



**RECONCILING**  
A WOUNDED PLANET

# Consider the Lilies

**A God centred approach to  
sustainability in our Schools**

**James Hindson**



# Consider the Lilies



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## Children and young people – Caring for Creation

- How do they learn ?
- How should they learn?
- Moving from despair to hope.



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## **Our approach in schools**

Children will be put on the front line of the battle to save the planet under a radical proposals to shake up the way that geography is taught in schools. The plans will ensure that...issues such as climate change and global warming are at the heart of the school timetable ... education for sustainable development will be a compulsory part of the curriculum

Secretary of State for Education in the UK



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**Our approach in schools**

**“Children will be put on the  
front line of  
the battle to save the planet”**



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The earth wrote a letter...



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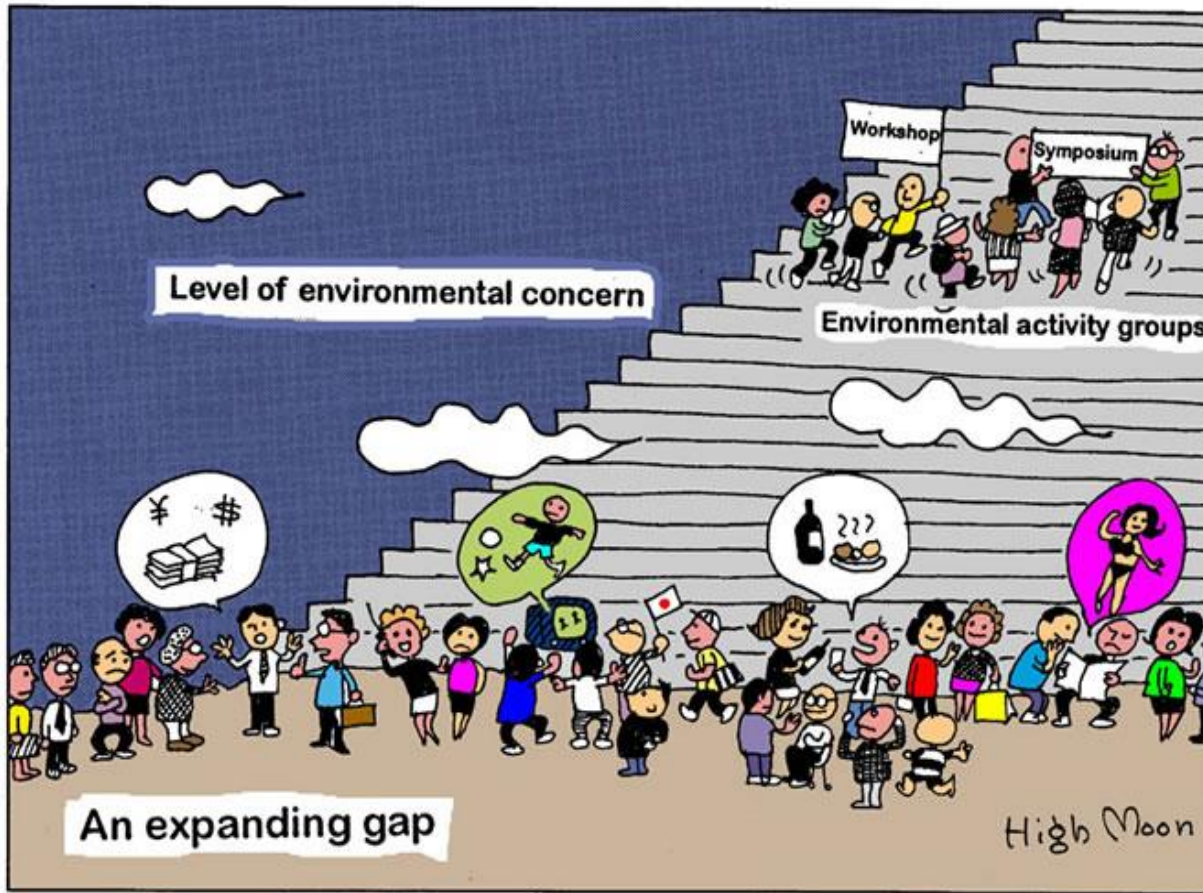
**In the beginning and the end**

On the fifth day God made the fishes and the birds. *Man has broken birds nests and poisoned the fish.*

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Note: How to involve those who show no concern remains a difficult problem.

