

## Guidelines for finding and choosing ecologically sustainable 'solutions' to natural resource problems.

1. **Don't be blinded by what you think you know** - especially by 'deceptive naïve simplicities' - the future has always had its roots largely in the 'unknown' - so the challenge is to **be open to engaging with the unknown**, & with the known in radically new ways. Also, resist letting your 'successes' carry you back into the blind-knowing loop - be willing to stay humble, confused & open to seeking new understandings. Also, **resist all attempts to impose order on the 'unknown'** - this prevents both discovery & our psychosocial evolution.
2. **Science & technology (like money) are definitely part of the solution, but** they can **only** be really effective & reach their potential when they are regarded as 'tools' that are to be used '**in the service of higher values & goals**', & the design/redesign & management of whole systems to meet such goals. **To make clear decisions about such issues, we need better 'indicators' & 'testing questions'** re our values, goals, actions & outcomes (feedback) -- money & power are poor measures of ecological, social & personal success. **Only use 'back-end', single issue, symptom-based 'solutions' in emergencies & to buy time to find 'front-end', whole-system, design & management strategies;** & use integrated change strategies for improving situations.
3. **Use all of nature for everything** - & remember that you are part of nature - as models, & for services, products & inspiration - & do this in sustainable ways & ways that support nature.
4. Be aware that if you are not yet open to **thinking paradoxically and radically**, you are not yet ready to discover the profound answers.
5. **Become all 'others'**, and experience the world from their perspective, to gain fresh thinking.
6. Know that no psychosocial problems can be completely solved by science, technology & social engineering - strategies must **include integrated psychosocial initiatives**. Also, know that our species is continuing to co-evolve psychosocially, & that all 'sustainable' solutions must include integrated, co-evolutionary, psychosocial components. Choosing solutions from earlier stages in our evolution will drag us back to those stages, & will deprive us of the benefits associated with later stages.
7. **Use areas of profound understanding** to ask the key questions & gain insights in areas of naïve understanding & ignorance. But, remember that non-living models (e.g., fractals, chaos & complexity theories, quantum physics, entropy/negentropy etc.) can never adequately explain living systems - they need to be understood as living systems.
8. **Use collaborative processes** to engage the understanding, experience & wisdom of the greatest diversity of people.

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