

ENDLESS GROWTH ON A FINITE PLANET:

An ecological economic approach to
sustainability

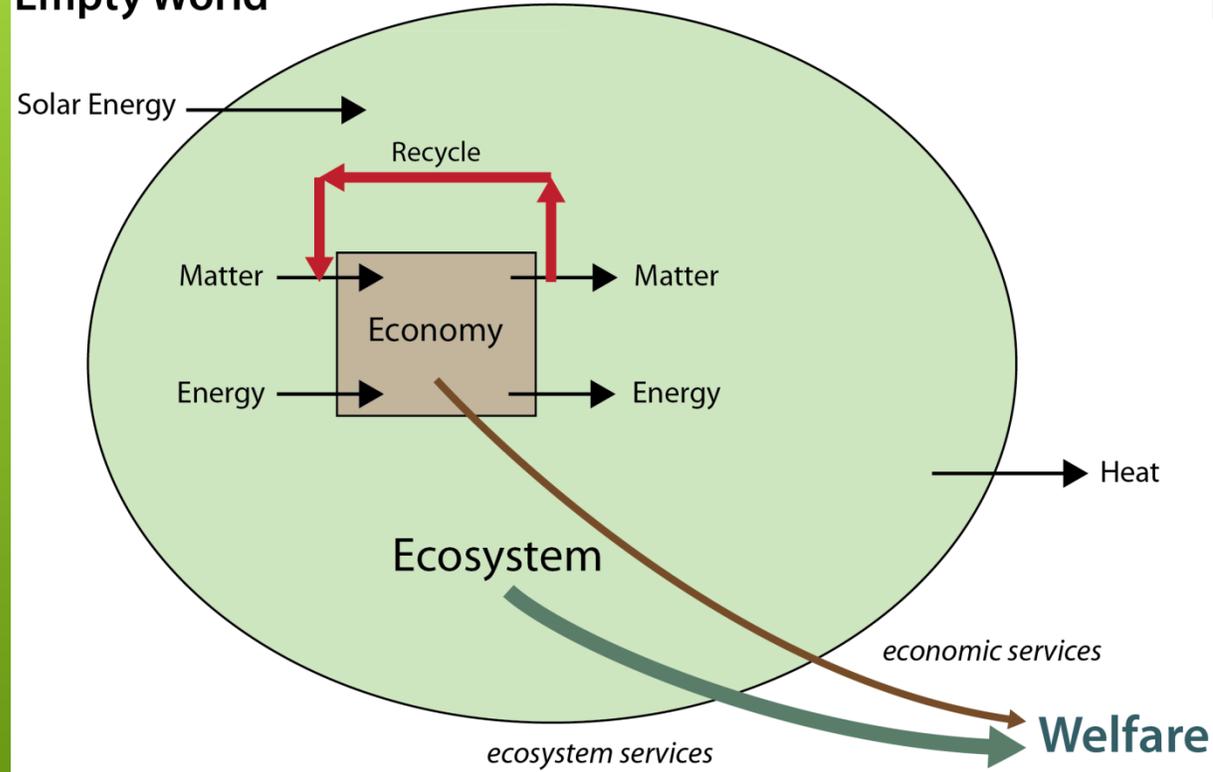
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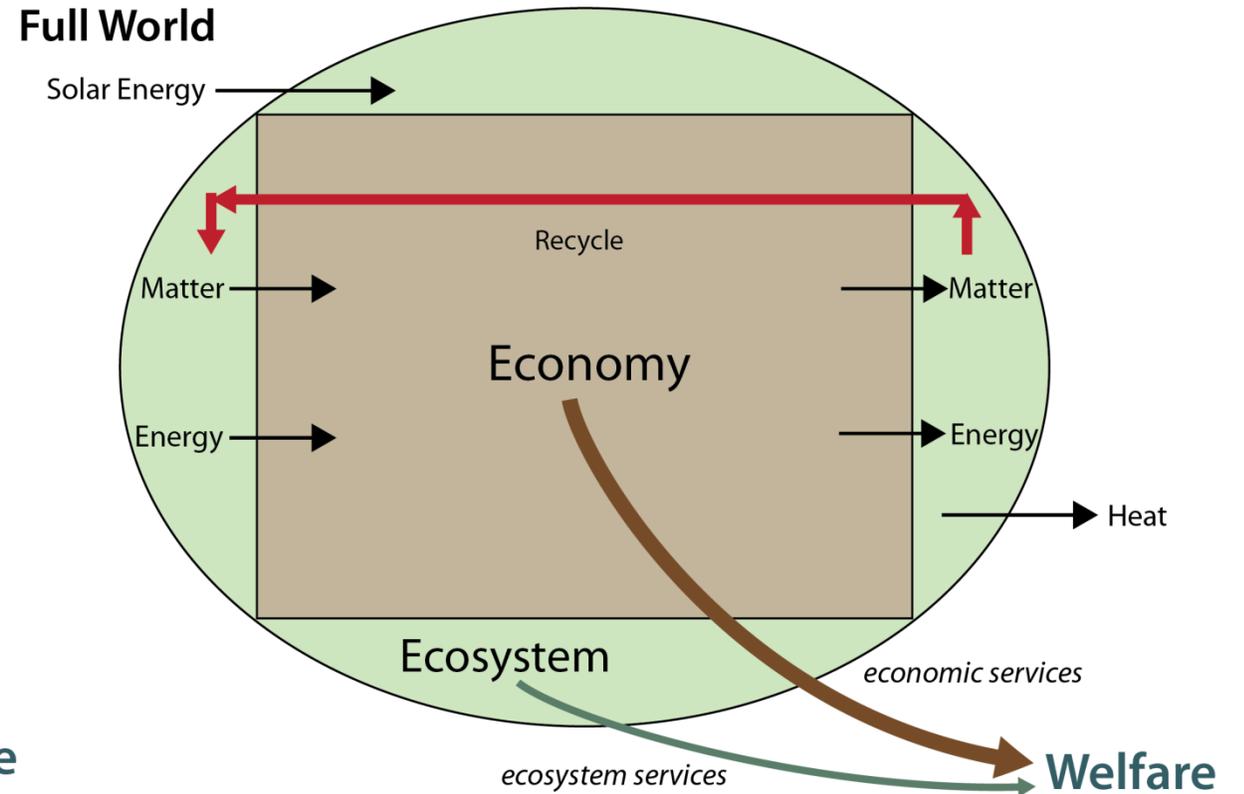
KEY QUESTIONS:

- ▶ 1. Can the economy grow forever? Should it?
 - ▶ 2. If not, how big should the economy be relative to the containing biosphere? And
 - ▶ 3. What economic model can serve in place of that for growth?
 - ▶ 4. In light of the above, what can geography teachers and students do to promote sustainability?
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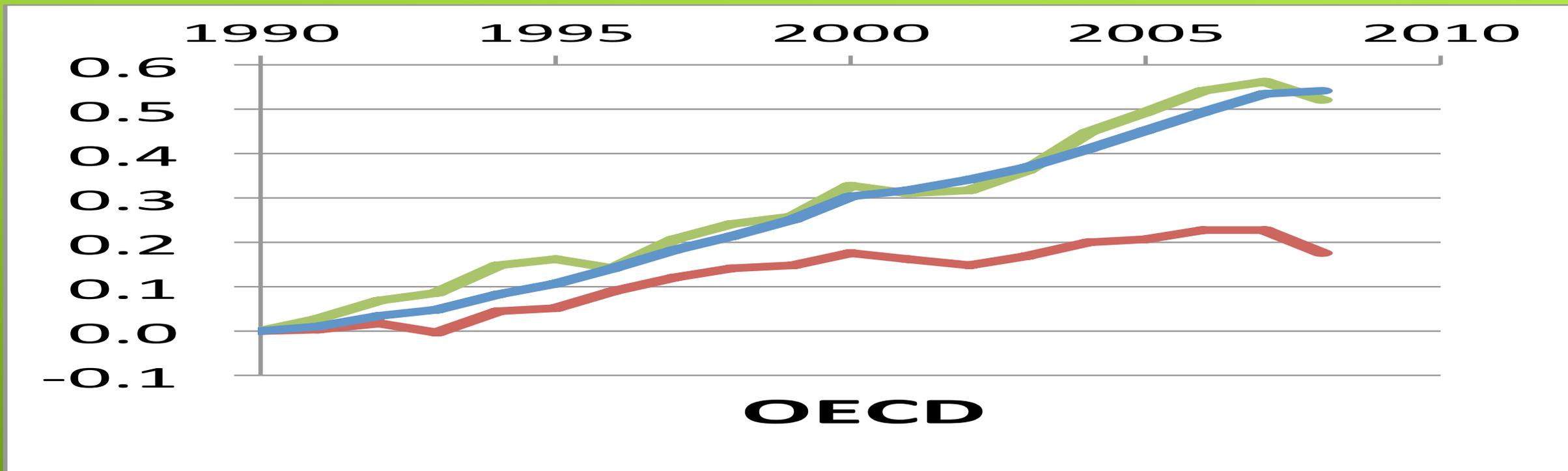
Empty World