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## Where are we now ?

- Gloomy - the planet is in a mess
- Tough - it's hard work
- Boring - doing without
- Me focused – it's my job
- Moral - feel guilty if you don't
- Pointless – it doesn't work
- Change – about nature
- Unfair – it doesn't help everyone
- Being told – following orders



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# SAVE ENERGY



## Energy Saving Tips



*Turn lights off.*

*Reuse paper.*

*Insulate your hot water tank.*

*Close fridge doors.*

*After cooking leave oven door open.*



**Don't leave things charging.**

**Don't leave taps running.**

**Don't leave heaters on.**

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## OFSTED

Most of the schools had **limited knowledge** of sustainability  
Work on sustainability tended to be **piecemeal** and **uncoordinated**, often confined to **extra-curricular activities and special events and projects**  
its **impact tended to be short-lived** and limited to **small groups** of pupils.



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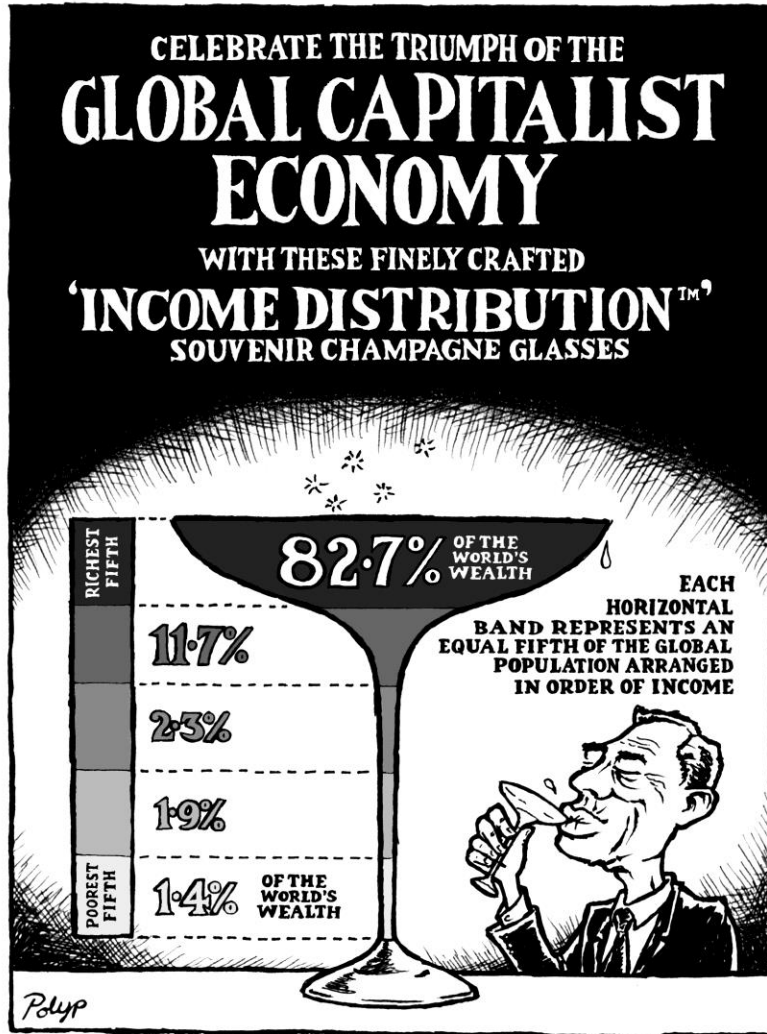


