

“OUR PREOCCUPATION WITH ECONOMIC GROWTH OFTEN HAS IMPEDED ACTION ON ISSUES THAT REALLY WILL IMPROVE HUMAN WELL-BEING AND THE PROSPECTS FOR ALL LIFE ON EARTH. THIS IS THE TROUBLE WITH GROWTH.”

Economic growth drives most environmental problems, and it has produced a world in which human activities have grown too large for the planet to accommodate them sustainably. Forests are scalped, rivers run dry, species are going extinct, and humans are changing the climate, all driven by the pursuit of growth. Yet few recognize that growth itself needs to be abandoned as a national goal. Growth is widely regarded as inevitable and indispensable, but as a matter of national policy it is barely 50 years old. Fortunately, as Peter A. Victor and Tim Jackson argue, an economy that is not driven by growth of material throughput—yet that still offers adequate employment and reduces inequality and environmental impact—is achievable.

*State of the World* is available for purchase at [www.worldwatch.org/bookstore/state-of-the-world](http://www.worldwatch.org/bookstore/state-of-the-world)

## Chapter 3 Preview | Peter A. Victor and Tim Jackson

### The Trouble with Growth

Is never-ending economic growth a threat that is hidden in plain view?



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It is possible—and indeed desirable—to move public policy objectives away from the pursuit of economic growth, and toward specific goals that are more directly related to the well-being of humans and other species.