Full World



Source: Daly (2015). Retrieved from <https://www.greattransition.org/publication/economics-for-a-full-world>



Source: Wiedmann et al. (2015)

MATERIAL FOOTPRINT VS GDP

POLICY-WISE It's Grow, GROW, GROW!!!

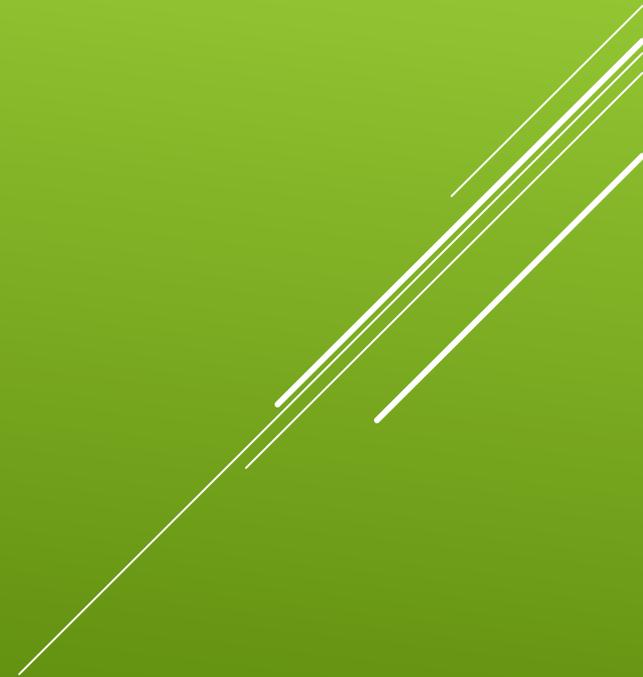
- ▶ 'We must maintain the growing momentum in the economy' and 'the challenge for Australia is to raise standards of living through economic growth' (Australian Government Treasury, 2016)
- ▶ The EU seeks to set itself 'firmly on the path to growth' (Council of the European Union, 2015)
- ▶ Goal 1 of the US Treasury is 'Boost U.S. Economic Growth' (Department of the Treasury, 2018)
- ▶ Canada has prioritised 'sustainable economic growth' (Department of Finance Canada, 2018)
- ▶ The UK's first priority is 'achieving strong and sustainable growth' (HM Treasury, n.d.)
- ▶ Goal 8 of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals is 'decent work and economic growth' (UN, n.d.)