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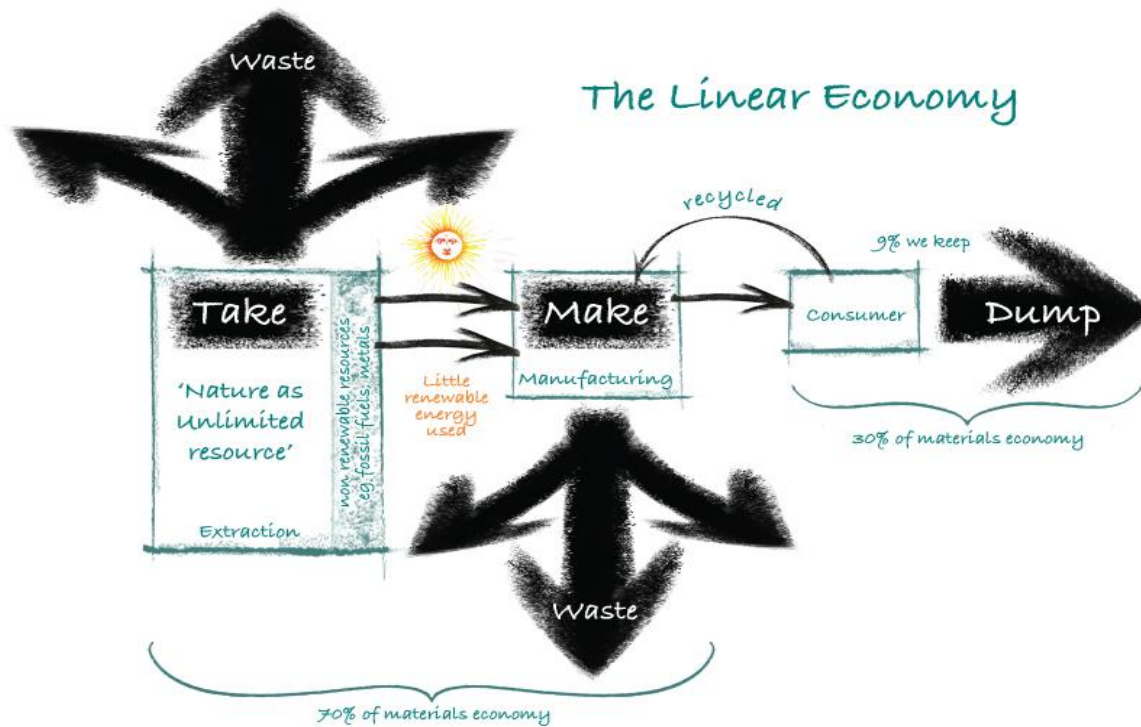




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Source: 'Sense and Sustainability - Educating for a low carbon world',  
Ken Webster and Craig Johnson. TerraPreta, 2008

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We think we can

Make a broken system

Just a little less bad

But surely Christians should want to

Create a perfect system?



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## Delusional necessity



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## So what is the Christian Response ?

- Gloomy - the planet is in a mess
- Tough - it's hard work
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- Me focused – it's my job
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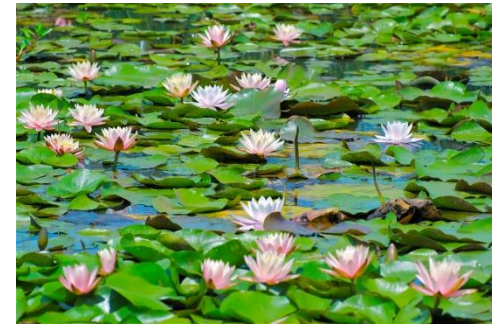
# Consider the Lilies

