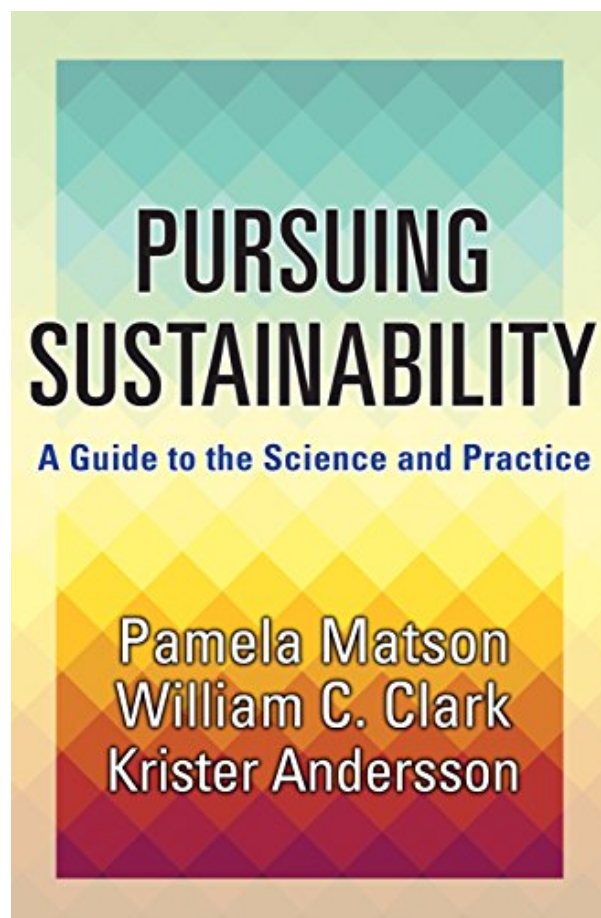


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# PURSUING SUSTAINABILITY

**A Guide to the Science and Practice**

Pamela Matson  
William C. Clark  
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Sustainability is a global imperative and a scientific challenge like no other. This concise guide provides students and practitioners with a strategic framework for linking knowledge with action in the pursuit of sustainable development, and serves as an invaluable companion to more narrowly focused courses dealing with sustainability in particular sectors such as energy, food, water, and housing, or in particular regions of the world.

Written by leading experts, *Pursuing Sustainability* shows how more inclusive and interdisciplinary approaches and systems perspectives can help you achieve your sustainability objectives. It stresses the need for understanding how capital assets are linked to sustainability goals through the complex adaptive dynamics of social-environmental systems, how committed people can use governance processes to alter those dynamics, and how successful interventions can be shaped through collaborations among researchers and practitioners on the ground.

The ideal textbook for undergraduate and graduate students and an invaluable resource for anyone working in this fast-growing field, *Pursuing Sustainability* also features case studies, a glossary, and suggestions for further reading.

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  - Illustrates concepts with a core set of case studies used throughout the book
  - Written by world authorities on sustainability
  - An online illustration package is available to professors
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I almost didn't buy this book when I saw it described as a textbook, but I had heard Prof. Matson speak several times on different subjects and knew that she had a way of making complex topics accessible and understandable to a general audience. This book helps bridge the gap between scientific research and practical application by using case studies to show how even the best ideas and the best intentions can fail to achieve results if the implementation does not learn from and adapt to the social, political, and economic context of the problem. There are no easy answers, which is why the book is about "pursuing" rather than attaining sustainability: "sustainability is not something to be achieved but is instead something to be worked toward!"

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