

Environmental Economics

This four-part series in winter-spring 2009 is exploring a market-driven approach to environmental issues. A panel of four academic experts affiliated with the Property and Environment Research Center (PERC) at Montana State University in Bozeman are seeking to debunk a number of commonly held beliefs about environmental issues and how approaching them from a capitalist perspective may be more productive than the prevailing model of a punitive regulatory climate. The four promoted what PERC Director Terry Anderson, PhD, calls "free market environmentalism" in a book by that title, a concept based on the belief that market approaches to environmental issues can be both economically sound and environmentally sensitive. Anderson believes that government subsidies and rules often contribute to degradation of the environment, while private property rights encourage resource stewardship by harnessing market incentives to individual initiatives for protecting environmental quality.

The five programs are:

Thursday, April 9, Green Jobs/Environmentalism as Religion, by Dr. Andy Morris, H. Ross & Helen Workman Professor of Law and Professor of Business at the University of Illinois.

Thursday, March 5, Eight Myths of Recycling, by Dr. Dan Benjamin, Alumni Distinguished Professor of Economics at Clemson University and Senior Fellow at PERC.

Thursday, February 12, Climate Change. Bobby McCormick, Assistant Professor of Business Administration, University of Rochester, BB&T Scholar, Clemson University, and Julian Simon Fellow at PERC.

Thursday, January 15, Overview of Environmentalism/Water, by Dr. Terry Anderson, Executive Director of PERC and Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University and Professor Emeritus, Montana State University.