

## Community and lifestyle

Ecology, community and lifestyle. Outline of an ecosophy. A. Naess. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1989, 223 pp. ISBN 0521 344069

The environmental crisis has actually happened. The situation on the Earth is so critical that we must search for the ways go out of this.

First of all, Arne Naess – as philosopher – tries to give an explanation of this environmental crisis. According to him, a synopsis of this situation is following: “An exponentially, increasing, and partially or totally irreversible environmental deterioration or devastation perpetuated through firmly established ways of production and consumption and a lack of adequate policies regarding human population increase”.

Authors describe comprehensively reasons and results of the environmental crisis. There are the most important information about such problems like ecology and ecological system thinking, soft and hard technology, production and consumption, population explosion, pollution, natural resources and many others. Naess also describes philosophical background of the deep ecology movement and ecosophy – his ecological system thinking where self-realisation is a top norm. In Naess’s opinion we need to integrate life theory and life practice, clarify our value priorities and distinguish life quality from mere standard of life – we should not live on a material level. Ecological responsibility implies long range sustainability of the richness and diversity of life forms on Earth, not only conservation of resources for humans. The life forms have intrinsic value. There are relationship between human life and the other life forms.

It is a pity that this simple truth is not so popular in our country. Naess’s deep ecology is not very known even among environmentalists. “Ecology, Community and Lifestyle” as English book is inaccessible in Poland and a narrow range of readers can read this. No doubt, book like this should have a Polish edition in order to increase a level of ecological consciousness in our society.

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