

OVERVIEW

The devastating effects of climate change, as well as air and water pollution, underscore the urgent need for sustainable practices that meet the world's growing energy demands while greatly reducing carbon emissions. These sustainable practices consist of behaviors that serve the needs of individuals, families, communities, corporations, governments, and humanity at large, while not further harming Earth's ecosystems. Behavior analysts collaborate with experts and policy makers to improve sustainable practices in a variety of areas including environmental conservation and preservation; energy use and renewable energy; pollution, emission control, and transportation; food production, consumption, and waste; recycling and waste reduction; consumer education; and political action. Behavior analysts use a range of interventions, such as targeted feedback, environmental arrangements, group contingencies, and policy and systems change, to increase and improve sustainable practices.

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Initial Publication

Burgess, R. L., Clark, R. N., & Hende, J. C. (1971). An experimental analysis of anti-litter procedures. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 4, 71-75.

Recommended Reading

Alavosius, M., & Mattaini, M. (2011). Editorial: Behavior analysis, sustainability, resilience, and adaptation. *Behavior and Social Issues*, 20, 1-5.

Cone, J. D., & Hayes, S. C. (1980). *Environmental problems/behavioral solutions*. Monterey, CA: Brookes/Cole.

Heward, W. L., & Chance, P. (2010). The human response to climate change: Ideas from behavior analysis [Special section]. *The Behavior Analyst*, 33(2).

Lehman, P. K., & Geller, E. S. (2004). Behavior analysis and environmental protection: Accomplishments and potential for more. *Behavior and Social Issues*, 13, 13-32.

Additional Resources

- ▶ [Behaviorists for Social Responsibility ABAI Special Interest Group](#)
- ▶ [ABA and the Earth Facebook page](#)
- ▶ Conference Archives
 - [2012 ABAI Behavior Change for a Sustainable World](#)
 - [Annual Behavior Energy & Climate Change Conference programs \(2007-present\)](#)