

Barry Commoner Quotes

*Environmental, Technology, War, Law, Simple, Environmental Quality,
Powerful, Earth Day, People, Environment, Ecosystems, Nature, Problem,
Needs, Believe, Way, Survival, Meaningful, Agriculture, Action*

Environmental pollution is an incurable disease. It can only be prevented.

~Barry Commoner

Everything is connected to everything else.

~Barry Commoner

Sooner or later, wittingly or unwittingly, we must pay for every intrusion on the natural environment.

~Barry Commoner

The first law of ecology is that everything is related to everything else.

~Barry Commoner

The proper use of science is not to conquer nature but to live in it.

~Barry Commoner

Everything is connected to everything else. Everything must go somewhere. Nature knows best. There is no such thing as a free lunch.

~Barry Commoner

If you can see the light at the end of the tunnel, you are looking the wrong way.

~Barry Commoner

Seen that way, the wholesale transformation of production technologies that is mandated by pollution prevention creates a new surge of economic development.

~Barry Commoner

The environmental crisis arises from a fundamental fault: our systems of production - in industry, agriculture, energy and transportation - essential as they are, make people sick and die.

~Barry Commoner

After all, despite the economic advantage to firms that employed child labor, it was in the social interest, as a national policy, to abolish it - removing that advantage for all firms.

~Barry Commoner

All of the clean technologies are known, it's a question of simply applying them.

~Barry Commoner

If environmentalism is a fad, it will be the last one.

~Barry Commoner

Nothing ever dies, nothing ever goes away.

~Barry Commoner

When you fully understand the situation, it is worse than you think.

~Barry Commoner

Environmental concern is now firmly embedded in public life: in education, medicine and law; in journalism, literature and art.

~Barry Commoner

In every case, the environmental hazards were made known only by independent scientists, who were often bitterly opposed by the corporations responsible for the hazards.

~Barry Commoner

The environmental crisis is a global problem, and only global action will resolve it.

~Barry Commoner

We are in an environmental crisis which threatens the survival of this

nation, and of the world as a suitable place of human habitation.

~Barry Commoner

The modern assault on the environment began about 50 years ago, during and immediately after World War II.

~Barry Commoner

Nothing can survive on the planet unless it is a cooperative part of larger global life.

~Barry Commoner

It reflects a prevailing myth that production technology is no more amenable to human judgment or social interests than the laws of thermodynamics, atomic structure or biological inheritance.

~Barry Commoner

Environmental quality was drastically improved while economic activity grew by the simple expedient of removing lead from gasoline - which prevented it from entering the environment.

~Barry Commoner

The AEC had at its command an army of highly skilled scientists.

~Barry Commoner

What is needed now is a transformation of the major systems of production more profound than even the sweeping post-World War II changes in production technology.

~Barry Commoner

Earth Day 1970 was irrefutable evidence that the American people understood the environmental threat and wanted action to resolve it.

~Barry Commoner

The age of innocent faith in science and technology may be over.

~Barry Commoner

My entry into the environmental arena was through the issue that so dramatically - and destructively - demonstrates the link between science and social action: nuclear weapons.

~Barry Commoner

What is new is that environmentalism intensely illuminates the need to confront the corporate domain at its most powerful and guarded point - the exclusive right to govern the systems of production.

~Barry Commoner

In general, any productive activity which introduces substances foreign to the natural environment runs a considerable risk of polluting it.

~Barry Commoner

The environmental crisis is a signal of this approaching catastrophe.

~Barry Commoner

By adopting the control strategy, the nation's environmental program has created a built-in antagonism between environmental quality and economic growth.

~Barry Commoner

It is simply economically impossible to require controls that even approach zero emissions.

~Barry Commoner

The methods that EPA introduced after 1970 to reduce air-pollutant emissions worked for a while, but over time have become progressively less effective.

~Barry Commoner

Technologists practice faith too; 'Faith that problems have solutions

before having the knowledge to solve them.'

~Barry Commoner

In certain ways, I'm not very different than I was when I was a teenager.

~Barry Commoner

The AEC scientists were so narrowly focused on arming the United States for nuclear war that they failed to perceive facts - even widely known ones - that were outside their limited field of vision.

~Barry Commoner

No action is without its side effects.

~Barry Commoner

Science is triumphant with far-ranging success, but its triumph is somehow clouded by growing difficulties in providing for the simple necessities of human life on earth.

~Barry Commoner

In nature, no organic substance is synthesized unless there is provision for its degradation; recycling is enforced.

~Barry Commoner

World War II had a very important impact on the development of technology, as a whole.

~Barry Commoner

I see no reason to have my shirts ironed. It's irrational.

~Barry Commoner

The gap between brute power and human need continues to grow, as the power fattens on the same faulty technology that intensifies the need.

~Barry Commoner

The modern technologist is less 'sorcerer' and more 'sorcerer's apprentice'.

~Barry Commoner

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