

Bernard Nebel Ph.D.

Co-Author of the Book - Environmental Science: towards a sustainable future

Dr. Nebel grew up in the Finger Lakes region of western New York State, received his undergraduate degree in biology and chemistry from Earlham College, a small but strong liberal arts college in Richmond, Indiana. He then went on to get a Ph. D. from Duke University (1965) in Botany. After a postdoc research on how light effects plant growth in ways other than photosynthesis, he entered into teaching at Catonsville Community College (now CCBC) in 1970. This coincided with the time of the growing swell in environmental awareness and activism.

Thus, three things in his life converged: a social consciousness derived from his Earlham education, a broad background in science, and the beginnings of the environmental movement. Working with citizen environmental groups--there were many at the time--he quickly came to realize that there was a dearth of understanding concerning the scientific parameters behind environmental issues.

This experience led him to ask his boss if he could develop and offer an "environmental science" course at Catonsville. He said, "Yes, and we will see if it goes." he did, and it did. At the time, however, there was a total lack of texts; there was information, but all over the map. There was nothing that brought together the many facets of the environmental arena into single text. As the course developed over the 70s it also evolved into his writing a supporting text and environmental education became his career. Happily, many others followed a similar course, so that now there are environmental courses and programs in virtually all schools in the country.

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