) quickly became a kind of bible for those of us advocating the doctrine of "sustainability" that had been introduced to the world at the 1972 UN Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment.

Along with the work of Murray Bookchin, Hazel Henderson and Robert Costanza, *For the Common Good* and Daly's later *Beyond Growth: The Economics of Sustainable Development* (1996) gave us the language we needed to confront and refute the insane endless growth ideology then and now driving environmental devastation.

Those books and that language are still needed, maybe more than ever, in this time when climate catastrophe is rapidly unfolding essentially unchecked by the forces of conventional political economy that Daly and the other ecological economists called out and tried to arrest 25-50 years ago.