We can learn from

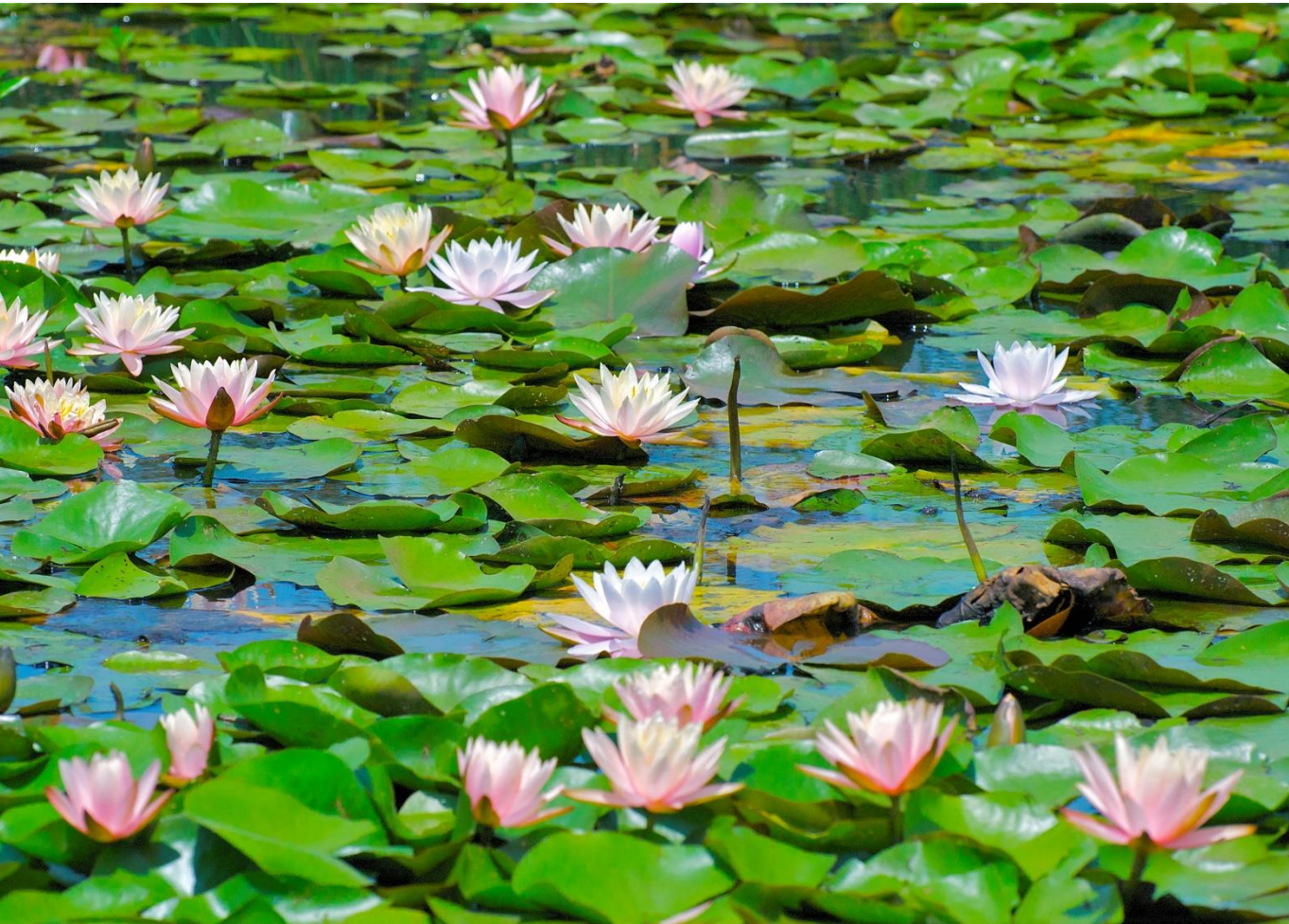
- God's spoken and written word
- God's creation word



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**We should -**

- produce no waste
- use enough for our need
- not poison creation
- use renewable energy
- enhance diversity
- create beauty
- develop strength



