# Article information:

Radical changes are needed for transformations to a good Anthropocene | npj Urban Sustainability
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s42949-021-00017-x>

# Article summary:

1. Human activity is driving global biodiversity and ecosystem decline, altering earth's climate system, and increasing social and economic global connectedness in ways that threaten stability, resilience, and sustainability of local and regional human and ecological systems.

2. To shift the human enterprise toward a sustainable relationship with, and within, the earth system requires radical departures from the status quo where the complex system of intertwined sustainability challenges are confronted in order to shift multiple unsustainable trajectories toward 'good' Anthropocenes where normative goals for sustainability are achieved.

3. The article proposes five key principles as necessary preconditions for societal transformation to achieve a good Anthropocene: rethinking growth, rethinking efficiency, rethinking the state, rethinking the commons, and rethinking justice.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article argues that radical changes are necessary to achieve a good Anthropocene, where normative goals for sustainability are achieved and political and economic power structures deliver the common good. The authors propose five key principles as necessary preconditions for societal transformation: rethinking growth, rethinking efficiency, rethinking the state, rethinking the commons, and rethinking justice. They suggest that these principles must be considered within a social-ecological-technological systems (SETS) framework to understand the interdependencies across system domains.

Overall, the article provides a comprehensive overview of the challenges facing humanity in achieving sustainability in the Anthropocene. The authors make a compelling case for radical change and provide useful insights into how this can be achieved through a SETS approach. However, there are some potential biases and limitations to consider.

One potential bias is that the article focuses primarily on environmental concerns and does not give equal weight to social or economic considerations. While it acknowledges the importance of social justice and equity, it does not explore these issues in depth or provide concrete examples of how they can be addressed within a SETS framework.

Another limitation is that the article assumes that radical change is necessary without fully exploring alternative approaches or counterarguments. While it acknowledges that existing approaches to transformation may not be sufficient, it does not consider whether incremental change could still lead to positive outcomes or whether there are risks associated with radical change.

Additionally, while the article provides numerous examples of unsustainable trends and their impacts on human and ecological systems, it does not provide sufficient evidence for some of its claims. For example, it states that global biodiversity and ecosystem decline are being driven by human activity but does not provide specific data or studies to support this assertion.

Finally, while the article notes potential risks associated with dystopian futures stemming from business-as-usual projections of current trends in population, economic growth, and urbanization, it does not fully explore these risks or provide concrete examples of how they could be mitigated.

Overall, the article provides a useful framework for understanding the interdependencies across social, ecological, and technological systems and highlights the need for radical change to achieve sustainability in the Anthropocene. However, it would benefit from a more balanced consideration of social and economic factors, a more thorough exploration of alternative approaches and counterarguments, and more robust evidence to support its claims.

# Topics for further research:

* Social justice and equity in sustainability
* Incremental change vs radical change for sustainability
* Evidence for human-driven biodiversity and ecosystem decline
* Risks of dystopian futures in the Anthropocene
* Economic considerations in sustainability
* Alternative approaches to societal transformation

# Report location:

<https://www.fullpicture.app/item/293b425770ab70a631ca9972694ba406>