

Cycles of Life: Civilization and the Biosphere (Scientific American Library)

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Introduces biogeochemical cycles, explaining the interrelationship of carbon, nitrogen, sulfur, and living organisms as agents of change in the environment

Vaclav Smil is a professor at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Canada. *Cycles Of Life: Civilization And The Biosphere* explores the crucial insight that, through their participation in biogeochemical cycles, living organisms act as a tremendously important agent of change in their environment. For example, the composition of the atmosphere has been affected by microscopic organisms of the ocean, the climate by Earth's vegetation, soil chemistry by microbes on and beneath the planet's surface. Based on the latest scientific research, *Cycles Of Life* is an authoritative, engaging introduction to the workings of the biosphere, one that calls for thoughtful environmental management while remaining sensible in its recommendations for preventing further environmental damage. *Cycles Of Life* is highly recommended reading for anyone concerned with the globally relevant environmental issues. -- Midwest Book Review

Other Books

Greening the Economy, Professor Bob Williams examines the essential elements that give ecosystems their durability. These key characteristics are: self-regulating cycles of key materials, a plentiful and durable energy source, an ability to adjust to changing circumstances, and the capacity for resiliency in the face of unpredictable disruptions. In separate chapters, each of these natural attributes are applied to our economy and 20 policies are recommended to shift our economy toward each of these objectives. The policies include marketable waste emission permits, a "carbon" tax, split-rate property taxation, environmental assurance bonds, a revamped home mortgage deduction, and an inheritance tax. These policies function to implement the principle of full-cost pricing in order to ensure market incentives that encourage environmentally temperate behaviour and decisions. This book will be of interest to students of Ecology and Economics, at undergraduate and postgraduate level alike, as well as anyone seeking an understanding of key ecological concepts that are critical to fully appreciating the role of natural capital in our economic affairs

Smil, V., *Cycles of Life : Civilization and the Biosphere*, New York: Scientific American Library, 1997. Smil, V., *Energy: A Beginner's Guide*, Oxford, UK: Oneworld Publications, 2006. Smith, G., *The History of the Comstock Lode*, Reno, ..."