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'Linear economy'

Take - Make - Dump

Technical and biological  
nutrients all mixed up



something useful



toxic  
waste

'Circular economy'

Technical nutrients

Biological nutrients



Living systems

after W. McDonough and M. Braungart

Source: 'Sense and Sustainability - Educating for a low carbon world',  
Ken Webster and Craig Johnson. TerraPreta, 2008

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCRKvDyyHml>

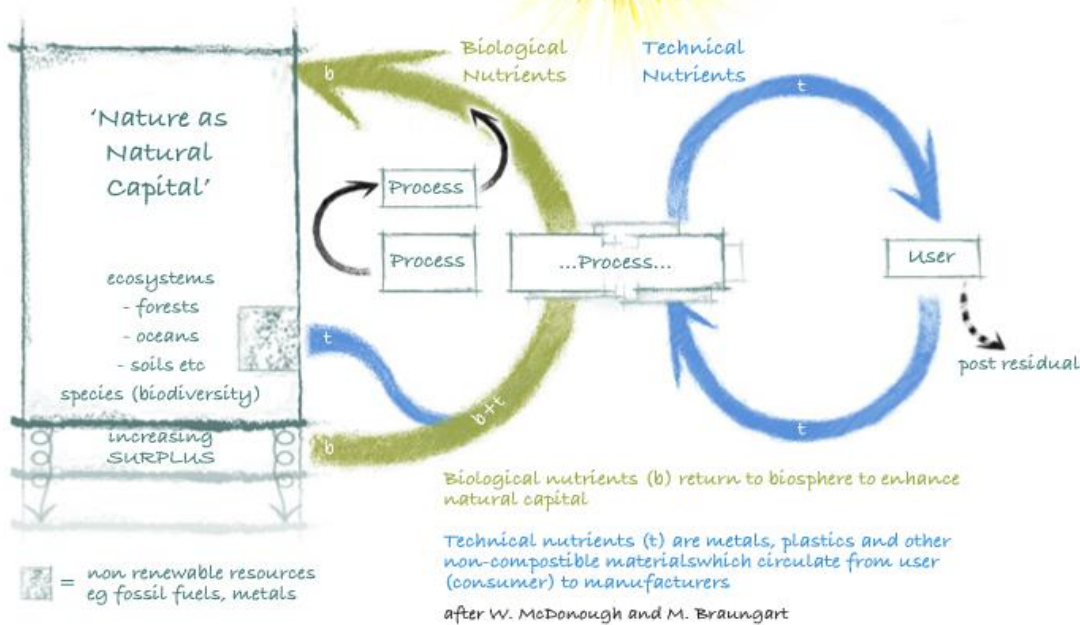


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A Circular Economy  
(where waste = food)



Source: 'Sense and Sustainability - Educating for a low carbon world',  
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- Gloomy - **Hopeful**
- Tough - **Simple**
- Boring - **Exciting**
- Moral - **Desire**
- Me - **Community**
- Pointless - **It works**
- Change – **It's normal**
- Unfair - **fair for all**
- Being told – **being creative**



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God's way of  
Ordering  
the  
world  
Offers  
Hope!



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**Necessary**

**but**

**NOT**

**Sufficient**



**SAVE  
ENERGY**



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So what can we do?



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- Realise our lack of creation care is sin
- Repent
- Reduce our impact right now
- **Rethink** how we do things
- Restore creation

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## It's impossible



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It's impossible

But our God demands the  
impossible



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# Consider the Lilies

**It's impossible**

**But our God demands the  
impossible**

**“Go into all the world and make  
Disciples of every nation”**



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The earth wrote a letter...



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# Consider the Lilies

You may choose to look  
the other way  
but you can never again say  
you did not know.

We are too young to realise that certain  
things are impossible –  
so we will do them anyway.



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Thank you

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And my questions are –

**A vision of hope?**

**How can this be achieved in schools?**

**How can we encourage more critical thinking?**



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