

## **Introduction to Ecostylistics**

### **Defining and Exploring 'Environment'**

#### **The ecosophy of this research**

Ecosophy in one word: Living!

Norm no. 1. Valuing Living

Norm no. 2. Wellbeing

Norm no. 3. Now and the Future

Norm no. 4. Care

Norm no. 5. Environmental Limits

Norm no. 6. Social Justice

Norm no. 7. Adaptation

(Adapted from Stibbe 2021, 14-15.

See also Naess and Sessions 1995; Odum and Odum 2001; Odum 2007)

#### **Text 1**

**2.a.** The area surrounding a place or thing; the environs, surroundings, or physical context. Also *figurative*.

**2.b.** The physical surroundings or conditions in which a person or other organism lives, develops, etc., or in which a thing exists; the external conditions in general affecting the life, existence, or properties of an organism or object.

**2.c.** With modifying word: a particular set of surroundings or conditions which something or someone exists in or interacts with [e.g., semi-desert, marine, acid environment].

**2.d.** Frequently with *the*. The natural world or physical surroundings in general, either as a whole or within a particular geographical area, esp. as affected by human activity.

(OED Third Edition)

## Text 2

A combination of the various physical and biological **elements** that affect the life of an organism. Although it is common to refer to "the" environment, there are in fact many environments, all capable of change in time and place, but all intimately linked and in combination constituting the whole earth/atmosphere system. They vary in scale from microscopic to global and may be subdivided according to their attributes. The **aquatic environment**, for example, is that of rivers, lakes and oceans, the **terrestrial environment** that of the land surface. The term "built environment" has been applied to areas, such as cities, created by human activity. // The human element has a dominant role in modern environmental studies, and as a result environmental science includes not only the traditional sciences such as chemistry, physics and biology, but also engineering, economics, sociology, politics and law. The study of the environment is thus very much interdisciplinary in nature.

(Kemp, D.D. 1998. *The Environment Dictionary*. London and New York: Routledge, p. 127)