The opening three chapters provide a brief introduction of relevant regulations, the basics of environmental chemistry, pathways of contaminant exposure, and environmental toxicology. The author propounds the so-called “Moore’s Laws” (of environmental science, pollution control, and hazardous waste management), which are founded on basic ecological principles and common sense. The subsequent chapters present pollution control (air, water, and solid waste) technologies and restoration practices for sites contaminated with hazardous wastes. The Oil Pollution Act, RCRA, and CERCLA are next discussed in some detail. The final chapters cover risk assessment, applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs), liability for violations, and siting hazardous waste facilities.

This book is written for the nontechnical audience and is easy to follow. Strengths include a satisfactory presentation of toxicology, risk assessment, and ARARs. The book is well edited, sufficiently referenced, and supported by many concise figures. A limited number of case studies are included for illustration. A most significant weakness of this work, however, is its brevity. Most topics are given only a cursory presentation and are therefore lacking in many relevant details. Three chapters measure two pages or less in length, and there is but one table (Chapter 9, “Risk Assessment”). For an introductory work such as this, many simple tables (e.g., the RCRA hazardous waste lists, selected physical and chemical properties of hydrocarbons, etc.) would have proven most instructive.

Dr. Moore’s work may be suitable for use as a textbook for an introductory course in waste management. It may also serve as a reference for regulatory and real estate personnel, attorneys, and others wishing for an introduction to issues surrounding hazardous waste management, site remediation, and environmental toxicology.

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The Natural Wealth of Nations: Harnessing the Market for the Environment


David Malin Roodman makes a case that government tax and subsidy policies often cause environmental problems, and that changing fiscal policy could provide market-based incentives for individuals and companies to reduce environmental damage. The book provides a host of different policy examples from around the world, the book successfully weaves in discussion about a number of issues being actively debated in the environmental research and policy community, the differences between policy outcomes, the trade-offs between environmental benefits and costs, and the environmental research and policy community’s understanding of the potential for innovation where it exists.

One concern with the first two sections of the book, however, is that they do not delve deeply enough into specific advice for the policy process. The book discusses a number of traditional concerns about environmental tax “failure,” but it is not clear whether the book contains enough extra depth to help the policy process. In these two sections, the book provides a trial revolution. This revolution could be brought about by instituting environmental taxes (taxes on “dirty” outputs, for example), ensuring that taxes fall “fairly” on different income classes, and then reducing or eliminating traditional income taxes. In a broad sense, this sounds like a logical compromise between environmental and social goals, and fiscal responsibility. Environmental taxes are proposed to replace traditional income taxes, so the overall tax burden on society could be altered. Local governments still have enough money. However, environmental taxes will alter the distribution of who gets taxed and who does not. Roodman argues that environmental taxes could fail most heavily on low-income classes, so “fairness” is introduced through a system that essentially redistributes income. Thus, environmental taxes could support the induced innovation hypothesis. The induced innovation hypothesis states that environmental regulations often spur new innovations that dramatically reduce pollution by forcing complying with new standards. While anecdotal evidence supports the induced innovation hypothesis, the book alone suggests that it would be a useful and instructive read for policymakers and those interested in environmental policy. In addition to providing a host of different policy examples, the book successfully weaves in discussion about a number of issues being actively debated in the environmental research and policy community, the differences between policy outcomes, the trade-offs between environmental benefits and costs, and the environmental research and policy community’s understanding of the potential for innovation where it exists.