THE STEADY-STATE ECONOMY

Four Principles:

- ▶ 1. A constant or mildly fluctuating human population.
- ▶ 2. A constant or mildly fluctuating stock of human artifacts.
- ▶ 3. The levels at which 1 and 2 are held steady are sufficient for a good life and sustainable into the future.
- ▶ 4. The rate of matter and energy which sustain 1 and 2 are kept as low as possible.

Source: Daly (1993)



THE BIG PICTURE: AS TEACHERS, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

- ▶ Bearing in mind the purpose of schooling in Australia, as per the Melbourne Declaration, the 2nd of its two goals states:

“All young Australians become...active and informed citizens...[who] work for the common good, in particular sustaining and improving natural and social environments”.

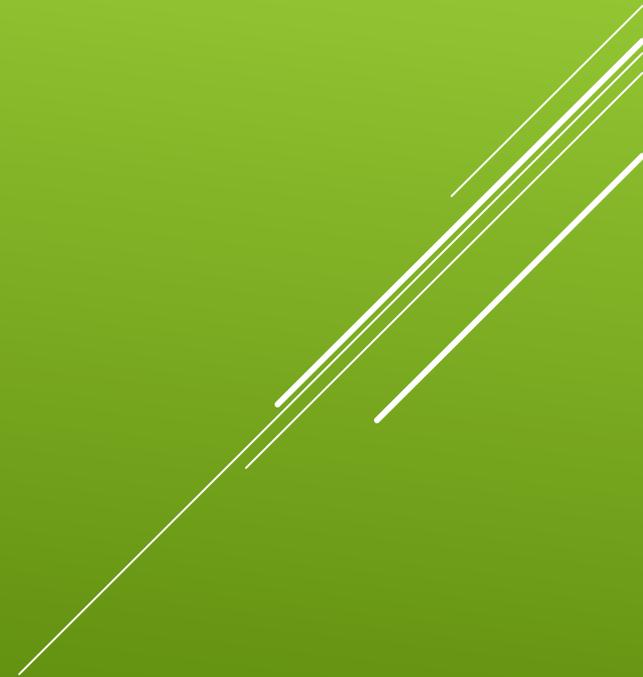
- ▶ In light of this as well as everything else that has been discussed so far, overall, what should we as teachers do?

APPLICATIONS TO THE AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM: GEOGRAPHY

► **Unit 1: Natural and Ecological Hazards**

“The nature and causes of the selected hazard and explain how the activities of people can intensify its impacts” (ACHGE016)

What is the cause of Climate Change? Biodiversity Decline? Colony Collapse Disorder? Pollution in General?



► Unit 2: Sustainable Places (Environments?!)

“The nature, scope and causes of the selected challenges being confronted and the implication for the place” (ACHGE046)

“The range of strategies used to address the selected challenges and how these compare with, and/or have been informed by, responses implemented in other places both within and outside of Australia” (ACHGE047)

“The extent to which the strategies adopted have been, or could be, informed by the concept of sustainability” (ACHGE048)

► Unit 3: Land Cover Transformations

“The causes, rate and projected impacts of declining biodiversity.”
(ACHGE079)

“The interrelationships between land cover change and biodiversity loss, for example, the processes of evolutionary diversification and species extinction and their implications for land cover in the future.” (ACHGE080)

“The effects of biodiversity loss on ecosystem services and species, and ecosystem and genetic diversity.” (ACHGE081)



▶ Unit 4: Global Transformations

“The process of international integration, especially as it relates to the transformations taking place in the spatial distribution of production and consumption of commodities and services....?”
(ACHGE099)



- ▶ Please fill in an anonymous feedback form to help me improve any future presentations, and leave your name and email for further information and events on transitioning to a sustainable economy
- ▶ Feel free to take a pamphlet for the Centre for the Advancement of the Steady-State Economy (CASSE) NSW upcoming event.

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!

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