

## Living Earth Charter Examples: Questionnaire

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**A) How did you first hear about and get involved with the Earth Charter Initiative?**

At the WCC – IUCN in Montreal some 4-5 years ago

**B) Tell us about the course in which you are using the Earth Charter:**

i) *How did it get started?*

***Because of a report that I had orchestrated in 1999 out of the WHO in Rome:***  
Soskolne CL and R Bertolini. Global Ecological Integrity and ‘Sustainable Development’: Cornerstones of Public Health: A Discussion Document. World Health Organization, European Centre for Environment and Health, Rome Division, Italy, 1999. 74 pages. Also published at <http://www.euro.who.int/document/gch/ecorep5.pdf>

I was asked to consult to a group led by Dr. Valerie Brown of the Australian National University in Canberra in their production of a textbook entitled: “Sustainability and Health: Supporting Global Ecological Integrity in Public Health”. The book has just been published (2005) by Allen & Unwin, Australia. The Earth Charter is included in this text.

ii) *What are its objectives?*

This course is designed to address the following fundamental questions:

1. What is sustainability?
2. What is health in the context of public health?
3. Why is sustainability important to public health, and vice versa?
4. How does concern for sustainability affect our current circumstances, including our behaviours (individually and collectively), our institutions, and social policy?
5. By what mechanisms might sustainability be achieved in association with public health?
6. What roles do environmental stewardship, traditional knowledge, and religious movements have in sustainability and health?

iii) *How long has it been going on for?*

The course was offered initially in order to “trial” the draft book in Edmonton among some 8 students. See appended course outline.

iv) *Who are the participants and how many people does it affect?*

Unfortunately, although the course was highly praised by both the students ( n= 8) as well as all of the guest lecturers, the Department has not seen fit (amid competing demands), to make the course a core requirement for our students. As a consequence, the course is being missed in the 2004-2005 academic year through only 1-2 students expressing interest in taking it; I need at least 5 students to make its offering (i.e., the effort) worthwhile.

**v) *Exactly how is the Earth Charter being used within it?***

Please see the textbook. The Earth Charter is referred to on pages:121-6; 169;184;262;266;268;308. It is presented as a counterbalance to the UNDHR of 1948 in that the EC provides the duties/responsibilities of individuals and groups if a sustainable future for life on Earth is to be achieved.

**C) Please attach any relevant materials (such as a course syllabus, a course review, ...) that we could share via our Teaching Resource Database.**

For Course syllabus, see link below or Earth Charter Teaching Resource Database.  
<http://www.earthcharter.org/files/resources/Sustainability%20%20Health-Course%20Outline-Updated%20Nov12%202003.doc>

**D) Do you have any short quotes about the Earth Charter – one phrase or sentence that is striking and memorable.**

One from above: “The EC provides a *counterbalance to the UNDHR of 1948 in that the EC provides the duties of individuals and groups if a sustainable future for life on Earth is to be achieved*”.