

# Defining Ecological Identity

*Living a more purposeful ecological life*

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By **Tim Goodwin**

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## Appendix: Ecological Identity Individual Assessment Tool

### Knowledge

1. **Biological / Ecological literacy:** Measure of what one knows about biology and ecology and the ability to use and apply terms and concepts

I have...

Minimal Knowledge	Basic Knowledge	Comprehensive Knowledge	Comprehensive Applied Knowledge
Minimal correct term & concept understanding and/or usage, possibly with multiple misconceptions.	Some correct term & concept understanding and/or application, possibly some misconceptions.	Many examples of specific correct term & concept understanding and/or usage with minor misconceptions.	Exhaustive examples of correct term & concept understanding and/or usage and application; few if any errors in terms and concepts.

2. **Environmental Literacy:** Measure of what one knows about environmental issues or “the environment”

I am/have...

Minimal Knowledge	Basic Knowledge	Comprehensive Knowledge	Comprehensive Applied Knowledge
Unable or unwilling to identify environmental issues, or only minimally acknowledge them as broad concepts.	Able or willing to identify some specific environmental issues in addition to broad concepts.	Able or willing to identify multiple specific environmental issues.	Able to identify and apply multiple environmental issues that are connected to the correct biological / ecological concepts.

3. **Ecological Thinking:** Categorization of one’s ability to make connections among the separate biological and ecological concepts to describe interconnectedness of natural systems

I am/have...

Lacking Ecological Thinking	Emerging Ecological Thinking	Comprehensive Ecological Thinking	Comprehensive Applied Ecological Thinking
Only able to understand and describe (or attempt to describe) concepts in isolation.	Able to understand and describe concepts in terms of systems (possibly maintaining homeostasis), but still in isolation from other systems.	Able to understand and describe concepts as systems and connected to (or attempted to connect to) other systems, possibly to maintain homeostasis of (a) larger system.	Able to understand and describe concepts as nested systems to maintain homeostasis of (a) larger system(s).

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## Responsibility

### 4. Place in Ecosystem: Identification of one's sense of belonging in the natural world

I am...

Inherently Unique and Separate	Outside / Separate from Natural World	A Part of Natural World	Interconnected with Natural World
Identify humans as fundamentally unique and separated from biological / ecological systems (nature).	Describe or understand biological / ecological systems as if from an outside observer.	Describe or understand human / individual role in the context of biological / ecological systems, possibly including dependence on the natural world.	Describe or understand human / individual role in the context of biological / ecological systems including an evolutionary relationship between humans and other organisms.

### 5. Desire to Take Action (Obligation): Identification of one's willingness, ability, or desire to take action regarding environmental issues.

I...

No Obligation	Generalized "Sense" of an Obligation	Recognized Specific Obligation	Urgency to Obligation
Have no desire or need for action to be taken regarding environmental issues.	Identify a general desire to "help" the environment either individually or societally.	Identify desire for action with some specific societal or individual actions to be taken.	Identify urgent need (or obligation) for specific action to be taken to facilitate broader change.

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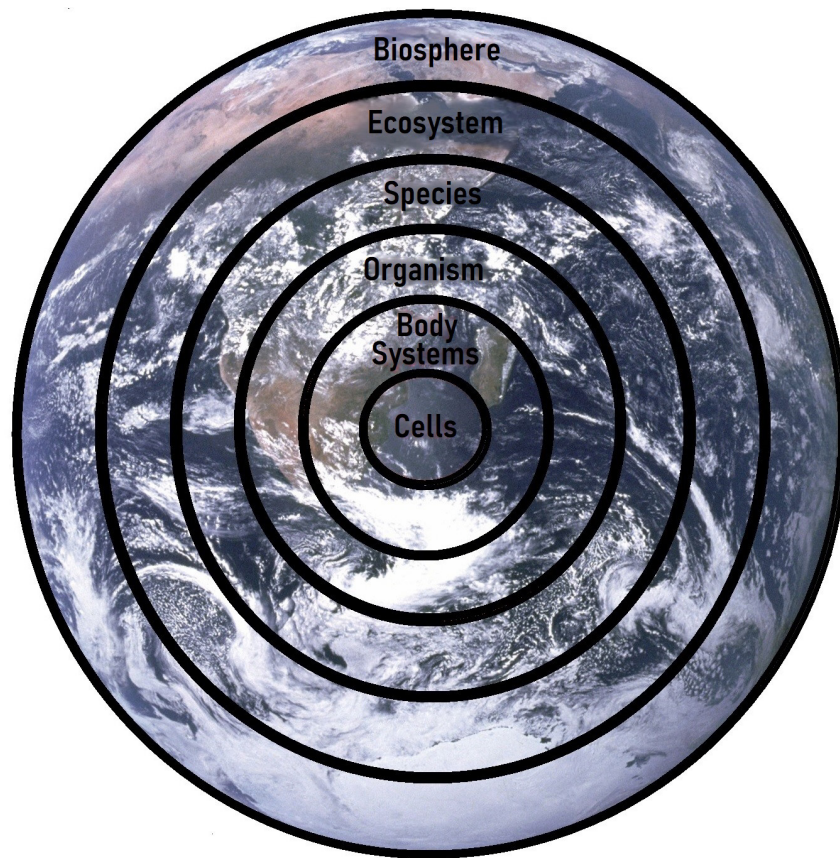


Figure 1