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Sustainable Failures: Environmental Policy and Democracy in a Petro-dependent World

Sherry Cable

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Sherry Cable : Sustainable Failures: Environmental Policy and Democracy in a Petro-dependent World before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sustainable Failures: Environmental Policy and Democracy in a Petro-dependent World:

Environmental policies fail in conspicuous and egregious ways to sustain the natural resource base and protect citizens

from production-generated risky exposures. In her engaging study, *Sustainable Failures*, Sherry Cable asks, why does environmental policy seem to be a contributing cause rather than a partial solution to environmental problems? Melding a biophysical science perspective of environmental processes with sociological insights into human behavior, Cable examines the people, policies, and issues of petrochemical dependence and broader environment questions. She insists that our present policies around the manufacture and use of petroleum products violate rudimentary ecological principles—and do so in complicated ways. *Sustainable Failures* is a blistering wake-up call to what is at stake not only regarding the failure of policy outcomes and grievous natural resource depletion and pollution, but also concerning democracy and ecological survival, and eventually, potentially, the existence of our species.

"Cable looks into why we have had powerful laws that regulate specific impacts on high profile issues while topics tangentially related to our dependence on a petroleum-based economy fall into the 'don't bother me now' category of our collective attention and action... In addition to being an able researcher, Cable is a gifted storyteller... she dedicates most of her work to a broad and deep 'what's wrong with this picture' description of where we are and how we got here... This book puts the blame for our mess right where it belongs - on us as a society." *Sustainability*, August 2012

"Cable offers a sweeping analysis of how humans live outside their means, fostering a false duality between society and biosphere with decidedly unsustainable technological and petroleum energy dependence... Written for a broad audience, the work deftly combines a jargon-free sociological lens on human behavior with biophysical science questions of sustainability. Recommended." - *Choice*

About the Author: Sherry Cable is Professor of Sociology and Faculty Fellow in the Tennessee Teaching Learning Center at the University of Tennessee. She is the author (with Charles Cable) of *Environmental Problems/Grassroots Solutions: The Politics of Grassroots Environmental Conflict*.