



# Sustainability in Philosophy

## Environmental Ethics and Climate Change PHIL6666

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Manmade global warming and the destruction of the environment are two of the greatest present dangers to humanity. Their factual basis has been subjected to rigorous scientific investigation (synthesised in the IPCC reports). There are, however, many normative questions which cannot be answered by science alone. They require an input from the humanities, most especially from philosophy.

Such questions include: To whom does the Earth and its atmosphere belong? Whose duty is it to prevent global warming? What is more important, preventing global warming or establishing social justice? Which political and economic system are best for sustainability? Who is to bear the costs of climate change? How might victims of climate displacement be compensated? Do we owe anything to yet unborn humans? What theory of justice is required to answer such questions? And do we owe anything to animals and plants?

This module introduces students to key issues in environmental ethics and the ethics of climate change. The course is divided into a theoretical and a practical part. The theoretical part focuses on the main theories of ethics, value, justice, rights and duties. The practical part looks at applications of these theories, investigating the existing ethical approaches to the environment, before looking in more detail at the challenges of environmental destruction and climate change.

